## **MARIACHI:** 'People are usually blown away when they see them perform'

continued from Bi

hearing it. It's my thing," she said.

Many of the students are also in band but, said Emmons, the style is not only different, but the technique.

"They play by ear," he said. "You have to be intentional about training them. So, I think, it's different than how a lot of people in, like, European white culture, learn piano and guitar. The kids doing it come from families who emphasize

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cities.

happy to do it."

mariachi — they're mariachi families and they're committed.

"We want to blow that up," he added. "We want to have all kids participate."

That's the biggest focus getting the word out that all students in the district are welcome to participate in the program.

"Without kids doing it, it's just another one of those good ideas that adults have," he said.



THE MARIACHI BAND performs with long-time mariachi teacher Juan Antonio Martinez, at right, at HRVHS.



Juan Antonio Martinez is a mariachi pioneer in Hood River. He has been teaching mariachi here since 1988 - mostly volunteer - as well as plays in a band; he also works as an instructional assistant at Hood

With money that he's earned from music, he has opened a mariachi school in rural Mexico, paying someone to teach. "I have a lot of kids over there enjoying mariachi," he said. "I focus on rural areas far from

He is hoping to someday open a similar music school in Africa. "I enjoy doing for the poorest countries," Martinez said. "It makes me

Photo by Trisha Walker TEACHER JUAN ANTONIO MARTINEZ works with violin students Jennifer Guzman and Angel Arredondo.



HOOD RIVER MARIACHI plays under a tent at a community gathering.

Photos courtesy on Brent Emmons, HRMS





YADIRA SOLIS chose the Photos by Trisha Walker trumpet because she wanted to make "loud sounds."

## FROM LEFT, David Guzman sings and plays guitarron while Kimberly Jaimes plays vihuela.

## Happy Kids, Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime



