



**12/04/2015**

Happy Friday to all! We are getting ready for a big week next week in orchestra. Below is some important information that will keep the ball rolling smoothly!

**Wednesday from 3-4 is required Dress Rehearsal in Cy Woods Auditorium for all students in the program.**

We are rehearsing the final number and need everyone there - no exceptions please. Thank you!

**Thursday - Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m.**

All students should be in their assigned seating in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to tune and warm up for the concert. It is going to be a great night of music so please invite your neighbors and friends to join us too!

**Poinsettia pick is Thursday starting after school in the orchestra.**

Parents and students can pick up poinsettias from the back outside door please. The front door entrance will be blocked with plants so please drive around to the back to receive plants. The plants need to go home on Thursday so if you cannot pick up after school, please pick up before the concert. Thank you!

**Friday is Secret Santa Day in class and Orchestra Winter Social after school.**

In class secret Santa party will occur for all classes. Students will not need their instruments this day. If your student chose to participate in Secret Santa, they must be sure their gift for their secret Santa partner is in the room by their class period on Friday. They can start bringing them up Monday-Friday if that helps. After school, we will have an ugly Christmas sweater party with a movie from 2:45-4:30 p.m.. OPA is providing hot chocolate and goodies. This is a time for our students to just relax and have fun together.

Have a great weekend and looking forward to a great concert next week. The students are sounding wonderful! See you soon!

Victoria Champion  
Head Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School

**11/20/2015**

**I would like to wish everyone a wonderful thanksgiving week and holiday.**

I am very thankful for each incredible student in the program and supportive parents that enable success! I count myself lucky to be the director of such fine students and delightful parents. Many thanks for all you do to make this the best job a person could ask to have! I am truly thankful and very blessed!

**Upon return after break, a few things are needed...**

### **Festival trip payments**

We have submitted numbers to the company to begin booking hotel rooms and buses. We appreciate everyone submitting their paperwork and payments in money orders. I know that request has made it a bit harder...thank you! Please check your charms account for the record of your payments. By the end of the fall semester, everyone has to be at \$185.00, so keep the divided up payments coming in until you are at \$185.00 and check with Charms to see that your payments are correct. Thank you for your help with this request.

**Special note:** We do not have any payments from several students and many parent chaperones. All we have is a letter of intent. We must have some payment/deposit on Monday when we return from the break or we will have to take the student and or parent off the trip. We are willing to work with you on payments but something must be in at this time to ensure your spot on the trip. Contact me by email to discuss any concerns before Monday please. We will be assigning rooms on Tuesday so it is imperative that Monday we have a money order for everyone on the trip. Thank you for your understanding and help with this request.

**I hope you all enjoy your week together and I hope you hear some practicing at home.**

We have not made any assignments over the break but we do expect student to practice their scales, holiday music and solo and ensemble music over the break. Our success depends on students staying fresh on their music and keeping their skills on point. Taking a week off will slow our progress down next week so please...as I tell the students...eat a little turkey and play a little music! Thank you all and see you in December!!

We all send out best wishes and love to Ms Withrow for a happy wedding over the break and a blessed life together with her future husband. The Cy-Woods Orchestra wishes her the best!

Victoria Champion  
Head Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School

**10/16/2015**

Hope everyone has had a great week! Here are a few updates on what is happening in orchestra. Looking forward to a cool weekend for all!

**Winter Concert Music has been passed out.**

We have passed out music for the winter concert and we are studying it in class daily.

Students should be practicing at home and preparing for major grade testing next week. There will be a memory test for all on Wizards of Winter...have your student play for you over the weekend! More music to come next week so please keep all students practicing daily. We are counting on your support and student's home practice to make the Winter Concert even better than the Fall Concert.

**Solo and Ensemble Season has started too!**

We have asked students to research and find their solo and or ensembles if they want to go to contest in February. Ms Withrow and I also have been available everyday after school to help students find their music this week and next. On Thursday, students will turn in their selections for contest. Any student that does not have a selected piece, will be assigned an ensemble by their director to test off for classroom grade. The deadline is Thursday and no late selections will be allowed so please be sure your student comes to see us before Thursday to be ready. Once again, this deadline is firm.

**New t-shirts are on their way.**

Thank you for your patience with the t-shirts. The first set of shirts had to be sent back for corrections. We are anxiously awaiting the new and improved shirts next week. We look forward to our students wearing the shirts with pride!

**All State students are busy preparing for state auditions on October 31st.**

Their scheduled time will be shared with students today. Please contact me with any concerns if your student is auditioning for All State. Good luck to these great students!

**March Orchestra Trip information is on the way.**

Thank you for your patience. There were some issues with new district policies that had to be followed. This change caused some changes to our trip but it will still be a great trip. The date of the trip is the same and more information will be share later next week. Once again, thank you for your patience. It has been a journey to get this trip out to the orchestra but well worth it. It will be a great musical experience for all.

