**Course Description**

String is an introductory, performance-based class for the beginning violinist, violist, cellist or bassist with one year or less experience on an instrument. However, no previous experience is required. First semester the emphasis is on developing excellent playing position and technique, working to cultivate listening skills and the student’s ear to hand ability. Second semester the focus shifts to music theory. Students develop music literacy skills by learning to read, write and perform musical notation. Private instruction is strongly recommended.

**Repertoire/Text**

Repertoire will be drawn primarily from traditional Classical music. Student compositions, world, contemporary and seasonal music will also be introduced throughout the year. Second semester we will be using the method book **Essential Elements**.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Students will develop skills in the following:

* How to play with good playing position
* How to produce a quality tone from their instrument
* How to play and perform music by ear
* How to play in an ensemble in unison and parts
* How to improvise on their instrument
* How to identify and use concepts of music theory
* How to read notated music
* How to compose, notate and teach a piece of music
* How to effectively listen to and identify different pieces of music
* Steps to successfully sight read a piece of music

**Class Procedure**

The class will include full group instruction, sectional instruction and individual practice.

**Course Rules**

**Respect:** Show respect for your learning environment and the people in it. Only one person talking at a time. String instruments are the most difficult to learn so expect to make mistakes. An encouraging and supportive environment will make orchestra more enjoyable and rewarding.

**Effort:** Maximize every opportunity to learn. There are many factors that go into learning an instrument. Practice, practice, practice.

**Responsibility:** Be on time. Bring instrument and supplies to class.

**Order of disciplinary action:**

* Verbal warning
* Discussion with teacher
* Call home/Note Home
* Referral

**Evaluation**

**Grades:**

**Daily evaluations/Home Practice: 50%**

**Written Assignments/Tests: 20%**

**Performance: 30%**

**A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69**

1. **Daily Evaluations:** There will be daily evaluations by students and teacher on skill development, preparedness and participation. These will periodically include playing and tests.
2. **Written Assignments/Tests:** There will be two written assignments per card marking such as evaluation of a musical performance, a report on your instrument, a musical composition, a lesson plan, or music theory tests.
3. **Performance:** We will have one performance each semester.

**Supplies**

* Working Instrument and Bow
* 1” Black Binder and Pencil
* Shoulder Rest for violin and viola
* Rock Stop for cello and bass
* Rosin
* Essential Elements 2000 Book 1

Please fill out the information below and return with your student on 9/4/19. A copy of this syllabus is on the website [www.cassorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.cassorchestra.weebly.com/). Look forward to seeing you at our first parent meeting September 10, 2019@ 6pm in the Orchestra Room 332. It’s going to be a great year!!

Educationally yours,

Ms. Burrows

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Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please print clearly. This will be the primary way I will communicate with you. Thanks!