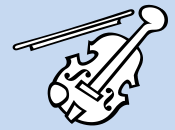


Strings & Things



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Welcome to the Boosters

Hello Orchestra Families,

Welcome to the District 7 Orchestra program! This is a very exciting year, and we are looking forward to a wonderful school year filled with various events and opportunities for our children.

My name is Susie Schaefer, and I am the Edwardsville Orchestra Booster President for the 2013-2014 school year. I have three daughters in the orchestra program, and I know firsthand what this program has done for my children. I am so excited to have the opportunity to organize the assistance our administration, directors, and teachers need to continue in making this program a huge success!



I want to officially welcome you to our orchestra family; **you automatically became a member of the Orchestra Boosters** when your child registered for the orchestra program. Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters is an organization that exists for the benefit of and to help promote the Edwardsville Orchestra program and its students in grades 4 through 12. Our orchestra Booster members include parents, extended family, neighbors and friends; anyone interested in supporting our children and helping out at various events and activities.

We hold fundraising activities, help with chaperoning events, publish newsletters, and whatever else we can do to help our students and directors. **Fundraising is a necessary part of the booster club** and we always welcome any new ideas and especially any volunteer help we can get!

Last year, due to the success of our Fundraisers and the generosity of our supporters, the Boosters were able to buy instruments for all levels of our program, cover the repair costs of instruments, provided assistance in travel needs for students, buy binders for our elementary schools, and we were able to provide each teacher with professional funds to help cover individual needs in their classrooms. This year, we will be supporting the orchestra programs' needs in various ways. We will start by purchasing new uniforms for our high school students!

We need your help this year to make our fundraisers a success. Please take

THANKS!



for your continuing support of the District 7 orchestra program!

Visit our website:

orchestraboosters.com



Find us on
Facebook!
Edwardsville
Orchestra Boosters

note of the date of our fall fundraiser, **Tour de Strings, which is an event courtesy of Scott Credit Union.** It is very important as it helps us raise much-needed funds for our program. Please set aside **October 12th** and plan on attending this event, or if you cannot attend then consider making a donation to the Boosters so that we can continue to support our wonderful district orchestra program.

In addition, please watch the virtual backpack, your email, and your student's backpack for information on our upcoming fall events which include the **September 30th Papa Murphy's night, marching in the Halloween Parade,** and our **annual holiday wreath sale from Mill's Apple Farm.**

I am so excited your child is part of the District 7 Orchestra program, and I look forward to meeting you personally and to working with you throughout the year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I am looking forward to a wonderful and musical year!

Sincerely,

Susie Schaefer
(618) 558-9307
Schaefer509@sbcglobal.net

Mark your calendars....

Tour de Strings is rolling!

Registration is now open for the **Fourth Annual *Tour de Strings!***

Tour de Strings is scheduled for **October 12** at Miner Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the ride/walk starts at 9 a.m. It's a 10-mile ride or 3-mile walk, a great activity for the whole family!

The cost is \$15 for an individual or \$50 for a family. Pre-registration is not required, but if you want a T-shirt, you will have to pre-order! Shirts are \$12 with a \$2 surcharge for extended sizes. Order early; there will not be many extras available at the event!

This year, we will be raffling off a new bike, courtesy of Scott Credit Union! Each participant will receive a free raffle ticket when s/he arrives, and additional tickets will be available for sale.



Feel free to contact the 2013-14 EOB board members with information or questions:

President:

Susie Schaefer
lschaefer509@sbcglobal.net

Vice president:

Susanna Woodard
susplaysviola@gmail.com

Secretary:

Laura Jeziorski
lsmithjski@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Susan Payne
Spayne66@yahoo.com

Fundraising Co-chairs:

Cathy Longos
tjljtlcel@aol.com

Andrea Miracle

andreamiracle@att.net

Newsletter:

Elizabeth Donald
elizabethdonald@yahoo.com

Social Media:

Theresa Fuesting
theresfuest@charter.net

Doughnuts and bananas will be served, and the photo booth will be open again, so bring your cameras!

