

Dear Parents and Students,

Hello! I am very excited to begin our strings class this year! I know that we are going to have a blast and make a wealth of progress throughout the year. The strings class is for beginners and experienced students alike and students can choose to play violin, viola, or cello. Students must provide their own instrument for class. Instruments are not provided by the school but can be either purchased or rented from a music store. Attached is a list of all of the local music stores where instruments and supplies can be found. It is imperative that students have the correctly sized instrument. Students can be sized for an instrument at your local music store or by me.

If your child is interested in cello, please be aware that the official policy for Chesapeake Public Schools is that cellos are **not** allowed on the buses. Students are required to take their instruments home to practice so that they can excel and feel good about their playing.

If you are interested in purchasing an instrument, please be sure to look for quality. Some of the really cheap instruments end up costing far more because of the cost of maintenance and repairs. This includes colored instruments (pink, blue etc.) It is also much harder to make these instruments sound good which can be frustrating for the students. If you have any questions about the quality of an instrument, please feel free to send me an e-mail prior to purchase and I will give you my honest opinion.

If students want to be in orchestra in the 6th grade they must be in 5th grade strings or they will have to audition in 6th grade. We will have two performances this year.

Strings class meets twice a week on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** during normal school hours.

Students must have their instruments in class by September 22nd .

I am looking forward to a wonderful and musical year!

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

Ms. Smith

Heather.Smith@cpschools.com



Concerts



I am very excited about our concerts this year! Parents and students will receive more detailed information as the events get closer but for now you can mark your calendars! The first concert will be **December 10th at 6:00pm** and will be a festive holiday occasion! The second concert will be **May 19th at 6:00pm**. You will hear a major improvement from concert one and concert two. It is amazing to witness and one of the reasons I love my job! 😊

Concert attire: Black bottoms, white tops, and matching dress shoes. The main thing is that everyone is wearing black and white so that we can look professional and nothing distracts the audience from the music or the ensemble as a whole. Cellists cannot wear skirts or dresses. If girls that do not play cello wear skirts or dresses, it must be below the knee because they will be sitting. Shoulders should be covered.

This year I am looking for donations of anything winter oriented for the stage. If anyone is getting rid of old holiday decorations please let me know! It could be lights, extension cords, fake trees, wreaths, battery operated candles, snowmen etc.

I am also looking for any decorations relating to the jungle. Fake decorative trees, stuffed monkeys, lions, tigers, vines, boulders etc. If anyone is particularly interested in set design or decorating, I would love your help 😊 I really want to make this as cool as possible for the kids! Thank you!



Requirements:

Practice:

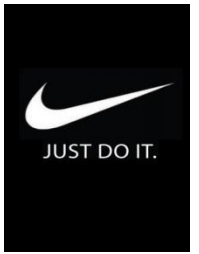
This class is equivalent to a team sport. Everyone has to pull their weight in order for us to succeed as a group. In order to be successful in my class, you will need to practice at home. We start out at 5 minutes a day for 5 days doing at home practice. Then we gradually increase it to 10 then to 15 as you get better. This does not mean that you have to set a timer and practice exactly that amount of time. I want you to practice until you have prepared your designated pieces for class so that we can play it and feel good about it as a group. It could be more time it could be less time but the bottom line is that we are a team and everyone should be prepared to play the music in class. I WANT you to do well! I will help you and make sure that you succeed but you will have to practice what I teach you in order to get better. It will be hard at first but anything worth doing takes patience, time, and dedication. You will reap what you sow. Do not give up when the going gets tough it will be worth it!

Responsibility:

You MUST remember your materials. We meet two times a week and you have to be responsible and remember your instrument and music binder. You are carrying around a very expensive piece of equipment and it is very important that you keep track of it and take care of it. If you forget your instrument 3 times in a grading period it is a referral. I did not have to write one single referral last year, let's keep it up! 😊



SIGN UP!!!



Student's Name: _____.

Instrument Choice: Violin Viola Cello

Student's 5th Grade Teacher: _____.

Previous Experience: _____.

Parent's Name(s): _____.

Parent's Phone #: _____.

Parent's e-mail: _____.

Student's Birthday (for Bday Board in class) _____.

Fun Fact about Student: _____.

I am doing a Birthday Board in my classroom this year! Please send in a Picture of your student with this form!:))