

Gifford Middle School Orchestra

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WHAT INSTRUMENT CAN I PLAY?

Violin:

Smallest member of the string family
Also called the *fiddle*
Produces a brilliant tone
An orchestra consists of two violin sections

Viola:

Slightly larger than the violin
Oldest member of the string family
Produces a deeper, mellow tone

Cello:

Much larger and lower in pitch
Is held between the legs while seated
Yo-Yo Ma is the most famous living cellist

String Bass:

Is six feet tall from top-to-bottom
Is the deepest member of the orchestra
Performer must stand or sit on a stool
Strings are the same as an electric bass

Gifford Middle School offers an outstanding orchestra program where students can learn to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students from Gifford Middle School have developed into outstanding student-musicians, earning high honors throughout the state and country. While GMS offers an advanced orchestra class, the majority of incoming sixth grade students have never played an instrument before. Experienced players are invited to audition for this group, while everyone else will learn to play in the beginning orchestra.

Why Orchestra?

All children are capable of learning to play a stringed instrument, regardless of "talent," "giftedness," or musical background.

Research has proven that orchestra students achieve better grades and higher scores on standardized tests, including the SAT.

Orchestral music, which is considered one of Western culture's greatest treasures, cannot be performed without stringed instruments.

Lifelong opportunities to perform on a stringed instrument abound. Greats in all fields have played stringed instruments for lifelong fulfillment, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Albert Einstein.

Colleges and universities often need string players for their orchestras and may offer scholarships to qualified students regardless of their intended academic major.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is there a financial commitment?

An instrument must be secured. A limited number of school instruments are available for a \$75 maintenance fee for the year.

How often do we rehearse after school?

We hold a dress rehearsal before each concert.

How many concerts do we perform?

We hold one or two concerts each semester.

Can I be in orchestra and play sports?

Yes. Many of the orchestra members currently play a sport.



Gifford Middle School Orchestra:

**"Good, better, best. Never let it rest.
Until our good is better, and our better is best."**



TO SIGN UP FOR ORCHESTRA, SIMPLY REGISTER WITH GUIDANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT

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Matt Stott is the orchestra director at Vero Beach High School and Gifford Middle School. A graduate of Baylor University, he was named their 'Alumni Educator of the Year' in 2010. In 2014, he was named the Florida 'School Orchestra Teacher of the Year.' He is frequently requested to be a guest conductor and clinician. He is a member of the American String Teachers Association, the Florida Orchestra Association, the Florida Music Educators Association, and the Music Educators National Conference. A violinist, Mr. Stott has performed extensively in orchestras, string quartets and as a soloist. An avid athlete, Matt has played and coached basketball and tennis. Matt and his wife, Katie are parents of four young children.