



VIRGINIA TECHTM
STRING PROJECT

Parent/Student Handbook

2026/27

Our Mission: To provide high-quality and inclusive string music education for our community and to prepare Virginia Tech's undergraduate and graduate music students for success in their futures as music educators.

What does this mean for our students? In classes, students will be learning from university professors, master string teachers, and graduate and undergraduate Virginia Tech music students. We serve a wide range of students in our area—from those interested in experiencing music in a group class setting for the first time, to adult learners reconnecting with past musical knowledge, to those who go on to win music scholarships to study music in college!

History: Winner of the 2021 American String Teachers Association Outstanding String Project of the Year, The Virginia Tech String Project (VTSP), founded in 2007, is the signature community enrichment program for the department of music at Virginia Tech. Our program is a member of the National String Project Consortium, founded in 1998, to address a national string teacher shortage through a plan that establishes teacher-training programs at universities throughout the country. Master string teachers work with Virginia Tech's undergraduate music students to teach all classes. We fill a significant gap in the public-school system curriculum by providing beginning lessons in strings to students beginning in the 3rd and 4th grade as well as providing a space for older students' musical growth through multiple string orchestras.

Dear Students and Parents,

August 2026

Welcome! We are excited about entering our 19th year of the Virginia Tech String Project, and we look forward to welcoming you to classes very soon. I was so moved to hear the [group collaboration piece](#) from our last spring concert, and I am looking forward to more inspiring and unique opportunities that the upcoming year has to offer, including a residency with the Isidore String Quartet and more!

I'm very happy to share that with support from the Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts, significant investment in String Project in the form of hiring two new master teachers for the program has been made. We are pleased to welcome Mazi Pompell (bowed strings) and João Ramos (guitar) to our program. Mrs. Pompell will be working with our new Concert Orchestra group, a by-audition ensemble which will be a space for our older and advanced bowed string students after Youth Orchestra. She will also be leading the charge for our adult bowed string groups. A graduate of the Masters in Arts in Music program at Radford University, Mr. Ramos will be taking over all the master teacher duties for guitar. His background is varied in styles ranging from classical, to rock, and more.

Over the past year, we've been undergoing strategic planning and have identified fundraising as a crucial focus in order to continue the work we do at VTSP and support the growth of our program. Each month we will have some kind of fundraising event, such as a percentage night at a local restaurant, etc. We are also developing tiered sponsorship levels and are looking for local businesses and individuals with which to partner. If you have any connections to businesses or individuals who might be interested in partnering with us to support the work we do, please reach out to us so that we connect further.

Another new thing this year is that we will be piloting a more streamlined communication format by emailing a monthly newsletter which will cover important information and events for that month. We will still send separate emails with reminders about performances, etc. as needed, but we hope this helps put important information all in one place for you.

Please read this handbook and keep it handy throughout the year to stay up to date on helpful information related to the program. Please also take a moment now to save all our concert dates in your calendar. Returning families, **we've highlighted all new/updated information in red** for your convenience. All new families should plan to attend our parent interest meeting at 6:30pm in Squires Student Center Recital Salon on Sept. 3rd.

Musically yours,

Molly Wilkens-Reed, VTSP Director
Collegiate Assistant Professor of Viola, Virginia Tech
[National String Project Consortium](#), Board Member

Alan Weinstein, VTSP Artistic Director
Associate Professor - Cello and Bass, Virginia Tech

P.S. **New students, be sure to join us at our interest meeting** in Squires Student Center Recital Salon at 6:30pm on Sept. 3rd.

Table of Contents

Contact Information	5
Enrollment, Payments, and Scholarships	5
Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass Classes and Private Lessons	6
Guitar Classes	8
Calendar	8
Concert Dates	8
Attendance Policy and Cancellation Policies	9
Behavior	10
Parking	10
Drop Off/Pick Up Bowed Strings @VT	11
Drop Off/Pick Up Private Lessons and Chamber Music	12
Drop Off/Pick Up Guitar @VT	12
Instrument Rental, Care, and Music Books	12
Practice Expectations and Parent Involvement	13
Tuning	14
Concert Etiquette	16
Concert Opportunities in the NRV	16
Other Helpful Information	16

Contact Information

Molly Wilkens-Reed, Director

stringproject@vt.edu

Office: 540-231-0416

Cell (ONLY for emergencies): 901-335-5205

Alan Weinstein, Artistic Director

weinstei@vt.edu

Mazi Pompell, Master Teacher (bowed strings)

zmazi02@vt.edu

Yi-Wen Evans, Master Teacher (bowed strings)

yevans@vt.edu

João Ramos, Master Teacher (guitar)

Email TBA

Lindsey Finks, Assistant Director

stringproject@vt.edu

[Visit our webpage!](#)

“Like” us on [Facebook!](#) We post pictures and information about the learning experience as well as program reminders and details about local string-related events.

