

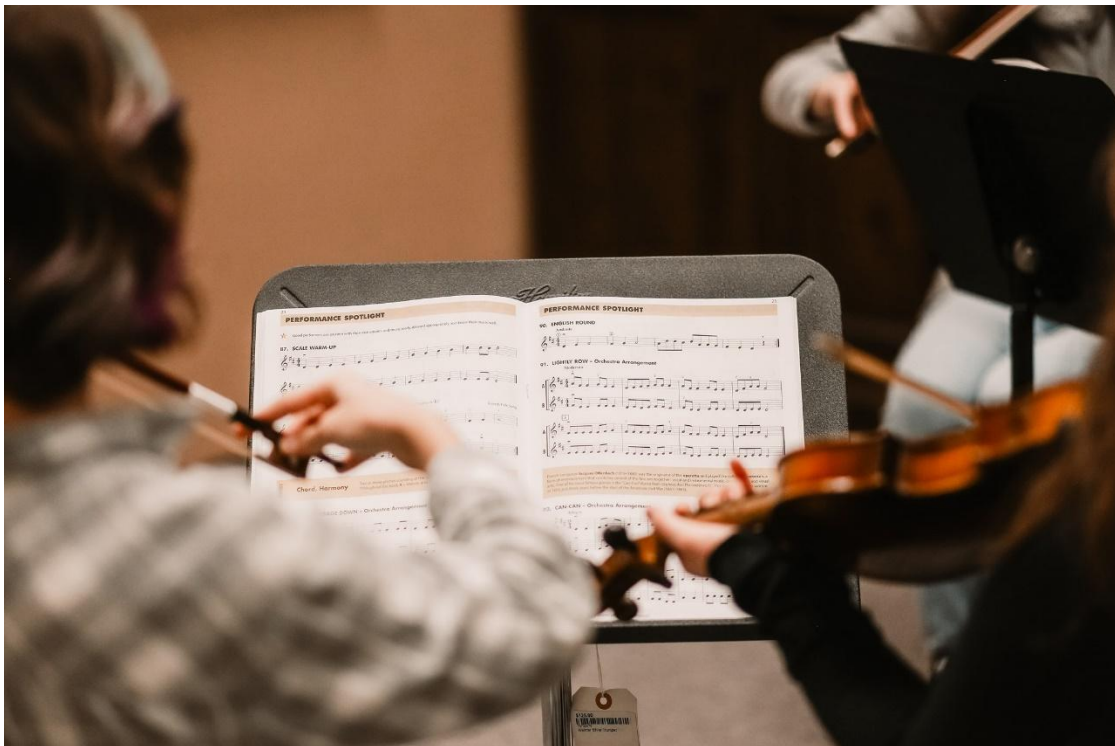


Beginning Orchestral Strings

Class Syllabus

Welcome to class!

Welcome to Orchestra at Enumclaw Music! We are so excited to have you and your student join us as they begin their musical journey. Playing a string instrument is a challenging and rewarding experience that enriches life, and we are here to guide you and your student through the learning process. The following document is an overview of our orchestra curriculum and what you can expect from us as educators.



Who is eligible to take this class?

This class is designed for students between the ages of 8-17. Students ages seven and under may not join us for orchestra but are welcome to start in private lessons.

This class is for a beginning student or one that is struggling with reading notes or just playing their instrument.

See the description for the intermediate course if you think you or your student might be ready for the intermediate course.



How much does the class cost?

Home school orchestra costs \$90 per student each month. The class is offered 5 times a week, three times in the morning and twice in the afternoon. We will keep your credit card on file with our point of sales system and charge during the first week of the month.

What does my student need to get started?

Families are responsible for providing an instrument for their students to bring to class and practice at home. Enumclaw Music offers a wide variety of string instruments that are available for rental and purchase. All students are expected to have the following materials along with their instrument:

- Shoulder Rest (Violins and Violas only)
- Rock Stopper (Cellos and Bases only)
- Rosin

What materials will be provided?

All music used in class—such as group music and books will be provided, however recital music will not be, nor will personal pieces.

Books such as will be provided, as they are included in the cost of the class

- Essential Elements, Vol. 1
- Elementary Scales and Bowings, Vol. 1
- Excellence in Theory, progressive volumes
- Suzuki, progressive volumes

Parent and Student Expectations

We encourage our home school families to treat this class as any other subject in your school curriculum. Students are expected to attend at least two rehearsals a week and have two or less absences a month.

Expectations are:

- Arriving to class five minutes early to be set up and warmed up by the start of class.
- Bringing all materials needed like music and instruments
- Practicing at home 5-6 times a week, even days that you are in class
- Being engaged in class activities



Attendance Policy

When you miss class, you miss information and opportunities to learn. There is important information in each class and you can't miss it without making it up.

- Maximum of two absences a month
- One private lesson must be scheduled for three absences (per month), families are Responsible for paying the instructor their private lesson rate
- Students who miss three or more classes in a row without scheduling a makeup private lesson will be contacted
- No discounts for missing classes

Pacing Guide

This is a pacing guide for the first four months of learning your chosen instrument, this will remain accurate if, and only if, you are practicing no less than five days a week.

