

Welcome to the WCGS 4th grade Strings Program

All sectionals should begin the week of September 7th. Students whose instruments have arrived from the Master Hand Shop or the Music and Arts Center will receive them at their sectional. The initial sectional schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated as needed. Large group rehearsals, which include all of the stringed instruments, will begin at a later date.

Sectionals take place once a week for a half hour. Sectional times are worked out with each teacher according to the student's needs. Generally the sectionals take place during the school day, however, I try to work sectionals in before or after school if desired. Students from all the sectionals will begin to meet together as soon as they are ready. Parents will be notified when this will take place. Traditionally, the whole group of beginning strings students has met during recess on Tuesday. This is open to change if enough families would be willing to have Beginning Strings on Tuesday mornings at 8:00.

Students will be assigned a letter grade of E (Excellent), G (Good) S (Satisfactory) or N (Needs Improvement) at the end of each quarter based on the following areas:

1. Attitude - Attitude includes behavior in class toward the other students, teacher, and property of others.
2. Responsibility – Attending sectionals and rehearsals with proper books and equipment.
3. Playing of instrument - Practicing needs to be done carefully, observing correct key signatures, rhythms, and notes when beginning and working through a piece.

Practice is very important for a student to progress. It is very helpful if a regular practice time is established in the home. I like to stress quality practice time with the student, as even a large amount of practice time is not beneficial if the student is not practicing carefully. I will not be collecting practice sheets this year, although I would encourage families to keep track of practice time at home. Students are encouraged to practice until their assigned lesson is completed.

Students are encouraged to attend concerts involving instruments given by a group that is at a higher playing level than beginning groups, as well as participating in performances other than those listed below.

Performances

December 10th – 7:00 P.M.- Christmas Instrumental Concert
(Beginning, Cadet, and Concert Strings)

April 13th (Tuesday) 7:00 - String Concert (2nd and 3rd grade, Beginning, Cadet Strings and Concert Orchestra)

All students are required to participate. Beginning Instrumentalists should wear Sunday best for concerts.

Families are strongly encouraged to subscribe to "Smart Music". This is a computer program that allows students to not only hear their specific part in an orchestral piece, but to play along with the other parts, at the speed they are comfortable with. The program now includes several method books for strings, as well. Because of this, I will be switching method books to *Orchestra Expressions*, which is on Smart Music. Students who can not subscribe to Smart Music will need to use the Smart Music Computer in my music room, room 109. Occasionally I will assign pieces from the other two method books on Smart Music, but will only require students to purchase the *Orchestra Expressions book*.

One of the benefits of Smart Music is that a student is not only able to hear the pitches for each note, but can visually see if they are reaching the correct pitches. Pieces can also be recorded, and then sent to me over e-mail, allowing me to hear their work and access it, as well as respond to the student.

Mid-term reports will be sent out to every Beginning Strings student 2nd and 3rd quarter. I also welcome any communication with parents concerning the progress of your child.

Feel free to call if you have any further questions concerning the instrumental program.

Mrs. Carol Knosp (#276)

Instrumental Program Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the Beginning Strings program.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Please sign this form and return to Mrs. Knosp by Friday, September 11th.