**Student selected to play in the school musical in February were told yesterday.**

The students selected for the musical need to check charms to ensure they can make all rehearsals. This is a requirement. More information will be shared with these students in late November. Thank you.

That is all for now. Have a great weekend and thank you for being such wonderful parents and students. I am blessed to be able to work with such wonderful young people every day. It is an honor and a pleasure. Have a cool and relaxing weekend!

Victoria Champion  
Head Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School

**10/02/2015**

Happy Friday to all! I hope everyone is doing well and ready for upcoming events!

**Region Students only**

Good luck tomorrow at Region Tryouts! I am very proud of you all for your hard work and I wish you the best of luck at auditions tomorrow. Get a good night of sleep and play with the 212 spirit tomorrow. Results will not be posted due to the later start of auditions and the students auditioning after SAT tests. The region Chairman informed the directors that she will email me the results to us and I will make them available to you all once I have received via Charms. Please be patient...I know it is hard to wait. Good luck to all!

**Fall Concert Next week and uniforms**

Next Thursday is our Fall concert at 7:00 pm in Cy Woods Auditorium. The dress rehearsal which is mandatory is on Wednesday after school. The students have worked very hard and I am excited to have our first concert of the year. All students should be in their formal uniforms. Refer to the handbook posted on Charms for uniform needs.

There are a few students waiting for uniforms that had to be ordered and should have them early next week. All others should have their uniforms at home. Please contact me with any questions regarding uniform asap. Special thanks to Ms Tucker for all of her hard work getting the students their uniforms. She has done an amazing job!

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all next week!

Victoria Champion  
Head Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School

**8/28/2015**

We made it through our first week and we are off to a great start! I am very excited for this school year. The students are incredible and very talented. It is going to be a great one for sure! Thank you parents and students for all you have done to be ready to play! The Wildcat orchestra is in full swing! 212!

Here are a few announcements and updates:

**Charms school code is CyWoodsHSOrch and student password is student ID.**

Be sure your student has signed on and added you as an adult to be included in emails and have access to all that is going on in the program.

**Paperwork and Activity fee was due today.**

Please bring Monday if your student did not bring today or this week. To access paperwork for Monday, see "Charms" to print off forms if you have not already received and completed. The \$50 activity fee is cash only. Please put in sealed envelope with your student's name on the envelope. Thanks you so much for your help with getting this paperwork in!

**Students should all be bringing their instrument (or using school cello or bass), instruments supplies (see handbook for supplies) and a black three ring binder for their music to class daily.**

Each class has been given two music selections for their fall concert so they have music to be working on this weekend. The new method book they need to purchase should also be kept in their music binders. We will use it daily. We will have some books at the school next week or you can swing by Fishburn Violin to pick up your book over the weekend.

**Region Workshops start next week - see charms for details.**

If your child is trying out for Region, they must attend their scheduled sectional to prepare for this audition. Students need to be practicing on their own a well. The more they prepare the better chance they have to place in this prestigious group. Students not trying out for region do not need to attend.

**Ice Cream Social is next Wednesday after school.**

Students are invited to come and visit with each other at our first social of the year. Ice cream and fun. The social will go from 2:45-4 p.m. Parents that would like to help can volunteer through Charms.

**Remind 101 - students must sign up for this and parents are encouraged to as well.**

Please see the orchestra handbook for the correct code to sign up.

**Fishburn Drives still open.**

Please go to this link and sign up...we need your help. We expect each parent to volunteer for one drive per year so sign up today! Here's the link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49acab22a7f94-fishburn6>

That is about all for week one! Please contact me with any concerns or questions. I look forward to a great school year and getting to know all of the new orchestra Wildcats and continuing to get to know and grow musically with the returning Wildcats. Have a great weekend and see you Monday! Cy Woods Orchestra Rocks!

Victoria Champion  
Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School

**8/27/2015**

We are back in swing and moving forward with a great year. Students are all playing and learning in class each day. Please be sure you and your student have read the orchestra handbook to be aware of all the policies. Students should be coming to class every day with their instrument, black folder with music and new method book. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Ms. Withrow at any time.

**Tomorrow we are collecting the student check list form and the travel/health form that was passed out Tuesday to students. There is also a \$50 activity fee that we are also collecting.** The forms receive a test grade so please be sure they are in on time. The \$50 fee must be cash and not checks. Cy Woods will not accept checks so thank you for your understanding. It is also important that students and parents are current on charms and remind 101 so they can get all notifications and reminders. All this information is in the handbook. Charms is a great source for calendar dates so please be checking it frequently.

We are off to a great start! Looking forward to a great school year! Thank you for all you do to make the Cy Woods Orchestra Program the best!

Victoria Champion  
Director of Orchestral Activities,  
Cy-Woods High School