[National String Project Consortium Website](#) This is the site for our umbrella organization. You can read more about the string project mission and country-wide impact here.

Enrollment, Payment, and Scholarships

In a nutshell, you need to [register using this form](#) for violin, viola, cello, and bass, [register using this form for guitar](#), and [pay using this secure link](#). Once you’ve done that, you are all set! We will reach out if we have any questions about your registration, and please reach out to us if you have questions! **If you are enrolling in private lessons or chamber music, do not pay until a spot has been confirmed.** We build chamber groups around student interest and compatibility and a chamber placement is not guaranteed. Private lessons are on a first come, first served basis and will be confirmed individually through email.

Registration details: We cannot accept students younger than 3rd grade into our program (unless they are in 2nd grade and have already begun learning their instrument with a private teacher or moved

from another program or completed our summer music exploration camp). We do, however, welcome students of all ages above that, including adults! Group class tuition is **\$85 per semester**. A private lesson package is an additional **\$270** per semester. Chamber music for advanced students is **\$85** per semester. In order to take private lessons, students must be enrolled in group classes as well. In order to take chamber music, students must be enrolled in private lessons. You should re-register for the program at the start of every fall semester (fall to spring registration automatically rolls over). Please note that it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide written notice to the VTSP director if your child withdraws from the program at any time after the start of class or after the fall semester.

Scholarships: Need-based scholarships are available for group classes. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, contact stringproject@vt.edu after completing registration. Once on a scholarship, at the start of each new school year, contact the director to let them know that your child would like to continue receiving a scholarship.

Payment: Payments are due on or before the first day of class each semester. [Use this link to securely pay online.](#) **We will no longer accept cash and check payments as a regular payment option.** If you are unable to utilize the online payment system, contact the director and other arrangements can be made. **If a student withdraws from the program after payments have been collected for the semester, a refund will not be issued.**

Payment breakdowns:

String Project group class costs \$85 (E.g. Your child is enrolling in Beginner class only)

String Project group class + private lessons costs \$355

String Project group class + private lessons + chamber music class costs \$440

Chamber music class + private lessons costs \$355

If you have a scholarship for group class and have questions about your total, please let us know. **If you have multiple children in the program, you will need to do a separate payment for each child.**

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass Classes and Private Lessons

Beginner Class: for beginning 1st year students, Tuesdays AND Thursdays, 6-6:55pm, room 243, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Mid-Day Adult Beginner Class- for beginning 1st year students with no prior experience, Mondays 12:10-1:05pm, room 162, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Evening Adult Beginner Class- for beginning 1st year students with no prior experience, Mondays 6:30-7:25, Karr Activity Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Drive.

String Ensemble- for students beginning their 2nd or 3rd year of study- Tuesdays AND Thursdays 5:00-5:55pm, room 243, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Adult String Sinfonia: for students beginning their 3rd year of study or those with equivalent past experience, Wednesdays 12:10-1:05pm, room 162, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Youth Orchestra: *by audition only** for students beginning 4 or more years of study, 5-5:55 pm, Tuesdays AND Thursdays, room 162, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Concert Orchestra: *by audition only** for students beginning 5 or more years of study, 6-6:55pm, Tuesdays AND Thursdays, room 162, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

Chamber Music: *by audition only** for students beginning 4 or more years of study and enrolled in private lessons, time and room TBA, Squires Student Center at Virginia Tech, 290 College Ave.

*Youth Orchestra/Concert Orchestra auditions will be held on September 1st between 5-7pm. Violins and violas should plan to be there between 5-6pm and cellos and basses should plan to be there between 6-7pm. New and returning students audition every year. This allows teachers to assess student learning and understanding in a one-on-one setting. Please have a talk with your student about auditions ahead of time so that they understand this is not a competitive audition but an opportunity for teachers to find the best learning situation for them based on their skill level. If a student in Youth Orchestra auditions, but needs more learning support before entering Concert Orchestra, they will continue in Youth Orchestra and can re-audition for Concert Orchestra the following year. Please know that we will always keep the best interest of the child in mind during auditions, and we are ethically bound to make sure they are in the best possible learning environment to develop as a musician. We appreciate your confidence in our expert judgment and discretion in these matters. [2026-25 Audition information and music can be found here.](#) Be sure to share this audition information with your student so that they have time to prepare for the audition. The VT American String Teachers Association Student Chapter will hold an audition workshop for all auditioning students in Squires 243 on Aug. 29th from 1-4pm. All incoming Youth and Concert orchestra students are encouraged to attend!

