

Hello,

My name Adam Pratt, and I am the head director of the Keller Orchestra program. As 6th grade choice sheets are going out, I would love to give you a little information about the orchestra program!

Orchestra is the newest fine arts elective offered in Keller ISD. The program has grown exponentially over the past 4 years, and I would love for your child to become a part of this new tradition in Keller! In orchestra, students will learn how to play either the violin, viola, cello, or bass. As a member of the Keller Orchestra, students will present concerts made up of all kinds of music – classical, popular, and fiddle tunes. They will also participate in competitions, have parties, go on trips, and other activities (*COVID safety permitting*). But, of course, the primary activity is learning to play string instruments, and sharing the joy of making music together. The pleasure a child feels when they learn to express themselves through music increases their self-esteem at a very critical period in their life. The total group effort required to achieve common goals is not generally found in most classes, and cannot be overstated.

Orchestra and academics go hand in hand. The Texas Music Educators Association publishes the average SAT scores of their All-State Ensembles every year, and orchestra consistently has the highest scores with all groups scoring over 1400

(<https://www.tmea.org/programs/all-state/average-sat>). In orchestra, I strive to teach students life skills such as:

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Dedication
- Perseverance
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Goal Setting

I understand that deciding between electives is very difficult, and I would like to give students the opportunity to experience what orchestra is all about. However, this year COVID safety is paramount, and we will not be able to host our annual Instrument Petting Zoo. Instead, here is the link to one of our virtual performances this year that can give you an idea of what happens in orchestra:

https://youtu.be/V9QzFKTEd_A



I am so excited about the orchestra family we are building here, and we want not only your student to join our family, but you as well. Music education can sometimes feel like a foreign language to parents, so we offer the Keller Parent Orchestra to the parents of our orchestra members. We meet one night a week for an hour, and I teach you how to play a stringed instrument so that you can join in the joy of music making with your child. It is by no means mandatory, but is available if you choose to join us.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at: adam.pratt@kellerisd.net. The future is so bright for our young orchestra program, and I really hope your student considers joining us as we build a new tradition in Keller!

Sincerely,

Adam Pratt
Director of Orchestras
kellerorchestra.com