



Triadelphia Ridge Elementary Strings

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Pak and I am the orchestra teacher at Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School. It is a privilege to be able to teach your child this year! After meeting with your child, I know it will be a spectacular year in music at TRES. In order for the children to discover their musical gifts, every student will be participating in a variety of musical activities. These activities are designed to help each student develop musical skills and an appreciation of diverse musical styles and cultures.

Performing in instrumental music provides students much more than simply musical training. Students learn cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, tolerance and acceptance, and perseverance and self-discipline. Performing with a group that plays well helps build self-esteem, confidence and pride in accomplishment. Studying music also reinforces reading and math skills and enhances gross and fine motor skills. Numerous research studies have shown that children who participate in music activities have increased test scores in reading, writing, and math.

Maintaining high expectations and standards gives each student the benefit of enjoyment from their musical experience. This handbook will explain those high expectations and the policies regarding your child's participation in the strings program at TRES. Please read through the handbook carefully with your child.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at TRES! My email address is: **Elizabeth_Pak@hcpss.org**. Please don't forget to visit the Orchestra website at <http://www.elizabethpakorchestra.weebly.com>. There is a lot of helpful information and student resources on the site, including the Howard County GT Orchestra and Honors Orchestra. I look forward to having a spectacular year with your child!

Musically,

Elizabeth Pak

Course Description

The **Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School** Orchestras provides a performance-based curriculum for advanced level learners, focusing on the development of expressive and artistic musical experiences through student driven work. It is important to note that we will not merely be playing instruments in this course, but rather learning the language of music *through* performance. As such, a significant portion of your work in this course will be devoted to refining your performance skills, increasing your ability to read new music at sight, and exploring what it means to be an all-encompassing musician.

CONCERT DATES

Advanced (4th & 5th) Winter Concert – Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30pm

Beginner Winter Concert – Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30pm

Spring Orchestra Concert – Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm and 7:30pm

Practice Expectation and Grading

Students are expected to practice individually at home three times a week for twenty minutes. They should work on scales, exercises from their strings book, music for concerts, and any other songs they want to learn on their instrument. Students will be given a monthly practice calendar to help log their at-home practice sessions. There will also be playing assignments where students will be evaluated on their preparation of specific songs. This improvement is measured through the standards of technical development and musicianship

Grading Weights:

Attendance, Instrument, Materials, and Practice Logs: 50%

Students will receive a grade each time they have strings for attending without a reminder, having all instruments and supplies, and turning in a completed monthly practice log during sectionals. Students will be excused if they are absent from school or have a valid reason for their absence.

Musicianship and Applied Skills: 25%

Students' playing will be graded on their ability to demonstrate skills and strategies to inform and develop performance. This includes playing with proper posture and technique, as well as playing music with accurate rhythm and pitch. These will be graded through playing assignments in sectionals.

Creativity and Reflection: 25%

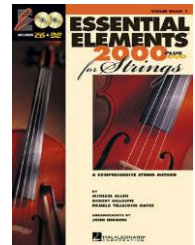
Students will also be graded on their ability to generate, communicate and evaluate musical ideas for refinement. This includes playing music with different styles, dynamics, articulations, note lengths, tones, and affect. These will also be graded through playing, composition, and reflection assignments.

Required Materials

The following is a list of required materials for strings. You may rent or lease this instrument from any local music store. It is advantageous to rent, lease, or buy the instrument from a reputable music establishment. **Please try to avoid purchasing any instruments from eBay or Amazon.** Many online brands like “Cecilio” offer many "beginner" products that are of poor quality, break easily, and cannot maintain their tuning. If you are looking to purchase online, I would search websites like www.sharmusic.com or www.swstrings.com. The instruments supplied by most music stores are often of a better quality than those available at a discount store, warehouse, or on-line. **All materials must be obtained no later than Monday, September 25th.**

ALL STUDENTS:

- 1. Music Stand (for HOME use, do not bring to school)
- 2. Instrument in good playing condition
- 3. Two pencils with erasers stored in your music case
- 4. Lesson Books:
Essential Elements for Strings Book One (3rd and 4th grade) for your instrument
Essential Elements for Strings Book Two (5th Grade ONLY)



Violin: 1. Shoulder rest (foam is the most economical) 2. Rosin 3. Cloth for cleaning the instrument	Viola: 1. Shoulder rest (foam is the most economical) 2. Rosin 3. Cloth for cleaning the instrument
Cello: 1. Rockstop 2. Cloth for cleaning the instrument 3. Rosin	Bass: 1. Rockstop 2. Cloth for cleaning the instrument 3. Bass Rosin

Local Music Stores

Here is a list of some of the music stores in this area where you may want to rent or purchase your instrument from as well as all other required materials for strings.

Gailes Violin Shop

10013 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: (301) 474-4300
Toll Free: 1-800-245-3167
www.gailesviolin.com

Perrin Violins

9050 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: (410) 539-0043
www.perrinviolins.com

Mike's Music Inc

4872 Montgomery Rd.,
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-465-0700
www.mikesmusicmd.com

Music and Arts Center Ellicott City

9210 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: (410) 461-1844
www.musicarts.com