

To enroll your child in beginning strings, please register online by 9/13 at our NEW website
www.GcesBandandStrings.weebly.com

Beginning Strings

Dear Parents,

Greetings from the instrumental music department of Gorman Crossing! This letter will give you an overview of string lessons that are available at our school to all third, fourth and fifth graders.



For beginners, the following instruments will be offered: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass (bass is limited to 2 students). Students will receive two thirty-minute lessons each week. A detailed schedule of the exact days and times will be distributed after your child is registered.

Beginning strings lessons will start Monday, September 23. By that time, each student who chooses to participate must have an instrument with his/her name clearly labeled on the case. A list of required materials is located on the back of this letter.

I encourage you to take advantage of instrument **rental** plans available at all local music stores that allow you to apply your monthly payments to the purchase cost. All of the string instruments come in various sizes to allow students of all ages to learn to play music. Please be aware that in recent years, many poorly made instruments have been promoted over the Internet and in department stores. They will be inexpensive but also so poorly made that instrument repair professionals refuse to work on them. **Do not buy or rent a music instrument from a store that sells clothing and/or food.** Be sure that the store you buy or rent from can also REPAIR your instrument if it breaks. **Also, if you choose to purchase an instrument, please be certain to get the correct size for your child (probably 1/4 or 1/2 size, not full size 4/4).** To ensure you get the proper instrument size for your child, please bring your child with you to the music store. Listed below are several music stores that offer very competitive prices and reasonable rental plans for **quality** instruments.

Music and Arts Center	Fulton/So Ho. Co.	240-568-0600 (Very Close)
Mikes Music	Ellicott City	410-465-0700
Gailes Violin Shop	College Park	301-474-4300 (School Partner)
Wood Bridge Music Shop	Clarksville	443-535-9677
Washington Music	Wheaton	301-946-2300
Dale Music	Silver Spring	301-589-1459

Music is a discipline that requires commitment. This commitment means that your child will be required to attend all string classes (and make up missed class work), perform in the spring concert, and to practice at least 15 minutes, 5 times a week at home. Correct daily practice is absolutely essential. Please evaluate your child's schedule and be certain that learning to play a musical instrument will be enough of a priority to ensure success.

To enroll your child in beginning strings, please register online at our NEW band and string website www.GcesBandandStrings.weebly.com (please bookmark). Registration information must be submitted online by **Friday, September 13.** I look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have at "Back to School Night." If you have any immediate concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me at the school. Thank you in advance for supporting your child's interest in music.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Bowman

Required Material for Beginning String Class (Please take with you to music store)

To ensure you get the proper instrument size for your child,
bring your child with you to the music store.

In addition to the instrument and method book, we recommend the "Starter Pack"
(if you go to Music and Arts Center) which includes all the items listed below
but packaged together for additional savings.

Violin

- Strings method book: "Essential Elements 2000 for Strings," Violin, Book 1
- Shoulder rest (I recommend Kun, Blue Sponge, or Resonans shoulder rests)
* Please write your child's name on the shoulder rest and book *
- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning (such as a handkerchief)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- Music stand for home practice

Viola

- Strings method book: "Essential Elements 2000 for Strings," Viola, Book 1
- Shoulder rest (I recommend Kun, Blue Sponge, or Resonans shoulder rests)
* Please write your child's name on the shoulder rest and book *
- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning (such as a handkerchief)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- Music stand for home practice

Cello

- Strings method book: "Essential Elements 2000 for Strings," Cello, Book 1
- Rock stop * Please write your child's name on the rock stop and book *
- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning (such as a handkerchief)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- Music stand for home practice

Bass

- Strings method book: "Essential Elements 2000 for Strings," Bass, Book 1
- Rock stop * Please write your child's name on the rock stop and book *
- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning (such as a handkerchief)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- Music stand for home practice

Beginning Strings Registration Form

Student's Name _____

Grade _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Home Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Work/Cell Phone _____

Father's Name _____

Father's Work/Cell Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Place a check next to the instrument your child would like to play:

(In order to have a well balanced string orchestra, we am hopeful to see many students sign up for viola and cello!!!)

Violin _____

Viola _____

Cello _____

Bass _____

**Please return this form to Mr. Bowman
or to your homeroom teacher by:**

Friday, September 13