



The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage and pride in results: not a bad preparation for the workforce.

Gregory Anrig

(President of Educational Testing Services[SAT GRE])

**21st Century Skills**

# OVERVIEW

The string program in Upper St. Clair is offered to students beginning in the third grade. New students in the fourth grade are always welcome. As the string teacher, I have introduced all of the third grade students to the violin, viola and cello. Each child has had an opportunity to try each of the instruments during a session of their classroom music instruction. The experience of playing a stringed instrument is an opportunity to further enrich their musical world.

# WHY SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY STRINGS?

MAESTRO KEITH LOCKHART, CONDUCTOR OF THE BOSTON POPS, EXPRESSED THESE THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

- Music teaches students how to make valid judgements on issues that are not black and white. It provides a framework for striving to do one's best in a field that encourages creative self expression and requires more than empirical knowledge.
- The only way to really appreciate the act of performing music at its most profound level is to know what it takes to do it and the only way to do that is to participate.
- (It is not the expectation that students will choose music as a career, but that they will become informed consumers of music as an avocation in the life long skills that they will acquire.)

# LESSONS

- students receive small group instruction once a week for 30 minutes
- string lessons are scheduled within the school day at an agreed upon time in conjunction with the classroom teacher
- lessons are scheduled around the math and reading blocks and can occur during a "specials" subject, recess, science/social studies or second chance learning in conjunction with the classroom teacher
- classroom teachers communicate with the string teacher about any concerns that might arise during the school year regarding the time of a child's lesson

# PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE

- it is recommended that children practice their instrument 3 to 4 days a week for 15 minutes. Keeping a practice log can be a helpful way of tracking practice progress.
- make practice “special” by having a designated space and if possible a routine time.
- if you do not have a music stand, it is a valuable tool for fostering good posture and practice habits

# ACQUIRING AN INSTRUMENT

Your child has been sized for the proper fit of the selected instrument. Instruments are rented on a trial basis for a three to four month initial period and rented monthly thereafter. Links to the music stores who provide services to the Upper St. Clair School District are located on a separate tab in the teacher pages. You are welcome to choose one of these vendors or any other source that is available to you. If you already own an instrument or have access to one it would be a good idea to have it checked out by the teacher for correct size and condition.

Contact information

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# WHAT ELSE DOES MY CHILD NEED TO START STRINGS?

- Students will be using the method book All For Strings Book 1. It can be purchased at the time of the rental or you can use one from a sibling or neighbor.
- The school district provides extra strings when one should break on an instrument. Minor repairs can be made by the teacher at school.
- Students use a soft cloth for cleaning and it is helpful for violin and viola students to have a sponge, foam or shoulder pad.

# HOW DO THE INSTRUMENTS GO TO AND FROM SCHOOL?

- The school district provides cellos for student use during their lesson. Students do not have to bring their cellos on the bus. If the cello needs some attention from the teacher, it can be dropped off at the school, or occasionally brought on the bus. Violin and Viola students will be responsible for bringing their instruments each week for their lesson.



Music is your own experience,  
your own thoughts,  
your wisdom.

If you don't live it,  
it won't come out of your horn.

Charlie Parker