

# ***Berkley School District Fine Arts Options***

## ***ORCHESTRA***

If you have attended our concerts at any level, you are aware of the high quality orchestra program in Berkley. Beginning Orchestra is offered twice weekly for 45 minutes. Both Anderson and Norup continue with complete sixth, seventh and eighth grade orchestras and Berkley High School offers a wider selection of orchestra classes as well.

Berkley's orchestra program is designed to give your child a comprehensive musical experience. Your child will be exposed to jazz, folk fiddling, composition and improvisation as well as enjoying and learning about the rich heritage of standard classical music. We believe if your child truly enjoys the music experience, he or she *will* be successful.

To ensure the success of your child, he/she must be committed to daily practice. This could include reviewing a class assignment or performing for family members. Practicing at home enables students to monitor their musical progress.

We want your child to have a successful year in orchestra; therefore, we invite all fourth graders to Instrument Fitting Night to determine the instrument he/she is best suited to play. Each interested student will be evaluated and will have the opportunity to actually play the various instruments to determine "fit" – based on his/her physical characteristics as well as interest. Based on our observations, we will then make a recommendation about the instrument we feel would be best for your student and would allow him/her to experience the best results. Please do not go to a music store and rent an instrument until you have attended the fitting night and received our recommendation.

Parents are responsible for providing the instrument for your child to play in orchestra. It is not necessary to actually purchase an instrument – most music stores offer a rental program where new instruments can be rented for the year at a reasonable monthly fee. Some stores also offer insurance for repairs or lost instruments for an additional nominal fee.

The Berkley Orchestra Program continues to grow. There is currently an annual average of over 100 students in the beginning program alone. Your child is encouraged to consider beginning strings as his or her ensemble choice in fifth grade.

If you have any other questions (other than specific instrument selections) please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Kilbride at 248.837.8227.