

Dear Parents of New Third and Fourth Grade Students,

We are excited to offer a choice in music ensemble program for third and fourth grade students.

We request that each family consider their child's choices for music class in grade three or four next year. It is our intention that early skill development on an instrument within an ensemble experience will support further music learning in middle school and beyond.

Third and Fourth Grade Ensemble Program - A joyous discovery of performance skills, musical confidence and personal discipline

String Ensemble: - A thoughtful process of learning to play violin, viola or cello through group music making

- Beginning string instruction using a mixture of methodologies in an atmosphere of enjoyment
- Differentiation for more advanced players
- Emphasis on aural skills throughout the curriculum
- Fluency developed with standard musical notation and basics of tonality and harmony
- Focus on tone, pitch, phrasing and rhythmic patterning
- Repertoire drawn from classical, folk, and popular music

Note: Families interested in the strings ensemble will need to acquire an instrument for their child. This may occur by 1) purchasing an instrument, 2) renting an instrument from an external source, or 3) making arrangements for an instrument supplied by the school which may require a small fee.

Also, joining the strings ensemble will require daily practice at home (and the associated transportation of the instrument to/from the school).

Orff Ensemble: - A progressive and musical process of learning improvisation skills, composition, and creative expression through song, movement and instrumental play

- Hone instrumental technique, performance, coordination and listening skills using xylophones, recorder, percussion and voice
- Deep exploration of pulse, pitch and rhythm while developing musical vocabulary
- Musical games, speech-rhythms, and body percussion
- Focus on texture, dynamics, musical form and tonality, phrasing and rhythmic patterning
- Repertoire drawn from jazz, folk and world music

Please let us know if you have further questions related to this choice, and please return the attached form to the lower school office (lsoffice@friends-select.org) by April 14, 2017.

Thank you,

David Younkin
Director of Lower School

Heather Fortune
Music Department Chair