Private Lessons: Are first come first serve with limited availability. A time will be scheduled between 12 and 6pm on Sundays. Private lessons take place in Squires Student Center rooms 144, 162, and 240. Private lessons are taught by our student teachers under the supervision of our director and master teachers. Our student teachers are pre-service teachers, which means that these lessons are done in a "lab" setting. Student teachers are observed 2-3 times per semester for private lesson teaching and participate in reflection exercises, observation, and lesson planning. When you communicate with our student teachers, please remember that they are in a learning environment and they are not yet professional teachers. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the

program director at any time.

VTSP will continue using **MyMusicStaff** to assist with scheduling, communication, attendance, and practice assignments for private lessons and bowed strings group classes. **Using MyMusicStaff is optional for students in group classes (but encouraged) and required for students in chamber music and private lessons.**

We will be taking advantage of the following features:

- Optional email and/or text reminders of lesson date/time/location.
- Access to a VTSP calendar showing every class and event your child is involved in.
- Optional practice log to keep track of what your student is practicing and for how long.
- Rescheduling private lessons in the event of a family emergency: if you need to miss one, you will be able to choose an empty slot on the calendar to make it up.
- Parents and students can view any notes taken during their class/lesson, so you always know what we are working on!
- Attendance records for classes and events.
- Printable PDFs of repertoire will be stored in the portal, so you always have access to one to practice with if your paper copy goes missing.

Portal accessibility can be located [here](#). Each family will receive an email to create a unique username and password to access your students' records.

Guitar Classes

Orange Guitar: for beginning 1st year students, meets Mondays AND Wednesdays, 5:30-6:25pm, in room 204/205, in Henderson Hall at Virginia Tech, 195 Alumni Mall.

Maroon Guitar: for students beginning their 2nd year of study, meets Mondays AND Wednesdays, 6:30-7:25pm, in room 204/205, in Henderson Hall at Virginia Tech, 195 Alumni Mall.

Hokie Stone Guitar: for students beginning 3+ years of study, meets Mondays AND Wednesdays, 6:30-7:25pm, in room 204/205, in Henderson Hall at Virginia Tech, 195 Alumni Mall.

Calendar

VT* location schedule for bowed strings:

[Bowed Strings Calendar 2026-2027](#)

VT* location guitar schedule:

[Guitar Calendar 2026-2027](#)

*Note that we follow VT and Montgomery County Public Schools scheduled breaks.

Concerts

Solo recitals for students enrolled in private lessons or chamber music: **Dec. 12th, 4pm; May 6rd, 6:30pm**; Squires Recital Salon

Fall Group Concert, **Dec. 7th, 7pm**, all students (guitar + bowed strings), Moss Arts Center

Spring Group Concert: **May 5th, 7pm**, all students (guitar + bowed strings), Moss Arts Center

Steppin' Out Festival 2027, **TBA**, open to students enrolled the summer intensive camp, Steppin' Out Community Stage

We will periodically perform the national anthem at local sporting events. Information about these optional performances will be shared via email as soon as it is available. We will also periodically perform outreach concerts at local places such as the farmers markets, retirement homes, etc. Information about these performances will be shared via email as soon as it is available.

Attendance Policy and Cancellation Policies

Group classes: Classes are cumulative, with each one reinforcing and building on the techniques presented previously. The orchestra can only be as strong as the sum of its members, and since all of the students will learn and perform together, we ask that everyone participate equally. **This means that both classes each week are required**, with natural exceptions for family matters, school field trips, or illnesses. **If a student needs to miss a class, please notify the VTSP director via email at stringproject@vt.edu.** Multiple absences due to other extracurricular activity commitments will result in a discussion between the program director and parent about a path forward for successful VTSP participation.

Students must have at least 75% attendance at the end of the year to automatically move into the next class. Students with under 75% attendance will be asked to demonstrate appropriate skills to teachers in order to move on. Students unable to demonstrate the necessary skills will be asked to remain in the same class the following year. We will always keep the best interest of the child in mind during this process, as we are ethically bound to make sure they are in the best possible learning environment to develop as a musician.

