



JENISON ORCHESTRAS

More information available at www.JenisonOrchestras.org

May 18-22, 2026

Hello Fourth Grade Parents,

Your child had an opportunity to play a real stringed instrument this week! We learned about the Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass, and we talked about the Jenison Orchestra Program. The students also heard an orchestra concert in the JCA a few weeks ago, featuring each of the instruments in the string family.

Fifth grade is the year that Jenison students have the opportunity to begin Orchestra. Classes are held three times each week (Mon/Wed/Fri mornings at 8:00am at the Junior High, with transportation provided back to the elementary buildings). The Fifth Grade Orchestra performs at two concerts; one in early December, and one in late April. The Jenison Orchestras are among the finest in the state of Michigan. They have consistently received the highest ratings at district and state festivals and received invitations to perform at sites throughout Michigan. Jenison Orchestra students are among the top students in their classes and participate in many activities outside of Orchestra.

Lessons for those interested in being a part of the Jenison Orchestras begin next fall. If your child is solely planning on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument, then you should wait for the start of band in Sixth Grade. If your child is interested in singing in their elementary choir, this can easily be done along with orchestra in the Fifth Grade year and beyond.

There will be two Open Houses next fall where you can sign up for orchestra, get more information about the program, be sized for an instrument, and even rent an instrument from a recommended music store. These sign-up dates are **Wed Aug 26 and Thur Aug 27, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the JCA.**

Your child will receive all this information again in the fall, but if you have any questions please feel free to contact us at any time via the email addresses below. There is also a wealth of information about the orchestras on our website. Please feel free to check us out at **www.JenisonOrchestras.org** and click on "Classes," then "5th Grade," then "Sign-Up Info."

Sincerely,

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If your child is planning to ride the bus to school next year, please read this!

If your child is planning to ride the bus to elementary school next year, there is an option for them to ride the secondary (earlier) bus on orchestra mornings.

(You also have the option of just dropping your child off at the Jr High for class.)

Even though the orchestra sign-ups aren't until fall, the deadline to request your child's spot on an early bus is June 14th.

To make a transportation request for orchestra mornings:

- Visit www.jenisonorchestras.org
- Click on "Classes," then "5th Grade", then "Sign-Up Info"
- Click on the bus icon
- Fill out the information in the Google Form

Here is the direct link address:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/JenisonPublicSchools/JPSBusingRequest>

Note: Large instruments including cellos are not allowed on the buses between home and school (and vice versa), as those bus rides are very full. If your student will be riding a bus at the beginning or end of the day, please consider having your student choose violin or viola, or contact us about an alternate plan to get a cello in class. (Cellos ARE allowed on the 8:45 bus from orchestra back to the elementary school.)

Orchestra Class Schedule 2026-2027:

Each Fifth Grade Orchestra student will have three orchestra classes per week:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 8:00-8:45am

Transportation is automatically provided from the Jr High back to each elementary after the 8am classes!

5th Grade Orchestra Concerts 2026-2027:

Wed, December 2 - 7:00pm

Wed, April 28 - 7:00pm