

Eastwood Middle School
Beginning Strings
Syllabus and Handbook

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Website: www.stringsinschools.org You can also find this information on this website. Find the link for you school for specific information for you. The site will include information about performances, trips, and other pertinent information about the strings class.

Welcome from Mrs. Dufrechou

“Welcome to strings class in Tuscaloosa! Strings class is a unique opportunity for students to develop their musical potential. We hope that each student recognizes his/her contribution to this class as essential. Students grow through self-motivated practice and cooperative activities. We look forward to teaching you in this new musical adventure.”

Class Goals

All students will:

- ❖ Perform melodies alone and as a group
- ❖ Read rhythms and pitches
- ❖ Listen to, describe and evaluate music performed by professionals, peers and their own performances
- ❖ Compose and improvise melodies and rhythms
- ❖ Relate music to history, culture, other arts and disciplines
- ❖ Demonstrate appropriate performance and audience behavior

Classroom expectations

Conduct grades will be determined by the following:

- ❖ Come to class prepared
 - Completed assignments (including practicing)
 - Has instrument, music, notebook with paper, and pencil
 - Keep fingernails short
- ❖ Participate in class activities
- ❖ Act in accordance with the system wide code of conduct

Grades

Grades will be determined by the following activities:

- ❖ Class participation/progress (50 pts. weekly)
- ❖ Performances (such as PTA, assemblies, seasonal concerts, etc.)100 pts. each
 - Students must pass the performance etiquette test before attending or participating in any performances with Strings in Schools
- ❖ After-school rehearsals 50 pts. each
- ❖ Homework and Quizzes 20 pts. each
- ❖ Midterm and Final 300 pts. each

Practice

Students will be expected to practice for at least twenty (20) minutes each day after school in an effort to continue to improve his/her own playing as well as the overall experience for all students in the strings class.

For best results, use the following:

- ❖ A quiet place
- ❖ Good chair (not the bed)
- ❖ Music stand
- ❖ CD player
- ❖ Same time each day works best
- ❖ Parents don't have to listen to every note, but need to sign that the student did practice.

Concerts

All students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate audience behavior when attending concerts. This includes appropriate attire, respecting the performers and respecting other audience members. ***Students MUST pass the performance etiquette test before attending or participating in performances with Strings in Schools!!***

Each student's contribution to the ensemble is important. When a student is absent, it affects the entire ensemble. Therefore, ***concerts given by the students are mandatory.*** A list of concert dates will be sent home at a later date. Students who do not attend a concert and have an unexcused absence will receive a 0 for the concert. Students who do not attend a concert and have an excused absence will simply not receive a grade for that particular concert. Because of the nature of the performance, this cannot be made-up. See the student handbook for excused and unexcused absences. Sports events DO NOT count as excused absences.

Concert attire

Boys

Black dress pants (no jeans or cargos) worn around the waist with a belt
White button down, collared shirt—long or short sleeved (not a polo)
*Shirt should be worn tucked in
Solid colored tie or tie with small graphics (no large pictures, please)
Dark dress shoes (no tennis shoes or sandals)
No jewelry

Girls

Black dress pants (no jeans or cargos) worn around the waist with a belt
*Pants should be full length, not cropped pants
White button down, collared shirt—long or short sleeved (not a polo)
*Shirt should be worn tucked in
Dark, closed-toed dress shoes (no tennis shoes or sandals)
No jewelry

Instruments and Equipment

The following is *required* for this class:

- ❖ **Knilling, Eastman, Hoffman, and Osker Heinz** brand instrument and case (case should have a name and address tag)
- ❖ Essential Elements for Strings 2000 Book 1
- ❖ Rosin in a box (violin, viola, cello)
- ❖ Bass rosin (bass)
- ❖ Extra set of strings (violin, viola, cello)
- ❖ Wire music stand (for practicing at home)
- ❖ Rock stop or strap (cello, bass)
- ❖ Shoulder pad (violin, viola—optional)
- ❖ Name tag for your instrument

A Note about Strings

Strings are very delicate and will break from time to time so it is important to always have an extra set of strings. The higher strings, because they are smaller, are more prone to break.

Students will learn in class how to carefully tune their instruments. They should take care not to try tuning their instruments in a way other than what the teacher has taught. Improper tuning can result in expensive damage to the instrument.

Instrument Rental and Equipment Information

For the sake of quality instruments, on purchase those listed as approved on the syllabus. Less expensive instruments break easily, require expensive repairs and are difficult to play.

Tuscaloosa Music Services

- ❖ Rent to own violin, viola or cello
- ❖ Essential Elements 2000 book
- ❖ Extra strings, cello and bass rock stops and rosin
- ❖ Name/address tags for instrument cases
- ❖ Kun shoulder pad (optional)

They rent the **Knilling** brand instruments. These have a special kind of tuning peg that makes tuning much easier for beginners. Anyone can help you, but **James** is the string instrument specialist.

(205) 752-7524

Mainly Music

- ❖ Rent to own - violin, viola or cello
- ❖ Repairs and insurance available
- ❖ Kun or Wolf shoulder pad (optional)

Call Katherine Spann, the owner. She brings the instruments from Mississippi. These are the **Eastman** brand instruments.

(662) 779-1152 or (662) 549-1025

mainlymusic@bellsouth.net

Shar Music

- ❖ Rent to own – violin, viola or cello
- ❖ Repairs and insurance available
- ❖ An assortment of string accessories

Visit www.sharmusic.com and click on the rentals tab

Wayne Stanton

He is a violin maker in Tuscaloosa and does excellent repair work. He has a few **Osker Heinz** instruments for sale, not rental.
(205) 752-8591

Southeastern Music Gallery

- ❖ Essential Elements 2000 books
- ❖ Many other books of hymns, fiddle tunes and solos
- ❖ Suzuki solo books
- ❖ Metronomes, musical pencils, carrying bags, rosin

511 Greensboro Avenue, just south of Skyland Boulevard
(205) 345-1414

Southwest Strings

- ❖ A wide variety of string accessories

Visit www.swstrings.com

After reading the handbook, please sign, detach and return this page.

I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Beginning Strings Class Handbook.

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (Printed)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Name (Printed)