Students in the adult program are not required to adhere to the same attendance policy as the children. We understand that you may have caretaking duties, work commitments, and travel which affect your attendance.

Private lessons: A limited number of 30-minute private lessons are available this year. Lessons are taught by a string project student teacher. In order to take private lessons, students must be enrolled in group classes. **If you know you will miss a lesson in advance, give your teacher at least 24 hours notice. DO NOT SEND AN ILL CHILD FOR A LESSON.** If your child has had a fever (100.4 degrees) in the previous 24 hours of a lesson, let the teacher know that you need to cancel. If the student misses a lesson, a makeup lesson will only be available under special circumstances, such as family emergencies, and at the discretion of the teacher and VTSP director. If a teacher must miss a lesson, it will be rescheduled at a time that works for both parties. Parents are encouraged to attend lessons to take notes and to better support home practice.

VTSP follows MCPS' inclement weather policies. When the public schools are closed or have early release due to poor weather-related conditions, we will not hold classes (this includes adult classes). We will hold classes on their normal schedule if schools are simply delayed. Parents will be notified of all weather-related cancellations via email and Facebook.

Behavior

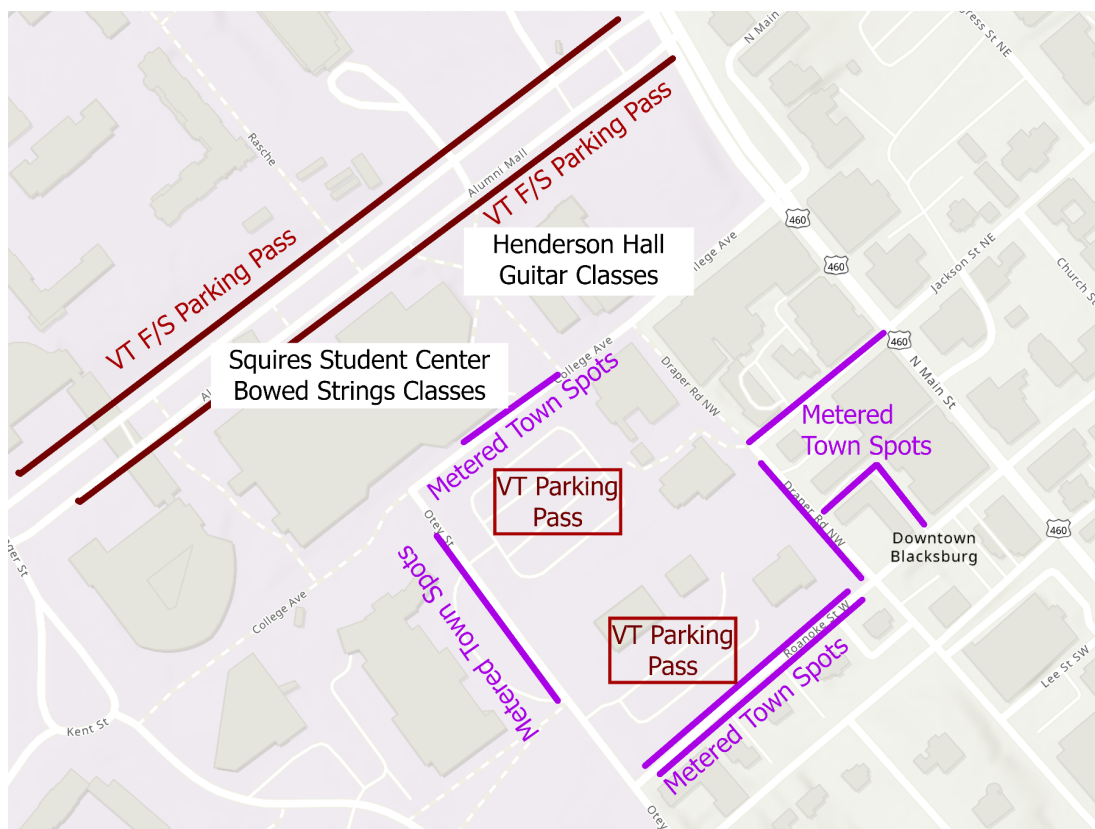
During registration, you and your student agreed to the VT Code of Conduct for Minors on campus. Respectful behavior toward teachers, staff, and fellow students is expected. This includes following teacher instructions, making safe choices, respecting the personal space of others and their instruments, and using appropriate tone and language. If we have any concerns about your child's behavior in class, we will talk with you in person, email, or contact you by phone. Oftentimes, we can work together with you to help support your child and create an environment where they thrive. If a student has multiple instances of disruptive behavior, they may be asked to take a leave from the program for that semester. If they violate the VT Code of Conduct for Minors on campus, they may be required to leave the program.

