

# QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Extended Educational Music Programs Winter Newsletter



We are proud to showcase the after-school music activities of the Quincy Public Schools Extended-Day Music Programs and fill you in on all the excitement happening around the city!

## **Honor Band**



*"I love how the Honor Band not only involves playing my clarinet, but also explores other aspects of music, like the music theory and ear-training.  
Amaryllis Gu—Sixth Grade, Point Webster Middle School*



Students in the Honor Band have been rehearsing various selections of challenging repertoire which goes beyond the level of the music studied during the school day in the band program. In addition, students have been exploring the rudiments of music theory and ear-training, working on deciphering complex rhythmic patterns, and have spent considerable time listening to accomplished ensembles perform the very music we've been rehearsing. Although we are in the midst of our preparations for our spring concert, we are still looking for dedicated musicians who play the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion to join our group.

*The Honor Band meets from 3:30-5:30 on Wednesday afternoons in the band room at Quincy High School. Membership is for advanced instrumentalists who have received approval of their band director for participation in the program.*

*Contact Michael DeMarco, Facilitator of Extended Day Music Programs—  
[michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com)—for more information.*

## Concert Band

Thanks to the success of the Honor Band Program during its first year, this year we decided to create a new band for budding instrumentalists who'd like to go beyond what is offered during the school day, but who may not yet be ready to join the ranks of our more seasoned Honor-Band members. Thus we have formed the Concert Band and it truly is off to a great start this year! Open to All-City Band members who are seeking more of a challenge, we have begun this year by working on longer, more difficult music selections. We have also experimented with dividing the band into sections by instrument and Concert Band members are starting to become experienced with sectional rehearsals. A further delight of being part of this exciting ensemble is the listening we do together; we often listen to music performed by professional ensembles which helps us learn an appropriate tone on our instrument as well as how to play music in many various styles.

*The Concert Band meets from 3:00-4:30 on Monday afternoons in the band at Quincy High School. Membership is for developing instrumentalists who have already played with the All-City Band or who are members of their middle school bands. Contact Michael DeMarco, Facilitator of Extended Day Music Programs—[michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com) or visit [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com)—for more information.*

## After-School String Lesson Program

The after-school string program is designed to teach students the basics of playing an orchestral string instrument. Students may choose to learn how to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass and meet with a small group of students for weekly forty-minute lessons. Students are grouped by level: there is a beginning class for students new to playing an instrument and a continuing class for returning students who already have a year of playing experience. Returning students are especially encouraged to participate in the Abigail Adams Orchestra so they can begin to learn the fundamentals of playing in a large orchestral setting.



Beginning string students have learned how to hold their instruments properly as well as how to maintain a correct posture in both the playing and resting positions. After working for weeks with pizzicato (i.e. plucking the strings without the use of the bow), we are excited to report that some beginning groups have begun learning how to use the bow. It's been a fun challenge to review all of the previous exercises but play them now with the bow too!

Returning string students have continued to progress with their technique. Many of the groups have learned to play in a couple of different keys at this point and some are even learning different hand positions and how to use the fourth finger. These students have been working hard to prepare a variety of selections that they will be performing with the Abigail and John Adams Orchestras this spring and we hope to see many of our returning string students join the Abigail Adams Orchestra next fall.

### **Abigail Adams Orchestra**

“The Abigail Adams has been a great place for me to experience performing with other musicians who play my instrument. I learn so much in this orchestra, including how to play in the swing style!”

Amin Charepoo—Third Grade, Wollaston Elementary School.



Members of the Abigail Adams Orchestra have been working hard to prepare for their spring concert. We began the year learning how to play in a large ensemble setting and follow a conductor and we are now busy rehearsing selections for our spring concert.

*Geared toward string players who already have a year of playing experience, the Abigail Adams Orchestra meets Monday evenings at Quincy High School from 5:30-6:20 in the band room. Contact Michael DeMarco, Facilitator of Extended Day Music Programs—[michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com)—for more information.*

### **John Adams Orchestra**

“The John Adams Orchestra has been a place for me to work on both classical and contemporary music in an ensemble setting.” Alex Cox—Freshman, North Quincy High School.

After an exciting performance with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra at the ‘Tis The Season Holiday Concert in December, members of the John Adams Orchestra have been busy preparing for their spring concert. We not only have experimented with playing music in a variety of styles and periods, but also have begun learning to play selections from *Les Misérables* and other musicals. Maintaining a visible presence in the community, a select group of students was even invited to perform at Mayor Koch’s inauguration in January. We invite everyone to attend our Spring Concert in May for an engaging evening of string music.

*The John Adams Orchestra rehearses Monday evenings in the band room at Quincy High School from 6:30-7:30 and membership is by audition only. Contact Michael DeMarco, Facilitator of Extended Day Music Programs—[michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:michaeldemarco@quincypublicschools.com)—for more information.*



## Dates To Save:

### Strings:

Monday, May 5 & 12:  
Dress Rehearsals for Spring Concert

Monday, May 19:  
Spring Concert at 7pm in Auditorium at QHS

### Concert & Honor Band:

Monday, June 2 & 9:  
Dress Rehearsals for Spring Concert

Tuesday, June 10:  
Spring Concert at 7pm in Auditorium at QHS

