

Orchestra, band, and chorus students have the opportunity to participate in this year's Solo and Ensemble Festival to be held Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Gregory Middle School. This is over the long weekend (President's Day), so please check your family calendar carefully before signing up as refunds cannot be given. Learning a solo or an ensemble and performing for a judge is an important step on the road to musical independence. Many students have already expressed an interest in participating, and it is now time to sign up and make the commitment to this outstanding learning enrichment. Although this is not a required music department activity, we would like to encourage students of all ages and levels to participate.

What is solo and ensemble festival?

On February 16th, students who choose to participate will perform the solo or ensemble for an adjudicator who will provide a written evaluation of the performance. This evaluation includes suggestions for musical improvement and is an excellent opportunity for each student to improve as a musician. The judge will also provide a rating. When the student is well prepared, this is always a positive learning experience. This is not a competitive situation, but an opportunity for musical growth for all students. Families and friends are encouraged to attend the performance.

How does each student prepare?

The student does the majority of the work. We will be available before and after school to work with students on their music. Each student will need to sign up for two help sessions outside of school that best fit his/her schedule. Sign-up sheets will be posted in January. Solos should be performance-ready by the end of January because rehearsals with piano accompanists will begin in late January/early February. Each soloist will practice with his/her accompanist twice.

Although not required, private lessons provide the weekly individual instruction that helps to make the learning and preparation process truly meaningful for the student. If you are interested in private lessons, with either a professional or with a qualified high school student, please talk to your orchestra teacher to get a list of recommended teachers or visit our website: <http://gregoryorchestras.weebly.com/private-lesson-information.html>

How does my child obtain music?

For students taking private lessons with a professional, their adult instructor can select the solo for them. However, please remind private adult teachers that solos must be performance-ready by the end of January, pieces must also have at least 28 measures (not including repeats of any kind), and an original copy of the piece must be ordered and provided to the judge on the festival day. For students taking guided practice lessons with a high school student, or no lessons at all, their band, chorus, or orchestra teacher will select a solo for them. All ensemble music will be selected by the band, chorus, or orchestra teacher.

Students will be responsible for the purchase of an original copy of the piece of music they perform for the festival once their music is selected. Music should be ordered in December to ensure timely delivery before the festival day. Students will be penalized if they do not provide an original copy of the music, and photocopies may not be given to the judge. We would like to be sure to set our students up for success by making certain they have their original music ordered well ahead of the festival date.

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Are there any costs involved in participation?

All students performing a solo must be accompanied by a pianist. We are happy to contract qualified accompanists for our students. There will be a \$30.00 fee for this service. The fee covers two practices with the pianist as well as the performance on the day of the festival. An accompanist may charge more for additional rehearsals if needed for longer, very advanced solos. We will collect piano accompanist fees in January. Any student wishing to find his/her own accompanist is welcome to do so, but please be careful to choose an adult who has experience accompanying students.

Students are also responsible for paying an entry fee. The entry fee pays for the judges, the cost of transporting and renting pianos, and other details that cost money when putting on a large event such as the Solo & Ensemble Festival. The cost is \$9 per orchestra solo, \$13 per piano solo, and \$5 per ensemble member. This fee must be paid at the time the student signs up. Please make checks payable to "Gregory Middle School" and make sure your student's name and phone number appears on the check.

Will it take the whole day?

All solos and ensembles will be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on February 16th. Some special scheduling needs can be met if we know now, for example, "need a morning time because we have a wedding that afternoon." Please do not request afternoon because you like to sleep in. The closer we get to the actual festival date, the more difficult it becomes to make changes in the scheduling because there are over 1,000 participants. The students will be at the performance site about 60 minutes total for the solo and/or ensemble experience (warm-up and performance). **Please note that this event coincides with a holiday weekend (President's Day) and the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip.** The date select is beyond our control as it is chosen by the state IGSM organization. Please consider this when deciding on your participation.

What do you need to do as a student?

1. Turn in the registration form and payment by Friday, Nov. 16th.
2. If you have an adult private teacher, talk to your private teacher to ask for help choosing a solo. Your piece must have at least 28 measures (not including any repeats). Complete the google form regarding information about your piece and bring in a photocopy of the piano accompaniment music by November 30th. You also need to have an original of the sheet music by the end of January.
3. If you do not currently take private lessons with an adult teacher, we will give you a solo/ensemble piece in December.
4. Order the original of the music in December (once you have received the information from us).
5. Practice your music a lot during December, January, & February. It should be performance-ready by 1/31/19.
6. If you are not taking private lessons, come to the help sessions you sign up for with us. Always have a ride ready to pick you up on time.
7. Write in the individual measures numbers in the original music in pencil before the festival day.

