Welcome to the University High School Orchestra, from
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We are glad you are joining us this year. In this letter I will include a supply list
and a little information about what you can expect in orchestra at U-High.

First of all, please make sure your instrument is in good shape when you come to
U-High. It is your responsibility to keep it repaired and adjusted so you can sound your
best. Over time it is common for an instrument to go out of adjustment or to need minor
(usually) repairs. A badly adjusted instrument can seriously hamper your ability and
interfere with the pleasure of playing it. If your instrument has a crack or any damage that
is beyond superficial in nature or it just doesn’t play “right,” it is important to get it
repaired or replaced over the summer. It is highly recommended that you replace your
strings at least once a year. They can be “false” without being visibly broken. Repairs can
take a while, and you will need your instrument daily for class, so please check that out
now, while there’s plenty of time. If you need a second opinion on a repair or a purchase,
or just have questions about the program at UHS, Please don’t hesitate to call me.

Required Supplies for Class:
- Rosin
- Mute
- Spare strings
- “Essentials of Music Theory”, published by Alfred self placement- look at the
books 1,2,3 and decide where you belong in the series.
- “Essentials for Strings”, by Anderson. This is a scale book we use in class.

Recommended Additional Supplies, Etc.:
- Tuner and metronome- an electronic tuner combined with a metronome is a very
valuable tool for musicians. The price is widely variable, but you should be able
to find one for under $30.00.
- Case humidifier- this is a simple device that fits inside the case, and can help
maintain the humidity level when the instrument is in its case. This is very
important for the upkeep of the instrument, particularly in the winter, when the air
gets very dry and tends to cause string breakage and instrument cracks.
- Homeowner’s insurance with special coverage for the instrument. This is
typically inexpensive and will cover major damage should it occur.

All students are invited to pick up a copy of the audition music for the Illinois Music
 Educator’s Association (IMEA) District Festival this fall. Compared with the junior high
music, the high school music is much more challenging, and very exciting. Participation
in this festival is optional, but it is an excellent challenge and it invigorates and inspires
the participants. Auditions are October 10th. An early start on the music, before the
school year kicks in, is highly recommended. The selection this year is “Russlan and
Ludmilla,” by Glinka. I have all the official parts, marked by IMEA. Please feel free to
contact me to get the music.

We will have an informational meeting for all music parents August 29th at 7pm.
We will discuss policies, trips, and other relevant information at that time. Please plan to
attend. I look forward to meeting you all, and working with all the students in orchestra.