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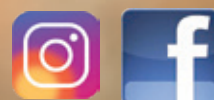
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www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder/

To learn more about participating programs, view our interactive program finder online at www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder/

Para obtener más información sobre los programas participantes, vea nuestro localizador en línea de programas participantes en www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder/

Preschool Promise
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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book-gifting program that mails age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five in Josephine County. The program offers bilingual English-Spanish books, braille, and audiobooks for children with visual impairments.

Better Together: Group Learning ... and Music



Southern Oregon School of Music

Think about how your child usually learns. Your child may play on a sports team, take a dance class, act in a school play, or work on a class project. Much of childhood learning happens in groups.

One of the best things about group learning is that your child can learn by watching and listening to others. Someone may ask a question your child had not thought of, or the teacher may explain a skill to another student in a new way that helps your child understand. Even when the teacher is helping someone else, important learning is still happening for your child.

Your child also sees that everyone makes mistakes—and that mistakes are simply part of learning. By watching classmates work through problems, your child can learn what to do, feel more comfortable trying again, and become more independent over time.

Why Learning Alongside Others Helps

The advantages of group learning are real, and they show up in research studies again and again. Kids who learn together tend to do better than kids working alone. They build friendships that support them, feel less nervous trying new things because they're surrounded by peers doing the same, and come away with more confidence in themselves.

The Case Gets Even Stronger for Music

The same holds true — maybe even more so — when it comes to learning piano, guitar, or any other musical instrument. Children who begin in a group tend to pick up hands-on technique faster and are often more creative and more motivated to keep going than kids learning privately. In addition, students in group classes often have as much as twice the amount of time with a teacher than in a private lesson.

Do Group Lessons Mean Less Individual Attention?

Not at all. A good teacher can absolutely give personal attention within a group — checking in with each student, adjusting on the fly, catching what one child needs in the moment — and kids do better because of it. When teachers build that one-on-one time into a group setting, students achieve more, think more critically, and end up more satisfied.

What Teachers Who've Taught Both Say

Teachers who have taught both formats often describe them as complementary rather than competing. Group lessons build the motivation, social connection, and comfort performing in front of others that keep young beginners engaged, while individual attention sharpens specific technique. More than one veteran teacher has also observed that their own most treasured musical memories come not from a private lesson, but from learning alongside a class of peers.

The Takeaway for Parents

For older students refining advanced technique, private lessons have real, well-documented value. But for a child who is just starting out, a well-run group class may simply be a better fit: learning with others — talking, playing, and encouraging each other along the way — with a good teacher still right there to guide each child individually. For your beginner, that could make all the difference!



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Fun Fall weekly themes
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Calling All Bakers!

It's the 24th Annual Gingerbread Jubilee

Ready to turn your fall into something **spectacularly sweet**? Architects of **all ages** are invited to dream big, get creative, and build imaginative wonders and fantastical creations using gingerbread and other deliciously edible materials for this year's **Gingerbread Jubilee**, a benefit for the Craterian Theater in Medford! And the best part? **Everyone is invited!** Whether you're a young baker or a seasoned pro, a family of frosting fanatics, a group of creative friends, a student, business, nonprofit, club—or simply someone who loves a tasty challenge—you're welcome to enter. So grab your gingerbread, icing, candy, and imagination, and start building your masterpiece! Contest entry forms are due **November 1**. Completed gingerbread creations must be delivered to the theater at 23 S. Central Ave., Medford, **November 16**. Let your creativity rise, your frosting flow, and your gingerbread dreams come to life!



Think your gingerbread creation has what it takes to take home a prize? There's **nearly \$4,000 in cash up for grabs**, including a whopping **\$1,000 for Best in Show!** Prizes will be awarded across multiple categories—adult, student, junior student, and group. And the fun doesn't stop when the judging is over! All participants are invited to the **Baker's Reception & Award Ceremony** at the Craterian, where we'll celebrate the creativity, craftsmanship, and downright deliciousness of this year's entries. Then,

the gingerbread magic continues! From **November 18–20**, creations will be available through the **Online Auction**. On November 20, they'll also take center stage at the **Gingerbread Jubilee Gala Dinner & Auction**, where guests can enjoy an unforgettable evening and bid on their favorite sweet masterpieces. After that, the gingerbread houses get their moment in the spotlight during the **Community Tour, November 21–23**. For just **\$4 admission**, visitors can enjoy:

- Live music
- Festive treats
- People's Choice voting
- A fun raffle
- A theater full of dazzling gingerbread creations

Best of all, **every dollar raised through the tour and sale of the gingerbread creations benefits the nonprofit Craterian Theater**. Every show, performance, artist, and unforgettable experience at the Craterian throughout the year is made possible, in part, by the generosity and creativity behind the Gingerbread Jubilee. **Come for the gingerbread. Stay for the holiday magic. And help make a sweet difference for the Craterian!**

Baking Contest Entry Forms and more information can be found at www.craterian.org.



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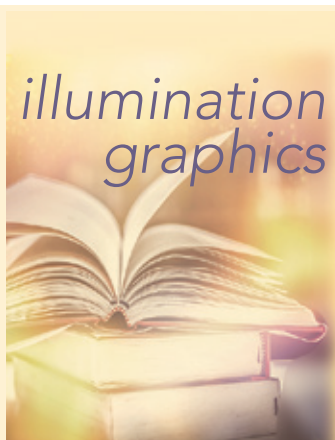
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Here are a few tips to help keep the holiday fun:

1. Do not allow your children to go trick or treating without a responsible adult.
2. Make sure that your trick or treaters have either reflective gear on or carrying a flashlight. It is hard to see little people dressed up in black Halloween gear at night.
3. Make sure to only trick or treat at houses that have a porch light on. They are signaling they are prepared to give you a treat.
4. Make sure that your trick or treaters know the rules about whose house they may go inside and whose house is off limits. It is not a good idea for children to go into houses of people they do not know.
5. Do not allow your children to eat candy or treats that have already been opened or appear to have been tampered with in any way.

If you would like more information about keeping kids safe in today's world, take a Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention class through the Children's Advocacy Center. Call 541-734-5437 to sign up.



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