What do you need to do as a parent?

- Encourage your musician to participate and practice often at home.
- Provide transportation to the festival site (Gregory MS) and to all help sessions/rehearsals
- Be responsible for the accompanist and participation fees.
- Make sure the original of the music is ordered for your musician in December. We will send home an information sheet explaining exactly what and how to order.

Please turn in/complete the following by Friday, November 16, 2018:

- Turn in the attached sheet along with a check totaling the fees indicated.
- If you currently take lessons with an adult private teacher, complete Step #2 noted above.

Since we are hosting the festival at Gregory this year, we will be reaching out to families for donations (water bottles, snacks, etc.). We will also be looking for adult and student volunteers to help throughout the day. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the festival date! Thanks in advance for considering helping out!

Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Entry Form

Student Name _____ Instrument _____

Please check the boxes below that apply and return by Friday, November 16th.

GUIDELINES FOR SOLO/ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

Grade 6	One String-Instrument Solo (may also do a piano solo--see below)
Grades 7 & 8	One Solo and/or One Ensemble (may also do a piano solo--see below)
All Select Strings Members	All members are expected to perform a solo and may also perform an ensemble. If you are attending the Washington D.C. trip or have a conflict with this weekend, please speak with Mrs. Lein now.

Students who receive private instruction in piano may also perform a piano solo. This is solely the responsibility of student and his/her parents and private piano teacher. Original/Purchased sheet music must be provided (please tell your piano teacher this before selecting your piece).

STRING INSTRUMENT SOLOS:

How many years have you played your instrument? _____ (6th grade =1, 7th grade =2, 8th grade =3)

- I want to play a solo and need to have one selected for me by my orchestra teacher.
or
 I want to play a solo and my adult private teacher has selected/will select one for me.

- Adult Private Teacher Name _____
- Title of Solo _____
- Arranger/Composer _____
- Book _____ Volume (if applicable): _____ Revised Edition? Yes No

If your solo is not out of a Suzuki book, you or your private teacher are responsible for providing a photocopy of the accompaniment music *no later than November 30th*

ACCOMPANISTS : The majority of solos are written with piano accompaniment, therefore you will need to arrange to have one play for you. An accompanist is an adult piano player who is experienced in performing with soloists. Students may not accompany our soloists at this event.

- I would like to a school accompanist and agree to pay the \$30 fee in January. (Do not pay now.)
or
 I have my own adult accompanist who is qualified to play with me, and he/she is available on 2/16/19. No changes can be made after November 30th. My accompanist's first and last name is:

PIANO SOLO: Students who currently take private piano lessons outside of school have the option to perform a piano solo for the solo and ensemble festival. Preparation is solely your responsibility.

- I am in lessons now and would like to perform a piano solo.

Title _____ Composer _____

How many years have you played piano? Circle one: 1 year 2 years 3 years 4+ years

ENSEMBLES: Please note that duets (2 students) are the easiest to coordinate because students will need to meet and practice together once a week at each other's homes. Trios (3 students) are possible. Quartets work best when there are 2 violins, 1 viola and 1 cello or bass. Anything other than these groups should be discussed with a teacher before turning in this registration form. All members must register.

Ensemble Members (each member pays a \$5 fee)	Instrument

HELP SESSIONS: Students who do not take private lessons must attend TWO help sessions in preparation for the performance. Students who take private lessons should work on the music that their teacher has selected in lessons. All students are also required to practice their music at home. Help sessions with Mrs. Lein and Mrs. Lauff will be available after school in January and early February. Help sessions ensure that students have the best possible performance experience. Any student not taking lessons who does not complete the two help sessions will be ineligible for festival participation and refunds are not possible.

Participation Fees:

_____ orchestra instrument solo @ \$9 = \$_____

_____ ensembles @ \$5 per member = \$_____ *Each group member is responsible for paying \$5.

_____ piano solo @ \$13 = \$_____

Total amount enclosed \$_____

Make the check payable to "Gregory Middle School" **with child's name and phone number. Please do not send the accompanist fee at this time.** Piano accompanist fees will be collected in January.

I have read the guidelines outlined above and give my student permission to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival to be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at Gregory Middle School.

Print Student's Name _____ Class Period: 1 2 5 6 7 8 9

Parent Signature _____ Phone Number _____

This packet was given to students in class on Thursday, November 1st, and it is due by Friday, November 16th. If you would like information about private teachers, please email Lori_Lauff@ippsd.org or Stephanie_Lein@ippsd.org for a recommendation for your child.