Tour de Strings is an important event as it helps us raise much-needed funds for the program. We are truly grateful for your support. We hope to see all of you on the 12th!

Watch for registration forms coming home with the students, or check out our web site and Facebook for details! The *Tour de Strings* goes on rain or shine!

More EOB Announcements!

Papa Murphy fundraiser!

It's important for the kids to earn the money for the orchestra, not just watch their parents write checks. On **Monday, Sept. 30**, they'll get that chance. The kids will work at Papa Murphy's and make pizzas from 4-8 p.m., while the boosters get a portion of the money to help pay for our new uniforms! Do remember to mention the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters when you order.

Watch for order forms, and while we're waiting, check out [the Papa Murphy menu!](#) And speaking of those uniforms....

New uniforms for EHS orchestra!

The old uniforms were getting a little elderly, and the dry-cleaning costs were rising. The students have voted on a new uniform design for the girls, and the boys' uniforms will be purchased next year. The girls' new dresses should arrive in time for the October concerts!



Best of all, **the new uniforms are machine-washable.**

Which means everyone needs to remember the rules: wash the uniforms, take care of them and keep them in good shape to turn back in at the end of the year! As before, the uniforms belong to the orchestra boosters and the school district.

Boosters web site!

Check out **orchestraboosters.com** and you'll find a brand-new site with helpful information for all the parents and the students! Concert dates, fundraisers, contact information, upcoming events and much more can be found on our new website.

Is there something you'd like to see on the site that you haven't found? Tell our social media chair, Theresa Fuesting! Email her at theresfuest@charter.net.



Fun Fact

Did you know that studying music helps your child learn? Independent of socioeconomic status or school district, students who participate in high-quality music programs score higher on standardized exams than those who do not, according to a 2007 study conducted by the University of Kansas.

Orchestra Boosters T-shirts – for the parents!

Show your Orchestra Spirit with some EOB String Bling! Select from **your choice of spirit wear**, all in black with our jeweled logo! Fitted T-shirts are \$25; long-sleeve T-shirts are \$30; hoodies are \$45 and jackets are \$65. There is a \$3 surcharge for size XXL or larger.

Shirts will be delivered to students, and delivery takes approximately 2-3 weeks from the time of ordering. Make checks payable to the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters, and contact Caryn Mefford at gcmefford@aol.com if you have any questions!

Edwardsville Halloween Parade is coming!

As usual, the Halloween Parade is one of our best chances to show the community what we're doing! Elementary students walking in the parade will need parent chaperones; middle and high schoolers may walk without them. Watch the web site for further details as we get closer to the big day!

Important Dates!

- Sept. 30 – Papa Murphy's Fundraiser
- Oct. 12 – Tour de Strings
- Oct. 14 – IMEA All-District Auditions
- Nov. 2 – IMEA All-District Festival

Concerts:

EHS

- Fall Concert, EHS auditorium, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.
- Holiday Concert, EHS auditorium, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

Middle School

- Fall Concert, Lincoln Middle School, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.
- Fall Concert, Liberty Middle School, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.
- Holiday Concert, Liberty Middle School, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.
- Holiday Concert, Lincoln Middle School, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Elementary School

- Assembly concerts, dates TBA

Booster meetings

- EHS Orchestra Room, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

Introductions are in order...

Welcome Carli Bates to the EHS Orchestra!

You already know Ms. Bates... or do you? Carli Bates was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she received her undergraduate degree in music education and cello performance from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. While studying there, she frequently performed with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and attended the Chautauqua Summer Music Festival, Brandeis Summer Music Festival and the Las Vegas Summer Music Festival.

In 2003-04, Ms. Bates studied the Suzuki technique and assisted with the California State University-Sacramento String Project under the direction of Judy Weigart-Bossaut. In 2007, she received her graduate degree in cello performance from the University of Missouri-Columbia. While studying for that degree, Ms. Bates served as the teaching assistant for the Missouri String Project and taught string methods to music education students.

