

2009/10 Fall & Spring Semesters

ICS Music Ensemble



♫ **What is it and who can join?**

The ICS Music Ensemble provides an opportunity for student musicians to participate in large-group rehearsals and performances. The group is lead by accredited music director Michael Chapin, the former music director at Tillicum Middle School in Bellevue. 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. Junior High students learn the ensemble skills of socialization and cooperation and gain the flexibility that comes from understanding how music moves within a group. In essence, they learn to listen, match, and blend. Senior High students are able to refine these abilities, rehearse in a variety of instrumental combinations, perform more individual and challenging pieces, and receive high school credit. We recommend, though, that all students consider private lessons since there is only limited time for individual instruction.

♫ **What if I'm a complete beginner?**

Complete beginners may request a copy of our list of private teachers, and we can advise them on finding a rental instrument. After at least 3 months of lessons, they may request an appointment with Mr. Chapin (mchapin@lwsd.org or 425-885-7346) to assess their progress. No ensemble fee is required until they are ready to play with us.

Complete beginners may not join until they have been assessed in this way.

♫ **When?**

This is a year-long program, with registration held twice yearly. Fall semester rehearsals start on Tuesday, Sept. 15th and continue through December. Our Music Spring semester starts on Tuesday, Jan. 5th and ends on Graduation day. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the gym *after school* from 2:20-3:20 p.m. Carpool information is also available.

♫ **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 festi-

vals. Some of these festivals are held on school days in the spring and are considered authorized field trips. Some festivals may require a small participation fee.

♪ **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. At ICS, our school's Music Ensemble is provided as a tuition-supported, elective "7th period," for which students can receive credit on their transcript. This has enabled our small school to use its small budget, which is based on the number of students in a school, to fund the maximum number of teachers for the core courses and to provide a more extensive Arts program. It is, therefore, not a strictly "extracurricular" activity. 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 is my commitment?**

You are expected to attend all sessions required of you by the Music Director for the entire semester, and to perform in the group concerts and orchestra festivals. Participation in solo/ensemble festivals is optional. Each student can receive one semester's worth of ICS school credit (which appears on the high school transcript/academic history form but not on the Web Grader progress reports) if they attend rehearsals and performances **regularly for the entire year**. Grading is based on attendance, attitude, and participation. The grade is incorporated into 9th through 12th grade GPAs. Attendance is taken by a Parent Volunteer. *Parents will be notified if a student misses several rehearsals without providing a prior excuse.*

♪ **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 or music program coordinators to discuss your situation. Some students come only once a week during the sports season or leave rehearsal early on game days. Other students participate in fall sports, and join the ICS ensemble for the Spring semester that starts in January. 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.

♪ **What do I need to bring with me?**

Your instrument, a pencil, and a willingness to have fun! 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.* No uniforms are required. However, all musicians are expected to wear "all black" concert dress at performances.

♪ **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. 15th, 2009. Spring payments are due by Jan. 5th, 2010. If needed, additional registration forms should be available on the bookshelf in the office.

♪ **Questions?**

Contact Sue Zorn (sue.zorn@gmail.com, 425-861-0710) or Cindy Blair (cindyoblair@hotmail.com, 425-605-8581) if you have any questions.



Registering for:
Fall: ____ Spring: ____ Entire Year: ____

Name _____ Grade _____
Address _____

Student email _____ Student phone _____

Parent(s): _____

Parent email _____ Parent phone _____

School attending _____

Instrument(s) played _____

Number of years I have played _____

Ensemble experience? Yes ____ No ____

Name of Ensemble/Group _____

Private Teacher's Name & Tel. _____

Enclosed is a check payable to **ICS PTSA** , write **"Music Ensemble"** in **memo**, for the semester (**ICS student**, Fall/Spring = \$115/\$185; **non-ICS student**, Fall/Spring = \$130/\$200). If paying in Sept. for the entire year, the discounted amounts are **ICS**= \$290 and **non-ICS** = \$320.

I understand that I am committed to attend all requested rehearsals. And, if I want to receive ICS school credit, I must attend regularly for the entire year.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

We are aware of several ICS families who have indicated that they would like to support the music program by giving a donation in **addition** to the fee. This generosity enables us to keep this a **low-cost** enrichment program for our students. We would be delighted to receive such donations and, if your employer offers matching funds, please include the appropriate form for that also. In most cases, these donations would be tax deductible.



