

# LAING ORCHESTRA

We are pleased to offer string orchestra classes in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a full year course that develops each student's skills on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Other skills that are developed through the program include discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and general musicianship. We are building something great, and we want you be a part of the music and fun!

## **Did you know?**

- Orchestra class meets every day in middle school for 45 minutes. We are able to learn so much great music. Fiddling, classical, rock, pop, and more! We even have electric instruments.
- When signing up for classes, students can still take several other electives. For example, students can take Orchestra and other subjects like Chorus, Art, P.E., Pre-Engineering, Drama, Spanish, Marine Science, etc. Check with the guidance department for more details.
- You can sign up for Orchestra with little or no experience. Some of our students started in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but we accept beginners or students who want to rejoin even if they have less than one year experience. Students can also change instruments if they started on a different one.
- School cello, basses, and music stands are available to use during class so that students do not have to carry the large instruments or music stands from home. Violin/Viola students bring their instruments to school and have a locker to store it during the school day. All students usually rent instruments from a local store. Information will be sent home the first week.
- Being in string orchestra provides a great social connection to your school. Many middle school students are looking for a group of friends and a strong support system to be a part of and they find them in the orchestra!

## **Concerts:**

Winter Concert in December

Spring Concert in May

## **Trips:**

**Carowinds Music Festival:** The 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra travels to Charlotte, NC to perform for judges. The rest of the day is spent riding rides and having fun in the amusement park.

**Orlando Performance Trip:** This trip is the highlight of the middle school orchestra experience. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students travel to Orlando to perform and enjoy the parks.

**Orchestra Performance Assessment:** Performance for judges in March.

## **Possible Community Performances:**

"Caroling" at retirement homes during the winter holiday

Performing at local stores/shops like Barnes and Noble

Playing the national anthem at a special event like a River Dogs game, a Stingrays' game or other sporting event.



## Meet the Director



Margaret Selby is the orchestra director and 2020 Teacher of the Year at Laing Middle School in Charleston, SC. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Master's degree in Music Performance from the University of South Carolina. She has performed with the South Carolina Philharmonic, the Charleston Symphony, and regularly as a freelance cellist.

Mrs. Selby's orchestras have participated in the SCMEA Orchestra Festival and other festivals in the southeast, earning superior ratings. One of her greatest accomplishments has been the ability to develop string programs. The most recent program at Laing Middle School grew from 42 to 215 students in five years.

Mrs. Selby has been the conductor for the West Virginia Junior All-State Orchestra and the North Carolina Junior Western Region Honors Orchestra. In South Carolina, she has conducted the Greenville, Spartanburg, Midlands, and Lowcountry Junior Region Orchestras, and the Aiken, Beaufort, and Berkeley All-County Orchestras. She is the 2017-18 String Educator of the Year of the Greater Charleston area, selected by fellow string educators and awarded by Southern String Supply. She was the conductor for the Charleston County District Honors Orchestra from 2012-2016. Mrs. Selby has adjudicated orchestra festivals in Las Vegas and South Carolina, and has been a guest clinician for West Virginia University and Dorchester County String Teachers. She is a contributing author to *Rehearsing the Middle School Orchestra*, published by Meredith Music, distributed by Hal Leonard. She presented at the 2021 Texas Orchestra Directors Association Winter Clinic, the 2019 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and the 2021, 2020 and 2012 ASTA National Conference. Mrs. Selby has served as the President of the Orchestra Division for the South Carolina Music Educators Association and Secretary/Treasurer for the American String Teacher Association of South Carolina, and she is currently serving as the SCMEA Orchestra Division Region 4 Representative. She is also a registered Suzuki cello teacher with teacher training through book 5. Mrs. Selby lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC with her husband, Chris, and their children, Alex and Kate. She enjoys running and sampling Charleston's many amazing restaurants.

Margaret\_Selby@charleston.k12.sc.us , 843-849-2809 ext. 45345, website- [www.laingorchestra.org](http://www.laingorchestra.org)



## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

It's easy! Click HERE: <https://form.jotform.com/201106552865048>  
or scan the QR code to the left to complete and submit this form online

OR print/complete/return this form:

Check one:

- ☐ Beginning student  
☐ Continuing student

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email (please print carefully):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Which Instrument? (please circle one)**

violin   viola   cello   bass   undecided

Please email, mail, or fax this form to:

*Laing Middle School Orchestra  
Margaret Selby, Director  
2705 Bulrush Basket Lane  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466*

Phone: 843.849.2809

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