

MACLAY BEGINNING STRINGS CLUB

2017-2018 Policies and Procedures

Mrs. Kristen Hughes

khughes@maclay.org

DESCRIPTION: Open to any student in 3rd – 8th grade. No experience necessary! The club meets twice a week during the fall semester, culminating in a performance at the Winter Concert. After completing Beginning Strings, students who are ready will be invited to join the Concert Orchestra Club for the spring semester.

LIMITED SPACE: Please note, we only have room to accept 20 students. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

INSTRUMENTS: VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, and STRING BASS

SCHEDULE:

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| - Practices | 3:00 – 3:45 every Tuesday and Thursday from September 5 th – November 30 th |
| - Dress Rehearsal | 3:00 – 3:45 on Thursday December 7 th |
| - Winter Concert | 6:30 pm on Friday December 8 th in Cartee Gym |

ATTENDANCE POLICY: We understand that students may need to miss Orchestra on occasion. Absence from Orchestra Club will be excused for the following reasons:

- Student illness/Doctor's Appointment/Family Emergency.....requires note/email from parent
- Religious Holiday.....requires note/email from parent
- Sports Games.....requires note/email from parent
- Other Dress Rehearsals/Performances.....requires note/email from parent

Other absences/tardiness will be unexcused. Excessive absence/tardiness could affect a student's eligibility to participate in performances, awards, or the club itself. If you have scheduling conflicts or concerns, please contact Mrs. Hughes. We will be happy to try to work something out.

Forgetting to bring your music / instrument to school is not an excuse for missing orchestra practice. Mrs. Hughes has school instruments available to borrow for the day if you forget yours.

PERFORMANCES: The Winter Concert and the Dress Rehearsal are mandatory. Any conflicts should be brought to Mrs. Hughes as soon as you are made aware of them.

SKILLS LEARNED: Beginning Strings Club is designed to introduce students to playing a string instrument, and to teach the skills needed to progress on to Maclay's Concert Orchestra Club. In December, upon completion of Beginning Strings Club, students who are ready will be invited to join the Concert Orchestra Club for the spring semester. To join Concert Orchestra Club, students need to have mastered the following skills:

- Pizzicato (plucking the strings)
- Arco (playing with the bow)
- Tone (consistently producing a steady, clear sound)
- Playing Notes (All 4 Open String Notes & All 8 Notes of the D Scale)
- Reading Music (containing Notes of the D Scale)
- Reading Music (containing Rhythms with Quarter Notes, Quarter Rests, and Paired Eighth Notes)

MUSIC BOOK: Students will need to purchase a music book called “Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1.” This book is readily available at local music stores. (If you are looking online, please be careful to buy the most recent edition. The book should be orange and black, not red!) Please contact Mrs. Hughes if you are having trouble locating a copy.

RENTING AN INSTRUMENT:

Parents are responsible for providing an instrument for their student. I highly recommend that you rent your instrument rather than purchasing one, as child instruments come in various smaller sizes. This allows you to trade-in smaller instruments for larger ones as your child grows, rather than buying a new instrument every year!

String instruments can be rented from several locations around town. I recommend Music Masters (850-224-6158), Beethoven & Company (850-894-8700), and Stringfest (850-222-7467). The cost is usually about \$20 - \$50 per month. The actual cost will depend on which store you choose, which instrument you choose, and what size instrument you need. I recommend that you call ahead for pricing and availability. When you are ready for a trip to the music store, be sure to take your student with you, and the store will assist you in finding the correct size for your child.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS FOR AT-SCHOOL USE: While violins and violas are fairly easy to carry to and from school, cellos and string basses can be hard to transport. The Maclay Orchestra Program now owns four cellos and two string basses! Cello and string bass students will be assigned a school instrument for the year. Parents are responsible for the cost to repair any damage that might occur. While parents will still need to provide an instrument for at-home practice, these school instruments will be available for use at school. Cello and string bass students no longer need to carry their instruments to school on orchestra days!

PAY-TO-PLAY: There is a \$150 fee for the club. This fee covers: sheet music, supplies, purchase and maintenance of school instruments, and instruction.

COMMUNICATION: Most Orchestra Club communication is through email. Parents need to provide Mrs. Hughes with a current, valid email address that is checked regularly.

MRS. HUGHES' EMAIL: khughes@maclay.org

TO REGISTER FOR ORCHESTRA CLUB:

1. Contact Mrs. Hughes to determine which Orchestra Club is right for you.
2. Complete the attached Registration Form and return, with payment, to Mrs. Hughes.

MACLAY BEGINNING STRINGS CLUB

2017 – 2018 Registration Form

Student's Information:

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Home Room Teacher: _____

Instrument: _____

Parent/Guardian Emergency Contact information:

Parent/Guardian #1

Home Phone: _____

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 (optional)

Home Phone: _____

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

There is **limited space available** in each ensemble, and for each instrument. Mrs. Hughes will have to confirm that there is a space available for your student on their chosen instrument. Provided there is an opening, registration will be completed upon submission of this form and the \$150 fee. Checks can be made payable to "Maclay School". If you have any questions, feel free to email Kristen Hughes at khughes@maclay.org

I have read, and agree to, the 2017-2018 Orchestra Policies and Procedures.

Parent Signature: _____