

Dear Parents,

Charleston County School District is pleased to offer strings instruction to students in the 5th grade for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Classes will meet during school and will be free of charge. Instruction will be offered on violin, viola, cello, and bass. The choice of instrument is up to the parents and student. If your child is a bus rider, they are not allowed to bring a cello or bass on the bus due to its size. However, if you are able to drop the instrument off at the school by the first class of the week, they may store the instrument at the school throughout the week. Information regarding the specific requirements for class is on the reverse side of this letter.

Learning to play an instrument and participating in the orchestra opens up a whole new world of opportunities, challenges, friendship, and fun. Your child will be able to take advantage of musical performances and competitions at the local, state, and regional level through middle and high school. Strings students can audition for the following: Charleston School of the Arts, district level orchestras, Youth Orchestra of the Low Country, artistic gifted and talented identification, and the summer SPACE strings program. The opportunities for playing a string instrument after high school are abundant, with many universities offering scholarships for musicians. Orchestra provides a great foundation for your child in all aspects of life. In addition to music, students learn self-discipline, problem-solving, goal-setting, self-expression, memory skills, concentration, poise, enhanced physical coordination, high self-esteem, and the importance of teamwork—skills in great demand in almost every aspect of life. Like all the arts, music has a profound effect on the academic success of students.

Students enrolling in strings must understand that they are making a commitment to practice at home and be a team player. The orchestra is a team of musicians, and when every student puts forth their best effort, the team will shine. Good practice habits and a positive attitude have a great effect on the success your child will achieve. You do not have to know anything about music to assist your child in this new endeavor. Arrange a time and place where practice can be done without interruptions. This practice should become a part of each child's daily/weekly routine. A suggested amount of practice time is fifteen minutes daily, however I believe in quality over quantity. Fifteen minutes of focused practice three times a week is more beneficial than twenty minutes of fiddling around every day.

I have two simple rules in strings class: Only one person is talking at a time, and show respect to everyone and everything. Failure to follow these rules will result in one verbal warning. If problems persist, consequences may include: silent lunch, no recess, parent contact, office referral, and in extreme cases removal from class. If you wish to enroll your child, please complete and return the application form in this packet to their teacher. **The spring registration deadline is June 1st, and the fall (late) registration deadline is August 24th.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Jonathan DePriest
Director of Elementary Orchestras in James Island & West Ashley
Charleston County School District
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WHAT STUDENTS NEED AND HOW TO GET IT!

An instrument may be obtained from any of the local or online music stores listed below. These stores have reasonable lease, rental, and/or trial-purchase plans available. If your child is considering bass, please be aware that Pecknel Music is the only local store that offers rental plans on basses. Although online stores may be tempting, if anything happens to the instrument, online stores may require you to ship the instrument back to them whereas you can bring it directly to a local store. **If your child would like to play a string instrument but your finances won't allow it, please fill out the instrument agreement on the reverse side of the strings application.** Because there are a limited number of district instruments available, all applicants may not receive instruments. Every effort will be made to accommodate interested students.

Local Stores

Pecknel Music Company
1660 Sam Rittenberg Blvd
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 766-7660
www.pecknelmusic.com

Music & Arts Center
975 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 852-0900
www.musicarts.com

Instrument Doc
2467 Savannah Hwy. 3C
Charleston, SC 29414
(843) 225-2467
www.theinstrumentdoc.com

Online Stores

Shar Music
2465 South Industrial Hwy
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
1-800-248-7427
www.sharmusic.com

Southwest Strings
1721 S. Cherrybell Strav
Tucson AZ, 85713
1-800-528-3430
www.swstrings.com

Johnson String Instrument
11 John Street
Newton Center, MA 02459
1-800-359-9351
www.johnsonstring.com

If you are considering purchasing an instrument from another source, we suggest you call on us to assist you in evaluating it, as one of the principle causes of pupil failure is an inferior instrument. Please understand that EBAY and PAWNSHOPS are NOT reliable sources and often sell defective, abused, and otherwise unplayable instruments.

You should obtain the following for your child:

1. An Instrument of appropriate size (local stores will measure the student)
2. Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book 1 *
*Be sure the book has the same name as the instrument.
3. A folding music stand
4. A shoulder pad for violins and viola
5. A rock stop for cellos and basses (sometimes included with the instrument)
6. A pencil – BRING TO EVERY CLASS!
7. A soft cloth to keep the instrument clean
8. Rosin

You have until August 31st to obtain the necessary materials for your child. Extensions to this deadline may be made on a case by case basis with teacher approval. **Strings classes will begin on August 24th.** Please see the master schedule on the application form for the days and times that strings classes meet. Students who are leaving academic subjects to attend strings class must keep up their work and grades. Failure to provide the necessary materials by the deadline, or maintain grades in an affected subject, will result in removal from strings class.

STRING ORCHESTRA APPLICATION FORM

School Attending: _____

Student's Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Other: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Instrument Selected / Requested (choose one): Violin Viola Cello Bass

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the rules, deadlines, and expectations of students enrolling in the strings/orchestra program.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please check any programs that interest you. This does not obligate you to enroll:

- School of the Arts Strings (www.soastrings.org) & (soa.ccsdschools.com)
- After School District-level Orchestra Programs (prep & honors orchestra)
- Artistic Gifted & Talented Identification for Strings (prerequisite for SMAART)
- Summer SMAART Program for G&T Strings Students (requires AG&T ID)

ELEMENTARY STRINGS CLASS SCHEDULE

Mon	Drayton Hall 8:10-8:50	Springfield 9:20-10:00	Harbor View 11:10-11:50	Murray LaSaine 12:20-1:00	James Island 1:40-2:20
Tues	Oakland 8:15-9:00	Orange Grove 9:35-10:20	Stiles Point 10:50-11:30	St. Andrew's 12:50-1:40	Stono Park 2:10-2:50
Wed	Drayton Hall 8:10-8:50	Springfield 9:20-10:00	Harbor View 11:10-11:50	Murray LaSaine 12:20-1:00	James Island 1:40-2:20
Thur	Oakland 8:15-9:00	Orange Grove 9:35-10:20	Stiles Point 10:50-11:30	St. Andrew's 12:50-1:40	Stono Park 2:10-2:50
Fri	Drayton Hall 8:10-8:50	Springfield 9:20-10:00	Harbor View 11:10-11:50	Harbor View 12:20-1:00	James Island 1:40-2:20

Charleston County School District Instrument Agreement

Fill this out **ONLY** if you are applying for a district instrument.

This **AGREEMENT** is made and entered into between the Charleston County School District (hereinafter referred to as the School District),

parent or guardian(s): _____ ,

and student: _____ .

WITNESSETH: *The teacher will fill out this section.*

WHEREAS, the School District has allowed the student use of certain equipment:

_____ ,

assigned to _____ for school year _____ .

IT IS AGREED that said equipment is found to be in (new, good, fair) condition and is valued at \$_____ and do hereby agree that said equipment shall be returned, upon demand, in the same condition in which it was received.

IT IS AGREED that if said equipment is damaged, lost, or stolen due to the negligence of the parent/guardian or student, the School District will seek reasonable monetary compensation from the parent/guardian and/or seek disciplinary action against the student if the school district deems such is warranted.

IT IS AGREED that the rental fee is **\$30.00** for the school year and will not be refunded past September 30th. Checks or money order should be made out to Drayton Hall Elementary and will be collected upon issuance of instrument.

AND IT IS LASTLY AGREED that the terms of this **AGREEMENT** shall be binding until such time as said equipment is no longer provided to the student by the School District.

IN WITNESS THEREOF: *Please sign and date below.*

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: _____ Date: _____