

ANCHORAGE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE ALASKA

September 1966

Dear Parent:

A program of free instruction in the orchestral string instruments will be offered in the Anchorage schools this year. Students wishing to study violin must furnish their own instruments. A limited number of school-owned violas, cellos and string basses will be available to beginners.

In order for your child to be enrolled in this course of study, it is imperative that you attend a meeting outlining the responsibilities of both the parent and student. YOU MAY ATTEND ANY OF THE MEETINGS listed below at your convenience. Discussion will be held regarding the acquisition of the correct size instrument, practice requirements, incidental expenses and expected outcomes.

Consultation is available with the string teaching staff who may be reached through Romig Junior High School, telephone 272-2691 or 277-5511, or via home telephones after school hours.

The number of students entering this program will be limited and so a screening process must be used. The sincere interest of parent and student will be given every consideration.

Sincerely,

THE MUSIC STAFF

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SCHEDULE FOR PARENT MEETINGS

|                 |          |             |           |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Sand Lake       | Thursday | September 8 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Abbott Loop     | Thursday | September 8 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Airport Heights | Friday   | September 9 | 3:30 p.m. |
| North Star      | Friday   | September 9 | 7:30 p.m. |

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Mr. Frank Pinkerton  
Orchestra Co-Ordinator  
Home Telephone 333-8572

Mrs. Marlene Englund  
Home Telephone 277-6115

Mrs. Eleanor Braendel  
Home Telephone 694-2533

Mr. Charles Gorsuch  
Home Telephone 277-5360

Mrs. Jeanne Ray  
Home Telephone 333-6845

Mrs. Sue Helmore  
Home Telephone 863-7145

BENEFITS WHICH MAY BE DERIVED THROUGH THE  
STUDY OF A STRINGED INSTRUMENT

- PERFORMANCE:** Many life-long values are made available to the child who seriously applies himself in learning his instrument. The first and most important effect of string instrument study is that, through it, one ultimately learns to play the instrument. Here, one has the satisfaction of being able to produce sounds which are pleasant to the ear, and here lies the reward for time and effort spent. But by no means is it the only result.
- MUSICAL:** The greatest musical organization yet to be developed by man is the symphony orchestra. In it we find all of the instruments of the wind band plus the great body of strings with their almost limitless varieties of color, expression and range. Because of this all inclusiveness of the orchestra and its consequent ability to express, it is only logical that the greatest composers have chosen it as the medium for the performance of their works. Thus, persons who play the strings are naturally drawn into contact with great music.
- SOCIAL:** Perhaps the next important value of stringed instrument study is the social. String players usually seek a place in an orchestra of some kind. Here new friendships are made and old ones renewed. Prestige, due to wealth or so-called social standing, fades before skill in performance. Another social reason for stringed instrument study is that the "language" is universal, the same the world over. Wherever one goes, string players will be found. There is always room for the newcomer. He may be an utter stranger of a foreign tongue, yet be accepted and admired for his musical achievement.
- CULTURAL:** For the student who wishes to follow some vocation other than music, the cultural value is one of the greatest of all. One may study an instrument, and for any one of several reasons never play upon it again, yet there is left an understanding and an appreciation that varies directly with how far that person has proceeded in his study. If one has played a great deal of orchestra literature or chamber music, this value will be very great. The better radio programs are filled with fine music by composers of all periods, played by fine symphony orchestras and chamber music groups. For the person who has gone far enough to understand these works, even though he may not play them well, there is a joy and an appreciation that can never be gained by hearing music or by reading about it.
- PERSONALITY:** Careful study, analysis and drill are required for mastery of a string instrument. Through a daily practice routine, the student will find himself gradually growing in his sensitivity to pitch, rhythms, timbre, form, dynamics, orchestral color and general artistic appreciation. Personality traits far removed from music are developed by the student through continuous association with people in groups, at rehearsals, concerts, banquets, etc. His manner and taste in dress, evaluation of friendships, and his ability to meet and converse with people will all be influenced sharply.