

SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2018 – 2019 GRADE 4 STRING PROGRAM

Welcome to the incredible world of String playing!! I hope you are as excited as I am to start working with you in this new adventure. This paper is designed to let both students and parents know what will be expected from them over the coming year.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students are required to have their instrument and book (Essential Elements 2000 Book 1) at every String class. There may be additional papers that students are given that will also be needed at class.

Students will generally be given a new practice chart each week. Some practice charts may be used for multiple weeks. Students are responsible for bringing signed practice charts in each week to show the teacher. Students are expected to practice at least 5 times per week. In the beginning, you may only need to practice 5 – 10 minutes at a time, but as you gain more skills and knowledge you should expect to practice 20 minutes each time. It is understood that there will be weeks where time is limited for practicing. These should be the exception rather than the norm. If a practice chart is lost during the week, I generally post them on the Somerset Strings website at www.somersetstrings.weebly.com. In the worst case, a hand written note from a parent detailing how many days of practice occurred would be fine.

4th grade Practice Charts are meant to be signed or checked off daily/weekly by a parent or guardian, not the student.

Students will be given folders at the beginning of the year to help keep all String things organized. Cello students will probably use the pocket in the back of their cello case or in the cello case itself.

COURSE GOALS

1. Students will learn how to play their instrument with correct posture.
2. Students will learn how to read music notation and apply that notation to their instrument.
3. Students will be able to perform in groups and alone.
4. Students will be able to identify instrument parts and perform proper basic String instrument care.

GRADING

Students in elementary school do not receive a grade on their official report card, but rather get progress reports that go home with the report card. I do keep records of attendance, materials brought to class, practice charts and attitude/cooperation during class.

As it is a privilege to participate in the String program, students are expected to be in good standing with their classroom teachers, both academic and discipline, at all times. Failure to do so may result in a student being removed from the String program.

2018 - 2019 PERFORMANCES (tentative dates)

December 19 - Winter Concert at student's school

March 12 - Somerset String Festival – involves all Somerset String students from grades 4 – 12

June 11 - Elementary Schools Tour (students will be tested to participate on this tour)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you have either by email ira.schaefer@somersetschools.org or by leaving a message at your child's school.

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Ira M. Schaefer,
String Teacher