

North Farmington High School

Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Concert, Chamber, Jazz Orchestras.

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Peter Tolias, Orchestra Director

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North Orchestra Students and Parents,

It is my pleasure to briefly discuss the North Orchestra Program and some of the opportunities available to prospective students. We are very proud of our history and excited about the future.

The North Orchestra Program is comprised of five distinct groups: The Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Concert, Chamber, and Jazz Orchestras. This allows us to provide more opportunities to more students, and foster a healthy competitiveness for students to gauge their abilities.

The Symphony is attained through audition and includes the top chairs from the Symphony Band. The Philharmonia consists of upper class string players not in the Symphony. The concert Orchestra is composed of freshman string performers. The Chamber Orchestra includes the top 21 seated string players in the program, and the Jazz Orchestra is comprised of first stand players. In addition, we encourage chamber music in the form of solos, duets, trios, quartets and quintets, a necessary and sophisticated step in a young musician's development. Each group has a specific purpose and imposes different demands upon its constituents. Therefore, we can provide students with as many opportunities as possible to fully explore their musical interests. It is our intent to appeal to all students, whether they have a casual interest, or are very serious. We envision students developing to their full potential and seek to provide the vehicle for their success. Although there is an emphasis on string and symphonic literature, our programs are generally balanced with a smattering of pop and show music.

Some of the musical situations orchestra members can expect to participate in include: the Orchestra/Choir Autumn Concerts, the School Musical, the MSBOA Orchestra Festival, the Orchestra/Band Winter Concert, the Holiday Concert, Solo and Ensemble Festival, String Day, and the Spring Orchestra Concert. The orchestras also traditionally take a trip to a music festival in such places as New York or Washington D.C on alternate years. The orchestras also take in Detroit Symphony Orchestra Concerts, and generally organize group outings outside the school day. We also encourage serious students to get involved in some of the excellent regional youth orchestras, which provide fine musical and social outlets. Finally, we make available information and recommend students to summer music camps such as Interlochen and Blue Lake.

The growth of our orchestra program has been a great joy to experience and its potential for future success and enjoyment is limitless. We welcome all incoming students for the 2006-2007 season, as well as those who will join us in years to come. Please feel free to contact Mr. Tolias at 248-426-2939 for further information.

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Tolias