

ICS Music Ensemble

2011-2012 Information Sheet

What is Music Ensemble?

The ICS Music Ensemble provides an opportunity for student musicians to participate in large-group rehearsals and performances. Our unique, parent/school-sponsored and accredited music program, combining any and all **band and orchestra instruments** and playing a wide range of music from classical to jazz, enables students to maintain and improve their music abilities.

Who can join?

All ICS 7-12th grade musicians who play a band or orchestra instrument are welcome. Also 7th-9th grade students from Northstar and Stella Schola (if they have no musical opportunity at their own school) with the permission of their school.

How is the group structured?

The Ensemble has two configurations in which students will participate. On Tuesdays, the entire group (band/orchestra) combines together to be a **symphony**. On Thursdays, the **band** and **orchestra** students split into two groups for sectional rehearsals and also to play separate band and orchestra pieces.

Who are the directors?

Our musical director is Michael Chapin, the former music director at Tillicum Middle School in Bellevue. He instructs the symphony on Tuesday and the band on Thursday. He can be reached at mchapin@lwsd.org or 425-885-7346. The orchestra coach is TBH.

What if I'm a beginner?

Because the Ensemble rehearses only 2 hours/week, we cannot accept students with no experience. Students who have played 2 years or less are strongly encouraged to take private lessons since there is only limited time for individual instruction.

What is required of a student participating in Ensemble?

Students must attend the majority of rehearsals, plus all concerts and festivals. Other optional opportunities are also available such as a solo/ensemble festival and honor groups. Students are expected to practice on their own, outside rehearsal. There will be 3 playing assessments for the director or coach during the year. The first is the 2nd week of school to assess the students; additional assessments will be scheduled in November and February. These assessments help identify students to be nominated for honor groups and also help determine if students may need additional peer tutoring or private lessons. Attendance is taken by a Parent Volunteer. *Parents will be notified if a student misses rehearsal without providing a prior excuse.*

Do you receive credit for participation in Ensemble?

ICS Students in grades 9-12 can receive one semester's worth of ICS credit that shows on their transcript (not webgrader). They must attend the majority of rehearsals, concerts and festivals. Grading is based on attendance, attitude, and participation.

When?

This is a year-long program, with registration held twice yearly. Fall playing assessments will be held on September 13th and 15th. Fall semester rehearsals start on Tuesday, Sept. 20th and continue through December. Our Music Spring semester starts on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd and ends on Graduation day. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the gym *after school* from 2:15-3:30 p.m.

How much?

The cost per ICS student is \$115 for Fall (3 months) and \$185 for Spring (5 months). Or you can pay for the whole year and get a \$10 discount (\$300-10 = \$290). Non-ICS students pay \$130 and \$200 per semester, or \$320 (\$330-10) for the whole year. No additional fundraising activities are required. Financial assistance is available through the ICS PTSA.

What about performances?

We offer multiple performance opportunities including, but not limited to, the Winter and Spring school concerts; ICS Graduation Ceremony; Crossroads Shopping Center concert; various district and state honor groups; and district, regional and state solo and ensemble festivals. Some of these festivals are held on school days in the spring and are considered authorized field trips. Some optional festivals may require a small participation fee. All musicians are expected to wear "all black" concert dress at performances.

What if I already perform with a local Youth Symphony?

The local Youth Symphonies (Seattle, Cascade, etc.) and the school districts have an agreement that these students must also perform with their school's music program (which at ICS includes the Choir or Music Ensemble) so as not to undermine the quality of the various school music programs. The Youth Symphonies require their participants to bring in a signed form from their school's Music Director confirming that they are also participating in some aspect of their school's music program. Please bring those forms in for signing by the end of September.

What if I participate in a sport or other activity that conflicts with some rehearsals?

We realize ICS students are involved in a variety of activities, and we support participation in both ICS music ensemble *and* other activities. Each case is unique, and we encourage you to talk to the music director to discuss your situation. Students who are unable to attend all rehearsals are expected to work on the music at home; participation in group concerts is at the discretion of the director and is based on the individual student's mastery of the music and ability to play with the ensemble. *If a student has a yearlong commitment on either Tuesday or Thursday, they cannot participate in the Ensemble as that would cut into their rehearsal time too severely and permanently.*

Where should I put my instrument during the day?

Instruments can be stored in our locked Music Closet on the stage before school starts. A parent volunteer unlocks it on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and relocks it when school starts. Drummers get to use the school set. *Private insurance is recommended for expensive instruments, since they are not covered by the ICS PTSA insurance policy.*

What do I do now?

Fill in the registration form and return it (*but keep this information sheet*), together with your check made payable to **ICS PTSA (write "Music Ensemble" in the memo)**, at **ICS registration in August**. Or you can drop your payment and form into the **ICS MUSIC** folder in the office on the bookshelf. All Fall (or entire year) monies are due by the first rehearsal on Sept. 20, 2011. Spring payments are due by Jan. 3, 2012. The registration form and information sheet is available online with the ICS PTSA forms.

Questions?

General questions: Beth Puryear, ICS Music Chair (bpuryear@icsptsa.org)
Honors Groups and Solo/Ensemble: Cathy Dietz (cathydietz@gmail.com)
Payment and attendance: Mary McLean (marmclea@cisco.com)