



Swansfield Elementary School Orchestra Handbook 2016-2017



Schedule

Orchestra classes will be held on **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday** every week. Classes rotate between different times in order to minimize the impact on other classes. Students will receive a monthly calendar of when their classes will be held. **It is very important that students take responsibility for making up any class work missed while attending Orchestra.**

Performances

Performing in front of an audience is an important part of the Orchestra curriculum; therefore, **attendance at school and evening concerts is required of all Orchestra Students.** Please record these important dates on your calendar. It is County Policy that students enrolled in a performing group are expected to participate in all performances.

Thurs., December 15, 2016	Advanced and Intermediate Band and Orchestra Winter Concert (snow date: 12/21) <i>*Required for all 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra students*</i> 2:15pm and 7:00pm, SES Cafeteria
Thurs. January 19, 2017	Beginning Band and Orchestra Winter Concert (snow date: 1/25) <i>*Required for all 3rd Grade Orchestra students)</i> 2:15pm and 7:00pm, SES Cafeteria
Wed. Feb. 1 & 2, 2017	Wilde Lake String Fling Wed. 2/1- Field Trip Thurs. 2/2 - Concert For 4 th & 5 th Grade Orchestra Only
Sat., April 1, 2017	HCPSS Elementary Solo & Ensemble Festival <i>*Optional - More information will be coming in February</i>
Mon. June 5, 2017	Orchestra and Band Spring Concert <i>*Required for all Orchestra students*</i> 2:15pm and 7:30pm, SES Cafeteria

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Be Responsible** by attending all Orchestra classes. This means remembering the day and time, communicating with the teacher whose class you are leaving, and making up any missed work.
2. **Be Respectful** of our class time together and focus on achievement while in class. We have very little time together each week, so we must use it carefully.
3. **Be Prepared** for class with all of your materials. This means you must have your instrument and music folder with your book, music, pencil, and other handouts from class.
4. **Practice** carefully at home. You won't be able to play well without practicing!

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

***Please have all materials by:**

Tuesday, September 13 - 4th & 5th Grade

Tuesday, September 20 - 3rd Grade

Students will need the following materials for participation in Orchestra:

Instrument that is the correct size, in good-working condition. A nametag should be on the instrument case at all times. ***Beginning students should NOT handle instruments until their first Orchestra class.***

Method Book

- Essential Elements for Strings, book 1 (for your instrument)

Required Accessories

- Soft cloth to clean instrument after use.
- Rosin
- Violin/Viola students will also need a shoulder rest or sponge. Kun is the recommended brand for shoulder rests.
- Cello students will also need: rock stop or endpin stop.
- Music Stand: Students should have a music stand for home practicing. Proper use during practicing will promote good posture and playing position.

Concert Dress

The goal of a concert is to showcase the group as a whole and visual distractions take away from the performance. **Our uniform concert dress is:**

- black shoes and socks, black pants/skirt, and white shirt/blouse.

* Students will need to wear this concert dress for **both** the day **and** evening concerts.

MUSIC STORES

The following stores are recommended places to rent instrument, take instruments for repairs and purchase strings and accessories. Please contact Mrs. McKay if you need help. Please RENT an instrument from a **MUSIC STORE!** Do **NOT** buy one from Amazon, Costco, BJs, eBay or a "music" website that has *low* prices. They are poor quality and sometimes completely unusable. Your child will become extremely frustrated playing on an instrument that was not made correctly. If a price seems too good to be true, there is probably a good reason for it. RENTING IS THE BEST OPTION. As your student grows they will need to switch to a larger instrument. **The best place to get a musical instrument is from a MUSIC STORE!**

Gailes' Violin Shop - 10013 Rhode Island Ave., College Park, MD
(301) 474-4300, www.gailesviolin.com

Music & Arts Centers - 11200 Scaggsville Rd., Laurel, MD, (240) 568-0600, musicarts.com
- 9210 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD, (410) 461-1844

Mike's Music - 4872 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, MD
(410) 465-0700, www.mikesmusicmd.com

Perrin & Associates - 1 E. Lexington Street, Ste 401, Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 539-0043, www.perrinviolins.com

PRIVATE LESSONS

Although it is not required, it is encouraged for students to take private lessons. Many students thoroughly enjoy taking private lessons and the one-on-one private instruction can help to further a student's progress immensely. A list of private teachers is available on the SES Orchestra website, <http://mckayorchestra.weebly.com>.

HOME PRACTICE

In order for students to make progress and be successful, it is expected that students practice their instrument at home on a daily basis; 20 minutes, 5 days a week is the recommend amount. Beginners may practice a little less than this at first, but establishing a regular practice time from the beginning will help it become part of their daily routine. As a parent, you can be a great help to your child by encouraging, observing and enforcing daily practice. Please consider your child's extracurricular activities to guarantee that there is enough time to fit proper practicing into their schedules.

HOW TO HELP AT HOME

1. Make practicing a regular part of your child's daily homework routine. (Homework is not finished until practicing is done!)
2. Help your child keep his/her music folder organized with all required materials (method book, music, schedule and practice log.)
3. When possible, watch your child when he/she is practicing to help keep him/her on task and keep up with his/her progress.
4. Encourage careful repetition. It helps to improve tone quality, posture and accuracy. Playing through something only one time is never enough!
5. Make sure your child practices in a quiet place that is well lit without distractions (such as the TV or siblings.)
6. Make sure your child is spending the most time practicing music that he/she has trouble with, not just the songs they like the best.
7. Be positive! As long as they keep practicing I promise they will gradually sound better and better!
8. Attend concerts at the local Middle and High Schools, or even community or professional orchestras. It is important for young players to see what to strive for.
9. Listen to classical music whenever you can. Buy music of professionals playing the same instrument as your child so they can get the correct concept of sound in their head.