



Intermediate 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 try private lessons.

- Has the ability to play a part different than their peers
- Able to sightread music with eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes and rests
- Able to recognize and play simple keys like D, A, G, and C major
- Cellos have the ability to comfortably read and play 2nd position
- Able to read and play in simple time signatures like 3/4 and 4/4



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 Basses 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

- 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 with be contacted
- No discounts for missing classes

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 _____