

September 28, 2019

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Greetings! I am writing to tell you about an unbelievable privilege I have been given. As you know, I am a student at Leshar Middle School and a member of the Orchestra program. This Fall, I auditioned and was selected to be in the top Orchestra at Leshar Middle School—the Advanced Chamber Orchestra. While this alone is a huge honor, there is MORE exciting news. ***The Leshar Chamber Orchestra has been selected to perform at the Yamaha Music and Arts Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana this coming March 2020.*** Our group earned this honor through a “blind audition” process and is one of 7 orchestras performing at this festival. In addition to being selected as one of the top 7 groups that applied, we are also the ***only*** middle school group to be accepted to perform. A final note of distinction is that we are the first middle school orchestra from Colorado to be invited to perform at this festival. This is one of the biggest honors an orchestra can get! We will perform for string educators, professional musicians, and spectators from across the country. We will also get to meet other orchestra students who have worked just as hard to play at this festival.

Our Orchestra Director, Mrs. Obluda, has asked each of us to prepare in four different ways:

1. **Positive Role Modeling:** We will be representing our school and community at the National level. With that in mind, each of us is being asked to strive to be good role models in all aspects of our lives, whether it be musically, academically, or in our daily relationships with friends, teachers, and family members.
2. **Consistent Practice:** As a group, we will meet 2-3 times a week at 7:20 AM in the morning, before school starts, and we are being asked to practice at least 120 minutes per week individually, to prepare for this performance. Consistent practice over a length of time helps to build our skills!
3. **Performance:** We will be taking every opportunity to perform throughout the school year—all leading up to our performance in March, as this needs to be our best performance of the season!
4. **Financially:** As an orchestra, we must raise more than \$27,000 for the trip. My individual part is \$1,200. I am asking some of my closest friends and family if they could contribute to the money I’ll need for this trip. Of course, I will also be working to help earn my way through fundraisers such as our annual Poinsettia Fundraiser, food sponsor nights (both hosted at their establishments or restaurants donating food for us to sell at school events), and other corporate sponsor events. The entire orchestra is committed to raising the needed funds. Our mission is to make sure that no one is left behind.

Would you consider helping me reach my goal? In this way, *you* can be a part of this effort. At Leshar, we cherish our community and acknowledge the generous support they continually offer the members of our school. You are receiving this letter because I greatly value your support, regardless of your past or future donations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

P.S. If you would like to help me financially, please use the enclosed card and self-addressed envelope. Checks should be made payable to “Leshar Middle School.” Donations are tax deductible with the understanding that the gift is voluntary and is supporting the Leshar Chamber Orchestra in my honor. If I reach my goal, any extra funds will be used to help other members of my group who haven’t yet hit their financial goals. Thanks for your help! I’ll keep you updated throughout the year.