

To enroll your child in advanced strings, please register by 9/12 on our website
www.GcesBandandStrings.weebly.com

Dear Parents of 5th Grade Advanced String Students,

Greetings from the instrumental music department of Gorman Crossing Elementary School! I am very excited to be back this year and I am anxious to begin working with your child and all of the other talented string students here at Gorman Crossing!

Advanced string members will rehearse once a week until a rotating schedule begins on September 5. Students must bring their instruments and method books to all rehearsals. The schedule is as follows:



Wednesday, September 7 from 12:00 – 12:30
Wednesday, September 14 from 12:00 – 12:30

All students should bring instruments (with names on cases), the **new** method book entitled Essential Elements or Strings 2000 Book 2, a one inch binder and the other required materials listed on the back of this letter (you probably already have most of them).

Please be sure that all instruments are in good playing condition and the correct size. As you know, all of the string instruments come in various sizes. To ensure your child still has the proper instrument size, please bring your child to the music store to be measured. Local music stores have trade up policies so 100% of the rental money paid on the smaller instrument will be applied to the new larger instrument. Listed below are several music stores if you are in need of any materials.

Gailes Violin Shop	College Park	301-474-4300
Mikes Music	Ellicott City	410-465-0700
Music and Arts Center	Fulton/So Ho. Co.	240-568-0600 (Very Close)
Washington Music	Wheaton	301-946-2300

A detailed schedule of class times will be distributed on **Friday, September 16**. Beginning **Monday, September 19**, students will receive two thirty-minute string lessons each week.

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 two evening concerts (Dec 13 and April 4) and to practice for at least 15 minutes a day at home. Daily practice is essential.

Many students are currently enrolled in private lessons and thoroughly enjoy them. I highly recommend private lessons for all advanced string members. A roster of private music instructors is available on my website and online at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/hcparents4schoolmusic/resources/list-of-private-instructors>

To enroll your child in advanced strings, please register online at our band and string website www.GcesBandandStrings.weebly.com (please bookmark). Registration information must be submitted online by **Monday, September 12**.

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 for your continued support of your child's interest in music!

Important Dates:

Monday, September 12	Online Registration Deadline
Friday, September 16	Schedule Distribution
Monday, September 19	Classes Begin

Sincerely,

Michael Diener

Required Material for Advanced String Class

(Please take with you to music store)

Violin

- Strings method book: "Essential Elements for Strings," Violin, Book 2
- Shoulder rest – Consider upgrading your child's shoulder rest if using the sponge.
A sponge is fine for a beginner but more experienced players need a better shoulder rest. I recommend Kun or Resonans shoulder rests.
* Please write your child's name on the shoulder rest and new 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 for Strings," Viola, Book 2
- Shoulder rest – Consider upgrading your child's shoulder rest if using the sponge.
A sponge is fine for a beginner but more experienced players need a better shoulder rest. I recommend Kun or Resonans shoulder rests.
* Please write your child's name on the shoulder rest and new 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 for Strings," Cello, Book 2
- Rock stop * Please write your child's name on the rock stop and new book *
I recommend the Xeros Anchor Endpin Rest for Cello
- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning (such as a handkerchief)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- Music stand for home practice

Bass

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