We have created the following pacing guide to help students understand what they should be working on at home in order to meet their goal for that month. If your student feels like they are falling behind on the guide, we recommend using one of the following resources listed below so they can catch up to stay on track.

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS:

- When we say “memorized note on ____ string”, we are referring to recognizing the notes on the staff (on paper) and knowing how to play them on the instrument.
- Sightreading: the act of being able to read a piece of music and play it with little to no practice. This is different from being able to read and play a piece of harder music that takes some practice to understand.

By the end of:

- Month One: The student should be able to comfortably hold their instrument. The student should be able to recognize and play all notes on the A & D string, with some support if necessary. We encourage students to say the note names out loud to themselves before playing in order to memorize content faster. The student should be familiar with the bow hold for their instrument and should be able to draw the bow across the string while playing.
- Month Two: The student should be able to recognize notes for their instrument in sheet music outside of their essential elements. Students should be able to recognize and play notes on G & E string, with some help if necessary, but should be proficient with A & D string notes. They should have relative control over their bow and play basic rhythms and songs outside of Essential Elements.
- Month Three: The student should be heading towards note-reading proficiency on all four strings, understanding whole and half notes, and understanding accidentals, as well as memorizing basic keys



and how they are played, like G, D, and A major. They should be able to sightread simple songs, and be able to read and practice more difficult songs and rhythms.

- Month Four: The student, if not already ready for the advanced class, should be getting close to being able to join the advanced class, by demonstrating a more in-depth knowledge of key signatures and how to play them, and sightreading more difficult pieces. They should demonstrate an in depth knowledge of rhythms, and proficient at playing them, as well as demonstrating an ability to recognize and correct their own mistakes.

Practicing Guide

Students should be practicing 5-6 days a week, not including the time they have to class—Class time is not at-home practice and should not be counted as such.

Students should do the following during their individual practice at home:

- Tune strings with a tuner – 1-2 minutes
- Warm up with scales and rhythms (play in Essential Elements book or Essential Scales and Bowings) – 5-10 minutes
- Practice assigned music for class – 10 minutes
- Troubleshoot any tricky spots in the music (checking hand position, accuracy of the notes, clapping/counting out rhythms, correct bow directions, etc.) – 10 minutes

For at home practice, we encourage students to set a regular practice time and stick to it for 5-6 days a week. Consistency is key when learning an instrument!

Here are some examples of how you can practice at home:

- Play with a tuner to check the accuracy of your notes
- Clapping and/or counting through rhythms
- Reviewing bow hold
- Practicing your note identification

It is important that the student follows all steps in this guide when practicing to achieve daily progress on their instrument.

Daily Routine in Class

We have a routine each day, and this involves many of the things we will learn and work through every day. There will be homework outside of regular practice, but this will generally include things to do *during* regular practice, for example practicing specific measures of our group or individual piece, or spending extra time on a difficult measure or run.



Our daily schedule will look something like this.

Students show up five minutes early to set up and warm up.

- First five minutes: Group warm-up.
- Running over scales
- Answering questions about home practices

First 10-15 minutes: Technique and theory work

- Learning new technique and/or reviewing old technique
- Bowing patterns
- Rhythm patterns
- Key signatures
- Music markings

Next 25-30 minutes: Practice time

- Practicing the technique we just worked through using a simple piece
- Sightreading songs that may or may not involve learned technique
- Rehearsing group music as sectionals or group music

Last 15-20 minutes

- Working on individual Suzuki songs
- Working in groups and individually to improve songs and skills
- Performing in front of teachers to earn ribbons and move through the Suzuki books.

Additional Resources

Our teachers know that every student learns differently and that some students need more support in certain areas than others. If your students feel like they are falling behind on the pacing guide, we would recommend signing up for a month of private lessons with one of our studio teachers so your student can get additional support to bring them up to speed. The following teachers would be more than happy to work with your student:

- Brooke Steele: Violin, Viola
- Kat Marlow: Violin, Cello
- David Bozich: Cello & Bass

Each teacher sets their own monthly rate and schedule for lessons.



Concerts

Concerts are held during the months of June and December at the Chalet Theater in Enumclaw. Concerts are held to teach students the following skills:

- public speaking
- emotional regulation (managing performance anxiety)
- goal setting
- performance skills

That being said, it is important to us as educators that your student participates in each concert during their enrollment in the class. Our teachers begin preparing students to play solos and duets 2-3 months before each concert and go over the fundamentals of performance etiquette. Optional group practices are held two weeks before each concert and no additional expense to you.

A \$15 charge will be added to the class fee for these months to cover the cost of the venue, programs, and other resources needed to organize the performance.



Agreement Signatures

Below is a signature page showing that you and your student have read and understand this syllabus, please bring it back to us, signed, along with any questions you might have.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Student signature _____ Date _____