



To the Parents of the 'Music Magic' String Education Program Students:

Congratulations! We are excited to welcome your child to the 'Music Magic' Nelson County String Program. Learning a string instrument is a worthy, wondrous endeavor, engaging the intelligence and imagination of a child. Practicing and playing a string instrument helps develop fine motor skills and concentration in addition to bolstering confidence, communication, teamwork, and self-discipline. Playing a musical instrument engages the two hemispheres of the brain in a unique way. Music students develop learning skills that carry into their academic work.

Learning a string instrument requires a commitment to daily practice as your teacher will communicate to your child in class. A fine music education is achieved when parents communicate with teachers about practice requirements, and add practicing music to the daily family routine at home. Patiently encouraging your child to do their music "homework" by practicing or performing their music for family and friends helps kids to progress in class, boosts confidence, and builds discipline. Our goal is to make class enjoyable, fun, challenging, and rewarding, while keeping a high standard of musical-excellence, order, and respect in the classroom.

Enclosed you will find an information sheet about your child's class. Please add class and concert dates to your family calendar. We are pleased to offer students a unique opportunity to see string instruments being played in an orchestra right here in Nelson County.

Note that your tuition is due by the first class of each session. Should you have any questions about your tuition bill, please email StringEdProgram@nelsoncco.org or call 263-4745. Please do not give payments to your teacher. All payment checks should be made out to the NCCO with SEP in the memo line and sent through your bank or mailed to:

Nelson County Community Orchestra/MM-SEP
PO Box 295
Nellysford, VA 22958

Do not hesitate to contact your child's instructor with any questions or concerns you may have about your child's string education classes.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neal

Ellen Neal, President
Nelson County Community Orchestra (NCCO)







‘Music Magic’ String Education Program Class Information Sheet

Required Materials

The chart below indicates what supplies you will need to secure, either through the program registration or on your own. Incidental additional supplies may be required at the request of the instructor.

All grades and classes	Instrument, small <u>folding</u> music stand, and pencil.
Beginner students	Beginner book: <i>Essential Elements</i> , by Michael Allen. Choose the book for your child’s instrument: <i>Violin Book 1</i> (ISBN # 0634038176) or <i>Viola Book 1</i> (ISBN # 0634038184) or <i>Cello Book 1</i> (ISBN # 0634038192) or <i>Bass Book 1</i> (ISBN # 0634038206)
Returning students	Please check with your teacher to determine when Book 2 will be needed.

Instrument Rentals

Note to Parents of Beginner Violin Students at Elementary Schools: Your child's arm was measured and noted on the enrollment form so that you know what size instrument to get. If your child was not measured, you can have him or her measured at a music store, or measure your child's arm yourself:

- Have the child extend their left arm out in front of them all the way
- Measure the length of the arm from the shoulder to the palm of the hand

Arm Length	Violin Size
16.5-17.5 inches	1/8 size
18-18.5 inches	1/4 size
19-21 inches	1/2 size
21.5-22 inches	3/4 size
23 inches and up	4/4 size

NCCO Instrument Loan Program: To help make the SEP program affordable for all, the NCCO has secured an inventory of quality violins, violas, and cellos in a variety of child sizes. These instruments are available to all children in the SEP at a very low monthly fee (\$5/month) to cover instrument maintenance costs. Please note on your child’s registration form if you are interested in renting an NCCO string instrument.

Rent or Purchase from a Vendor: Alternately, instruments can be rented, rent-to-own, or purchased from a reputable dealer. To avoid buying an expensive but unplayable instrument, **DO NOT OBTAIN** violins from any other source. Your child's arm was measured and their instrument size noted on the enrollment form.

Instrument Dealer	Contact Info	Location
Nelson Co Comm Orch	Ellen Neal, 434-263-4324, www.nelsoncco.org	Faber, VA
Blue Star Music	Joe Madison, 434-263-6746, rentfromhome.com, online code: Bluestar	Lovingsston, VA
Sibert Violins	Polly Sibert, 434-825-5660, sibertviolins.com	Charlottesville, VA
Hill City Music	1-434-525-5060, hillcitymusic.com/#!/rentals/csgz	Lynchburg, VA
Lynchburg Music Center	1- 434- 237-0073, lynchburgmusic.com/rentals/	Lynchburg, VA
Violins and More	1- 434-845-2516, violinsandmoreoflynchburg.com/	Lynchburg, VA
Shar Music	1-800-248-7427, sharmusic.com	Ann Arbor, MI
Davidson Violins	1-866-291-0321, davidsonviolins.com	Davidson, NC
Peter Zaret and Sons	1-888-846-5462, zaretandsonsviolins.com	Cleveland, OH

Transportation of Students and Instruments

Parents must pick up their child immediately after class or make their own activity bus arrangements (if available) with the schools. Students in classes that do not meet immediately after school will need to make their own arrangements with the schools for waiting for their class to meet. Students with large instruments will not be able to store them at school, so parents will need to transport cellos to and from class.

Violin Class Expectations

1. Attendance is required at all classes except in case of illness or family events. There are no individual make ups for students who miss classes.
2. Students will be given practice assignments after each class. Parents should encourage home practice as part of the daily routine. Check with your teacher for practice requirements and assignments.
3. Keep the instrument in the case unless playing it. Don't leave the instrument in extreme temperatures such as in vehicles. Loosen the bow after playing and wipe off rosin with a soft, dry cloth.
4. Come prepared to each class with violin, stand, music, and a pencil.

Communication with the teacher

Please be sure to check your email for updates from your teacher. She/he will let you know about class date or time changes, individual progress, and other pertinent information about the program. Teachers may require additional materials for classes, including books, shoulder rests, pencils, or extra music.

Concerts

All students are encouraged to perform with their class for parents and friends at or near the end of each class session. NCCO also offers a unique opportunity to observe and sometimes perform with the orchestra. Parents are encouraged to attend concerts with their children, as concert etiquette and attendance are an integral part of a great music education.

Course Descriptions

All classes are designed in accordance with the guidelines identified in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).

Beginner Class

This class is an introduction for students who have never played a string instrument. Students will learn how to properly hold the violin and bow, basic note reading in the treble clef, instrument care and maintenance, and good practice habits. Students learn about dynamics, musical form, basic rhythms, and how to read and write simple music notation (quarter, half, eighth, and whole rests and notes.) Emphasis is placed on playing in a group with a steady tempo, and playing tutti (each student plays the same music) in pairs and solos in mini performances for peers to demonstrate concert etiquette and gain self-confidence. Listening skills are introduced, so that students learn to play together and listen to each other, the teacher, and recordings. By the end of the class, students will have a basic understanding of how to play the D and A Major scales and will be able to play at least one song.

Allegro and Presto Classes

These classes are for students who have completed the beginner class. Written exercises and games allow students to demonstrate music notation, note reading, and playing a larger range of notes in the treble clef. More complex rhythms are added to the repertoire: sixteenth notes, dotted rhythms, and combinations of different rhythms. Students learn how to transpose songs up or down a fifth by playing them on different strings. Group practice focuses on a wider range of tempi and listening for good intonation, with solo and small group performance opportunities to refine skills and showcase musical expression. Listening skills are also broadened as students learn to play in parts (students play the same song but are grouped to play different notes and rhythms). Students use knowledge of scales and arpeggios to create their own improvisations. Good practice habits are also reinforced. By the end of the class, students will demonstrate music reading and writing skills, and be able to play scales, arpeggios, and up to five songs in a variety of keys, including D, A, and G Major for Allegro class. Presto class will also be introduced to d natural and melodic minor, C Major, F Major, and B-flat Major scales, depending on progress.