Her teaching career began part-time in Columbia Public Schools until she began teaching in Edwardsville District 7 in 2008. During five years as Edwardsville's middle school orchestra teacher, she was nominated to perform at the 2011 IMEA All-State Convention with the Liberty Orchestra. This summer, Ms. Bates received Suzuki certification in Cello Book 1, and was named the new orchestra director for Edwardsville High School.

"Teaching music is my passion, and I am excited for this new high school adventure," Ms. Bates said.

Ms. Bates is an active member of Music Educators National Convention and American String Teachers Association. You can reach her at cbates@ecusd7.org!

Junior orchestra member on the way!

Mrs. Karen Bratton will be out for a while beginning in the second quarter... on maternity leave!

Mrs. Bratton started playing violin in public school at age 10, and later picked

up the viola. She has a bachelor's degree in music education and a masters degree in violin performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She has been teaching in District 7 schools since 2004, and was principal second violin for the St. Louis Civic Orchestra last season – but she's taking this season off, for obvious reasons!

Mrs. Bratton's favorite composer is Beethoven, and adores coffee, chocolate chip cookies and Indian curry. She loves gardening, hiking, state parks, archaeology and real-food cooking. But she's allergic to cats and not so fond of running, even though her husband is a cross-country coach!

Baby Bratton is expected on Oct. 12, and we don't know yet if it's a boy or a girl!

Missy O'Neal is co-teaching the elementary students this fall with Mrs. Bratton, preparing to take over when Mrs. Bratton goes on maternity leave. Ms. O'Neal is a cellist with a degree from SIUE, graduating in 2012. She has performed as a soloist with the SIUE Symphony Orchestra and performs as a member of the Streetta Quartet.

Ms. O'Neal loves to swim and ride on the bike trails. A proud member of her high school marching band and the Quad City Youth Symphony, she has a black-and-white kitty named Space Ghost and a secret passion for NHRA drag racing. Her two big brothers also play the cello.

Ms. O'Neal has been teaching grades 4-8 music classes in Limestone, Ill. for the last year, and is so happy to be back in Edwardsville!

You can reach Mrs. Bratton at kbratton@ecusd7.org – at least for now! – and Ms. O'Neal at MONeal@ecusd7.org.

Welcome Ms. Brannan to Lincoln and Liberty!

Victoria Brannan is a violist, fiddle player and music educator. A native of Greenville, S.C., Ms. Brannan received her bachelor's degree in music education from Furman University in 1993, where she studied with violist Lenny Schranze. She continued her viola studies with Victoria Chiang at the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, Fla.

Currently, Ms. Brannan plays viola with the Union Avenue Opera Theater in St. Louis and the Crusell Quartet. She also plays a Blaze acoustic-electric five-string violin in the string band Fiddleback. Ms. Brannan has performed in orchestras with headliners Jimmy Page & Robert Plant, Josh Groban, Peter Cetera, Mannheim Steamroller, Frank Sinatra Jr., Clay Aiken, Barry Manilow and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

Ms. Brannan has directed orchestra programs in Spartanburg, S.C. and Alton, taught violin and viola at Lewis & Clark Community College and Greenville College, and values her role as a music educator. She has adjudicated various contests and guest-conducted a variety of orchestras. She has been a clinician for workshops in Boston; Rochester, N.Y.; Asheville, N.C.; Vail, Colo.;

Palm Beach, Fla.; Pekin, Ill.; Houston and SIUE. She is active in freelance work and music composition.

Ms. Brannan has two daughters. Sierra is in seventh grade at Liberty Middle School and Savannah is a freshman at Edwardsville High School. Currently Ms. Brannan is assigned to the two middle schools in District 7. You can reach Ms. Brannan at VBrannan@ecusd7.org.

Coming next month....

Meet the EOB officers!

Auto-cling fundraiser!

Wreath sales for the holidays!

And more!