



Clemens Crossing Elementary School

Band and Strings



Dear Parents,

Your child is invited to participate in the CCES instrumental music program this year. I hope he/she has discussed this opportunity with you. Here is some information to get you started:

Instruments

You can purchase or rent an instrument. **It is very important that your child does not play with the instrument prior to his/her first lesson.** The instruments are fragile and by not knowing how to handle the instrument properly, the instrument could be damaged very easily.

Instruments

You can purchase or rent an instrument. Since children grow and need different size stringed instruments until they are able to play full-sized instruments, I *highly recommend* that you rent an instrument from a local store. **PLEASE do NOT buy an instrument online. They are not quality instruments. When they break, no reputable repair shop will attempt to fix them, and you will be out the cost of the instrument.** Typical sizes of instruments are 1/4, 1/2, and 3/4 for elementary school students. Please bring your child with you when you rent their instrument so that they can be sized at the store. I am also available to size your child. **It is very important that your child does not play with the instrument prior to his/her first lesson.** The instruments are fragile and by not knowing how to handle the instrument properly, the instrument could be damaged very easily.

Music stores in our area include:

Baltimore Brass – *they rent all instruments* (Catonsville) 410-744-1723

Perrin & Associates (Baltimore) 410-539-0043

Gailes' Violin Shop, Inc. (College Park) 301-474-4300 / 800-245-3167

Music and Art Center (Laurel – Cherry Tree Plaza) 240-568-0600
(Ellicott City) 410-461-1844

Mike's Music (Montgomery Road, Ellicott City) 410-465-0700

Washington Music Center (Wheaton) 301-946-8808

Wood Bridge Music Shop (Ellicott City) 410-203-9663

Required Materials

Strings students will need the following:

- ◄ Instrument, bow, and case
- ◄ Name tag for your child's instrument case
- ◄ Rosin--this usually comes with the instrument, but please double check
- ◄ Strings book, Essential Elements 2000 Book1, labeled with child's name
- ◄ **Shoulder Rest (violins/ violas)** A Kuhn shoulder rest is the best to use. for violins and violas, which can be found at a music store. A better choice is a Kuhn brand shoulder rest.
- ◄ All Cello students **MUST** have a **strap style rock stop** to keep the cello from slipping on the stage floor. Please avoid the little round discs.
- ◄ A clean, soft cloth to wipe off the instrument
- ◄ Music stand to be kept at home for home practice

Practice Assignments

Students will complete practice assignments on a regular basis. These assignments can be found in Canvas.

Performances

There are two main concerts during the school year. Our Winter concert is January, and the Spring concert will be in May. I will confirm the dates ASAP.

It is a Howard County policy that each student musician is expected to attend all performances for the Winter and Spring concerts, except under circumstances of family emergency or illness. Please write down the concert dates early and plan your child's activities around these dates. Contact me with any questions regarding this county policy.

First Lessons

Lessons for beginning students will begin at the end of September. Please have an instrument and lesson book for your child ASAP so he/she can fully benefit from the beginning lessons.

Registration for Lessons

Registration for Band and Strings is done online by going to: shorturl.at/yCDSZ

In order for your child to be scheduled into lessons, this **MUST** be completed **by Wednesday, September 15th**.

If you have any questions, please contact me at school 410-313-6866 or Marybeth_Graham@hcpss.org.

Band/Strings Parent Information Night

Please join me for the Band and Strings Information Night for Parents on **Tuesday, September 1, at 6:00pm in the school cafeteria**. I will give an overview of the program and answer your questions. Your child may still participate in the program if you are unable to attend the meeting. ***As with other back-to-school events, please do not bring your child to this session.***

I look forward to working with your child in this exciting musical endeavor!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marybeth Graham
CCES Band and Strings Teacher
Marybeth_Grahams@hcpss.org