



PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 22, 2025

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Violins of Hope Exhibit and Concert at West Bend East and West High Schools

WEST BEND — The West Bend School District is the only school district in the state to host an exhibit of instruments from the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's Violins of Hope—a powerful collection of string instruments once owned and played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust.

Violins of Hope is a project that restores string instruments, each one with a story. These instruments were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust in concentration camps, in hiding, and in the ghettos. After being recovered and painstakingly restored, they now signify resilience and hope. They are used for exhibitions, concerts, and educational programs as a commemoration of the lives lost and honors the resilience of the human spirit.

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, the community is invited to a free exhibit of some of the instruments. In addition, West Bend High Schools art students will display art and the band, orchestra, and choirs will perform a concert of remembrance.

Instrument and art exhibit: 5-8:30 p.m., West Bend High Schools, 1305 E. Decorah Road, West Bend in the Silver Lining Gallery (corner of E. Decorah Road and River Road).

Concert: 7:30 p.m. in the West Bend High Schools auditorium. (Enter on the East side of the building for both events.)

Free tickets are available at bit.ly/4auyx4i. More information on Violins of Hope is available at violinsofhopewisconsin.org.

The exhibit is presented in partnership with Violins of Hope - Wisconsin, Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and with support from the West Bend Public Schools Foundation.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve more than 5,000 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a caring, inclusive learning environment that supports the development of the whole child. Visit www.west-bend.k12.wi.us for more information.

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