

# Manchester School District Music Department

September 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Classes are currently being organized in the elementary schools for the Beginning Instrumental Program. An instrumental demonstration has been given at your student's elementary school to introduce students to the various instruments available in the program. The instruments shown were the violin, viola, and cello. By bringing you this form, your child has expressed an interest in learning to play one of these instruments.

The String Program is available to second and third year **fourth, and fifth** grade students in the Manchester School District. Students may start playing a string instrument in **grade 5**. The lessons are provided free of charge, in once a week, thirty minute sessions. The program continues into the middle and high schools, at which point students become members of the school orchestra.

To participate in this program your child is required to have her/his own instrument. Instruments may be rented at any one of several music stores located in the Manchester area. Once in the program, students are also required to remain in good academic standing.

Classes will be starting the **last** week of October. If interested, please return the bottom portion of this form to school no later than **Friday, October 9, 2009**. Shortly thereafter, students will be receiving information regarding the exact day and time of their lesson.

The quality of music produced in the Manchester School District is outstanding! Please take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your child's education by becoming part of our music program.

Sincerely,

Christine D. Martin  
Manchester School District  
286 Commercial St.  
624-6300 ext. 203  
cmartin@mansd.org

Your string instructor will be **Mr. Brien**  
**telephone – 624-6378 (voicemail 2215)**

**Additional copies of this form are available at [www.mansd.org](http://www.mansd.org). Click on Departments, followed by Fine Arts.**

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

What instrument will you be studying? \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

I have played \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s).  
(instrument)

Parent/Guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Manchester School District  
String Program Contract**

**To all parents, guardians, and students:**

When a child is accepted into the string program, she/he must understand and agree to the following rules:

**Students will...**

- a. remain in the class until the end of the school year, unless the instructor recommends otherwise.
- b. practice every day for at least 15 minutes.
- c. come to lessons regularly and promptly.
- d. remember to bring your instrument and music book on the day that lessons are scheduled.
- e. maintain their instrument in good playing condition.
- f. participate in all rehearsals and performances of the string program.
- g. maintain good grades in classroom schoolwork and makeup all work missed due to lesson time.

**Students who forget their instruments or forget to come to class twice are given a warning. If a third infraction occurs, the student may be dismissed from the program.**

**Students: I understand all that is required of me and agree to the rules listed above. I also understand that the decision to play a musical instrument is a serious commitment that will require hard work, consistent practice habits, and dedication in order to succeed.**

**Student's Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardians: I understand that the success of my child in learning a musical instrument depends a great deal on my encouragement and support, and I will do all that I can to insure that success.**

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

## Frequently asked questions about the String Program

- When does instruction start?** Instruction starts the **last** week of October and continues until the end of the school year.
- What is the cost of instruction?** There is no charge for school lessons.
- Who can start lessons?** Any child in the fifth grade may begin lessons.
- What is the trial period?** All children without prior experience start on a four month trial basis, which is divided into two, eight week periods. At the end of each period a progress report is sent to each parent. The purpose of the trial period is to give students the opportunity to discontinue before a large investment in time and money is expended.
- When do classes meet?** Classes meet once a week during the school day.
- What about class attendance?** Students are responsible for attending weekly lessons. Two or more unexcused absences may be considered a lack of interest on the part of the student, resulting in possible removal from the program.
- What about the instrument?** Parents and guardians are responsible for securing the instrument. We suggest the instrument be rented for the four month period rather than purchased.
- Where can instruments be secured?** Choose a reputable music dealer who rents quality instruments.
- How long do lessons continue?** Lessons continue until the end of fifth grade. orchestra.
- When should private lessons begin?** Private instruction (outside of school) is very helpful and recommended.

**Manchester School District**  
**String Instrument Equipment Guide**  
**PARENTS/GUARDIANS – KEEP THIS PAGE!!!!**

Welcome to the Manchester/School District String Program. Students participating in the program will need the following supplies:

1. A violin, viola, or cello outfit\*. The instrument must be fitted to the student. String instruments are available in many sizes - a child cannot learn on an instrument that is too large.
2. A shoulder rest for violinists and violists. This too should be fitted to the child.
3. A music stand (for practicing at home)
4. All students will need a lesson book entitled **Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book One**. (Please note that violin, viola, and cello each have their own lesson book)

\*String outfits should include an instrument with “tuners”, a bow, a case, and rosin. Cello outfits also should include a “rock stop”.