

August 2018

Dear UHS Orchestra Parents;

Welcome to the start of a new school year! **Do this first:**

Go to unionorchestra.org; click on the *Student Registration* button. Fill out the information, submit the form, and **print the first page** to bring in on by Tuesday, September 4. **This is your first graded assignment and must be completed.**

While you're in computer mode – please sign up for the Remind app on your phone. We have found this to be a very useful communication tool, not only during trips, but for daily class notices.

Go to the Remind app:

The code for Chamber Orchestra is @uhscham; the code for Concert Orchestra is @kab98.

Now that you've registered, read on for more information!

Class Times: Concert Orchestra will meet 1st period (8:40 – 9:35), and will be team-taught by Mr. Tim Siess and Mr. Glenn Wilcott. Mr. Wilcott is also the orchestra director at Heritage HS. Chamber Orchestra meets 6th period (2:15 – 3:10) with Mr. Siess. Both classes will meet in the Band Room.

Uniforms and Class Fees: There are 2 fees required for participation in Orchestra – (1) a uniform rental fee that pays for the tuxes and dresses; and (2) an ASB fee. These fees are paid in two different places.

- **ASB Fee: All music students are required to pay the \$30 ASB fee.** This fee is paid at the ASB office in the 500 building and helps us with our transportation needs through the year to get to our competitions and performances.
- **Uniform Fee: A \$50 uniform fee payable to UHS Orchestra Boosters is due on uniform fitting day, Wednesday, September 12th.** If you want to pay ahead of time, pay this check at the any IQ Credit Union branch. (*Put your student's name, and "orchestra uniform fee" on the memo line or ask the teller to include that information with the deposit.*) When school starts you may also deposit this fee in the orchestra box next to the director's office. Make sure you complete a deposit envelope with your full name on it. Remember: Your uniform fee also buys your orchestra t-shirt!
- **Incoming Orchestra Boys will need to pay an additional \$30 uniform fee for their tux accessories. (The total uniform fee for new orchestra boys is \$80 payable in one check to UHS Orchestra Boosters due on 9/12)** The accessory package includes a tux shirt, bow tie, cummerbund, cufflinks and black patent leather tux shoes. The shoes and accessories are yours to keep and use from year to year.
- **Incoming Orchestra Girls** will need a comfortable pair of all-black dress shoes (2" heel max – closed toe please!) to wear with their dresses. The girls will need these shoes by 9/12 to insure we fit the dress to the proper length.

- **Returning Orchestra Boys** that need new accessories for their outfit (tux shirt, bow tie, cummerbund, cufflinks and shoes), can order them from Mr. Formal on fitting day, but there will be an additional charge for each item ordered.

Mr. Formal will return in October for the final fitting of students for their performance outfits. The tuxes and dresses are then checked out to the students for use during the school year and will be returned following the last performance. The “accessory package” (i.e., tux shirt, bow tie, cummerbund, cufflinks and shoes) is the property of the student to keep. Care instructions for the dresses and tuxes will be handed out with the uniforms and can also be found on our website www.unionorchestra.org on the Forms & Info page. If the uniform is not cared for properly during the year, the student will be charged a replacement fee for the uniform.

School Instruments: We have a very limited number of school instruments. Most students will need to provide their own instrument. At the current enrollment, we have 18 cellists in Concert Orchestra, but we own only 9 school cellos. If you own your own cello, please consider renting an instrument to be kept at school for rehearsal purposes. Otherwise, we will end up sharing instruments during class.

Orchestra Tours: Both Concert and Chamber Orchestra will be traveling this year! Concert Orchestra will attend the Central Washington University Orchestra Festival. We will travel on Thursday, March 7, and return on Friday, March 8. Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble are planning a trip to Los Angeles on May 23 – 26. Trip costs will be made available as soon as trip details are finalized. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.

A performance calendar for the year is enclosed. Please put dates into your family calendar, and please let us know if there are unavoidable conflicts. **Parents of Chamber students:** Please be mindful of the fact that your student is in the group by audition, ahead of other students who auditioned, but were not selected for the group. If your student is unable to fulfill performance commitments, please let me know immediately.

UHS Orchestra Booster Association: If you are looking for a good way to get involved, consider working with our booster program. The UHS Orchestra Booster Association is a group of parents that are organized to further the education and opportunities for our orchestra students. It doesn't take much time to be a part of this group. We are looking for board members, web masters, A/V specialists. Whatever your talent, we can find a spot for you! Contact Booster President, June Greene at unionorchestrapres@gmail.com.

If you have questions about any of this, please contact me at timothy.suess@evergreenps.org.

We'll see you August 28th!

Mr. Siess