

Hempfield School District
Music Department
Landisville, PA

Dear Parent(s):

You are now the proud parent of a Hempfield elementary string student! The elementary years form the foundation for what we hope could be a lifelong love of music. The following pages will give you information pertaining to your child's fourth, fifth, and sixth grade years of study.

In addition to one lesson and one orchestra rehearsal per cycle, each student will be given the opportunity to participate in at least two concerts each school year. As parents, your support of your child's daily practice and concert attendance is crucial to your child's musical success. At the beginning of each school year, you will receive a list of concert dates for that year, which may also be found on Hempfield's district calendar. To avoid conflicts, please be sure to add these dates to your family's calendar.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children. We believe that with your help, every child can have a positive musical experience through strings. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jennifer Meyer
Mrs. Sally Woodman
Dr. Alan Mudrick, Music Supervisor

"Through the arts, and especially the divine art of music, can man's highest aspirations...communicate to him with a voice of power and of beauty...talk to him of love and brotherhood...restore his soul. This I believe is the purpose of music."

-Howard Hanson, American Composer and Music Educator

HEMPFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT Elementary Strings Program

Getting Started

String instruction begins at the end of third grade with a demonstration of violin, viola, cello, and bass, presented by your child's school string teacher. Students are encouraged to choose a string instrument based on their preference for tone quality and range of sound. String teachers may also make instrument recommendations based on the physical attributes of your child.

School Program: Grade 4

All fourth grade string students will receive a thirty-minute group lesson once per cycle and a thirty-minute orchestra rehearsal once per cycle. Students who study their instruments privately may participate in the school orchestra, and will receive occasional school instruction on those instruments to ensure that they are able to correctly perform their orchestra music.

Students are expected to practice their instruments outside of school. Beginner Level string students should log their home practice in their Beginner Folders, following the directions of their school's string teacher.

Students are required to perform in three concerts during their fourth grade year: a combined concert/demonstration in the fall, a concert in their own elementary schools, and a combined elementary concert in the spring. In order for your child to participate in the combined spring concert, he/she must have developed a basic facility with note-reading. Your child will receive specific dates for these concerts at the beginning of the school year.

School Program: Grades 5 & 6

All fifth and sixth grade string students will receive a thirty-minute group lesson once per cycle. Students who study their instruments privately may participate in the school orchestra, and will receive occasional school instruction on those instruments to ensure that they are able to correctly perform their orchestra music.

Students who, following their first school lesson, have reached page 20 in their Essential Elements For Strings (Book 1) books, will also have a thirty-minute orchestra rehearsal once per cycle. **Students who, following their second school lesson, have not reached page 20 in their Essential Elements books, will be reevaluated for orchestra membership following their building's Holiday Concert in December.**

Students are expected to practice their instruments outside of school. Intermediate, Advanced, and Expert Level string students should log their home practice, following the directions of their school's string teacher.

Students are required to perform in two concerts during the school year: a Holiday Concert in their own elementary schools and a combined elementary concert in the spring. Your child will receive specific dates for these concerts at the beginning of the school year.

More advanced students who meet specific criteria may be invited to participate in the school's Chamber Group, which often performs in additional concerts. These criteria will be set by each school's string teacher.

School Instruments

While all students are encouraged to rent an instrument, there is a limited number of school cellos and basses available for families whose children would otherwise be unable to participate due to financial hardship. A \$60 annual fee, due at the beginning of the school year, will be charged for the use of a school instrument.

Students who rent school instruments must also:

- register for summer lessons, in order to keep their instruments over the summer.
- cover the cost of replacing broken strings.
- help offset the cost of major repairs caused by negligence.

Progress Reports

Every trimester, you will receive an eReport (electronic progress report) indicating that your child is making outstanding progress, satisfactory progress, or that your child's string teacher has concerns regarding your child's progress.

Student Responsibilities

All students are responsible for remembering to bring their instruments, method books, and/or orchestra music folders to every lesson and/or orchestra rehearsal.

All students are responsible for remembering to attend all lessons and rehearsals.

All students are responsible for demonstrating preparedness at lessons and rehearsals, by correctly performing their assigned pieces.

All students are responsible for demonstrating school-appropriate behavior at lessons and rehearsals.

Conditions for Removal from the String Program

If your child is unprepared three times within one trimester, you will be contacted by your child's string instructor to discuss whether or not your child will continue to participate in the string program.

If your child is unable to meet academic classroom requirements, his/her classroom teacher may recommend that your child be removed from the string program due to academic difficulties.

*****HELPFUL HINTS FOR SUCCESS!**

Remind your child to practice; ask your child to perform a "mini concert" for you!

Help gather your child's materials the NIGHT BEFORE his/her lesson.

Email your child's string teacher promptly when you have questions or concerns.