

Eyes glued to her stand, eighth grader Abby Ong performs with her class at the Guitar Winter Concert. Guitar students play new songs each concert. "I guess they were the hardest ones we've done so far, but they weren't extremely hard," Ong said.

Photo by Sophie Bega



Double basses in playing position, chamber orchestra bass players Emily Ambler, Haley Peck, and Foster Ray play the "Star Wars" theme. The double basses are the largest instruments in the orchestra and produce the lowest notes. "My favorite part of playing the double bass is that it has the lowest pitch, and it's kind of the backbone of the orchestra," Ray said. "The rest of the orchestra depends on the basses to keep going and stay on rhythm." Photo by Bella Lufschanowski



2. **Swaying** with the music, chamber orchestra first chair violin Jacob Ordaz and second violin Marya Kim perform at the Fine Arts Showcase. Photo by Kaiya Emmert

3. **Plucking** her violin's string, seventh grader Alexandra Unda uses the technique of pizzicato at the Orchestra Winter Concert. Photo by Sophie Bega



All About That Double Bass

Double bass numbers increase in orchestra

A double bass is the largest and lowest pitched instrument of the violin family, providing the bass line in the orchestra's string section.

Orchestra teacher Julie Allevato thinks the double bass' help contribute to the entire Orchestra.

"The double bass helps us keep tempo and they are our tuning," Allevato said.

There are eight double basses total in the orchestra program. Two basses play in Beginning Orchestra, two play in Concert Orchestra, and four play in Chamber Orchestra.

Eighth grader Chase Salter has been with the orchestra program for two and a half years.

"An interesting fact about the double bass is that it is the deepest string in Orchestra," Salter said.

Eighth grader Emily Ambler, has been in Orchestra for three years. She enjoys having the responsibility of being a

leader.

"I enjoy playing the double bass because we get really cool rhythms and you feel like you're in charge," Ambler said.

There are hardships when playing any instrument, and sixth grader Christopher Aguilar agrees.

"I definitely think it is hard to shift your hand up and down the fingerboard, but it makes up for it because the [double bass] is really loud," Aguilar said.

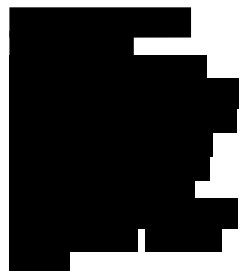
Seventh grader Brady McKnight believes there are pros and cons to playing the double bass.

"I think a pro in playing the double bass is that you get to keep tempo and control the speed, but you also kind of get to be a leader," McKnight said.

Incoming sixth graders can try out the double bass and other orchestra and band instruments at the Fine Arts night held every year to introduce new students to Gorzycki fine arts.



Santa hat on his head, seventh grader Ethan Campbell plucks his cello in the orchestra's annual Winter Concert. Orchestra performed a variety of songs for friends and family. "Moon Dance" was my favorite [song to play] because it's calm and cool at the same time," Campbell said. Photo by Sophie Bega



Practice Makes Perfect



"I think it can really prepare you because you can practice parts you mess up on so you won't mess up at the concert." Victoria Ellensohn, 8



"I played guitar in elementary school, and I didn't practice so I didn't get better." Ben Schroeder, 7



"I think that practicing helps because it gives you an idea for what you need to be careful for at the concert." Julia Aguilar, 8