



## **Chino Valley Unified School District's Orchestra performs first concert**

Elementary and middle school students were unpacking musical instruments, excited parents were murmuring in the crowd, and the sound of strings being tuned filled the air. The first annual Chino Valley Unified School District Orchestra Performance was about to begin.

The concert, held May 12 at Hidden Trails Elementary School in Chino Hills, included 40 students. Twenty-five orchestra members were unable to attend because of testing commitments.

Performing were beginning and advanced string students, middle school string students, and advanced high school string students.

Music teacher James Mast conducted the orchestra, while music teacher Monica Yii served as emcee. Also participating in the event were music educators

Matthew Robertson, Beverly Brule, Richard Southern, Doug Jones, Andre Beltran, and Jeff Wiley.

Watching the students play their instruments was a “thrill and a dream come true” for CVUSD educator Carol Sweat. The orchestra was her brainchild, and with the support of the district’s Committee for the Arts and Superintendent Wayne M. Joseph, it became a reality.

The CVUSD Orchestra Program began as a pilot program in fall 2014 with Dickson Elementary School in Chino, and Country Springs and Eagle Canyon elementary schools in Chino Hills. This school year, the elective program expanded to include Ayala High and the remainder of its feeder schools: Canyon Hills Junior High; Hidden Trails, Litel, and Rolling Ridge elementary schools.

The program continues through funding provided in the Local Accountability Plan (LCAP), which provides money for Visual and Performing Arts.

“The hope is to now expand the CVUSD Orchestra Program slowly to another set of schools in a feeder pattern,” Sweat said. The goal in the next 10 years is to have every school in the district offering orchestra as an elective course, she said.









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