

# Orchestra in New Fairfield

Building a Seamless Program for our Young Musicians



Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee  
New Fairfield Public Schools  
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# Orchestra in New Fairfield

## **Elementary Student String Numbers (Grades 3-5)**

- 2022-23: Total students = 95
- 2023-24: Total students = 107
- 2024-25 (current): Total students = 115

## **NFMS Student String Numbers (Grades 6-8)**

- 2022-23: Total students = 14
- 2023-24: Total students = 24
- 2024-25 (current): Total students = 27
- 2025-26 (anticipated): Total students = 35

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## Current Elementary Student String Numbers (2024-25)

<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>
51	35	29

## Current NFMS Student String Numbers (2024-25)

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
6	10	11

# Moving Forward

- **Initiate an orchestra program at NFHS:** To address our current 8th grade students needs and bring back current high school students who may have been unable to play in past years.
- **Include middle school orchestra lessons for 6th-8th grade students:** To strengthen skill development and mirror the current band program at the middle school.
- **Ensure consistency of lessons for all 3rd-5th grade students:** To build foundational skills and success for students that can be brought forward in the middle and high school years.

# The Benefits

Building a **sequential, grade 3–12 strings program** allows us to:

- Provide students with consistent access to high-quality instruction from elementary through high school.
- Mirror the current band & choir programs for equity across musical disciplines.
- Provide opportunities for collaboration between band, choir, and orchestra, enriching the overall music education experience for all students.
- Strengthen our music program when compared to other districts locally, in the state and nationally.

# Next Steps

- **HS Orchestra Course Proposal** (*NFHS Program of Studies*)
- **One additional full-time orchestra teacher**
  - Allows us to hire a certified, high-quality teacher to transition our program to the high school and ensure staffing for lessons at the middle school.
  - Ensures all students across levels in the district (Grades 3-12) have access to orchestra lessons and playing in an ensemble. Access to lessons as well as ensemble opportunities ensures skill development to grow a strong program of young musicians.

# Q & A

- **Is there space to accommodate expanding the NFPS Orchestra Program?**
  - The NFHS band and orchestra room will be scheduled collaboratively.
  - We continue to assess space for lessons and ensemble at NFMS per our space utilization study.
- **Will there be enough students moving forward?**
  - Current 8th grade orchestra students have indicated their interest in continuing to pursue orchestra next year and some current high school students (9-12) may also join.
  - Our enrollment in strings at NFES continues to grow.
- **Will the additional teacher have a full schedule?**
  - The additional staffing will provide for both HS orchestra and strings lessons across the MS and ES; both string teachers in the district will have a full schedule across the three buildings.
- **Do we have the resources/equipment to support a program at the High School?**
  - We continue to provide for music supplies in our district and school curriculum budgets and build instrument options. The PTO and FAPA Boosters have been wonderful partners as well.