Parking

The following parking options are available for VTSP VT location families:

- An evening-only pass is available for \$45 per semester.
<https://parking.vt.edu/permits.html>
- Some metered parking is available in the Squires Student Center lot.
- Some nearby metered town parking is available.
- Parking through the ParkMobile app is available for \$2.30 per hour.

<https://parking.vt.edu/parking/parkmobile.html>



Drop Off/Pick Up Bowed Strings @VT

The university mandates strict chaperone policies for minors on campus. **Please read this section carefully.** To opt out of the below drop-off and pick-up procedures, allowing your student to come and go to classes on their own, [you must fill out this form](#) and return it to the VTSP director. Your child cannot be unsupervised at drop-off and pick-up until this form has been received.

A student can be dropped off and picked up from their classroom by a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian is also certainly welcome to stay and observe the class as well (many beginner class parents are doing this already!). If the child is being picked up by someone other than their usual parent or guardian, you need to provide advance notice to the VTSP director. You must provide that person's name and relationship to the child. Staff members will ask to see ID of anyone that the parent has approved for pick up that is not themselves. Ahead of the start of classes, families should also share if there is anyone forbidden to pick up the child.

Students can be dropped off at dock B on the Alumni Mall side of the building with a VTSP staff member who will walk them to class.

5:00pm start time: 4:45-4:55pm drop-off window

5:30pm start time: 5:15-5:25pm drop-off window

6:00pm start time: 5:45-5:55pm drop-off window

This will allow time for the students to be dropped off and walk to their class on time. At the end of class, students being picked up will walk with a VTSP staff member outside to meet their ride at dock B on the Alumni Mall side of the building. **Please be prompt with pick up so that VTSP teachers can get to their next class on time.**

5:55pm end time: 6:00-6:05pm pick-up window

6:25pm end time: 6:30-6:35pm pick-up window

6:55pm end time: 7:00-7:05pm pick-up window

If you arrive late or early, you must accompany the child into class yourself. Please do not drop your child off by themselves or have them enter the building through any other door (unless they are with you).

Drop Off/Pick Up Private Lessons and Chamber Music

The student should be brought to and picked up from the lesson room by the parent/guardian. Parents are encouraged to sit in on the lesson, but not required. DO NOT drop off your child by themselves ([unless you've turned in the release form](#)). Please be prompt with pick up, but know that if you are running late, the child will wait for you in the lesson room while the next lesson starts.

Drop Off/Pick Up Guitar @VT

A student can be dropped off and picked up from their classroom by a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian is also certainly welcome to stay and observe the class as well (this is encouraged).

Students can be dropped off at the main entrance to Henderson Hall (on the Alumni Mall side) with a VTSP staff member who will walk them to class (5:15-5:25pm drop-off time for the first hour and 6:20-6:25pm drop-off time for the second hour). This will allow time for the students to be dropped off and walk to their class on time. At the end of class, students being picked up will walk with a VTSP staff member outside to meet their ride at the same entrance where we are doing drop-off (pickup for the first hour is 6:30-6:35pm and 7:30-7:35pm for the second hour). **Please be prompt with pick up so that VTSP teachers can get to their next class on time.**

If you arrive late or early, you must accompany the child into class yourself. Please do not drop your child off by themselves or have them enter the building through any other door (unless they are with you).

Instrument Rental, Care, and Supplies

Having a quality and properly sized instrument is of great importance for string playing. Children need fractional-sized instruments that are smaller than full-size instruments. This allows them to play in a healthy and successful way (playing on an instrument that is too big can cause serious physical health problems!) Instrument size can make or break your learning experience. **We do not recommend purchasing an instrument until your child has grown into a full-size instrument and demonstrated a commitment to music.** Never switch to a larger instrument without a VTSP teacher's go-ahead. Never buy an instrument without first showing it to a VTSP staff member or teacher. **WE DO NOT RECOMMEND BUYING AN INSTRUMENT FROM Amazon, TEMU, or eBay.** Here's a short [video from Shar music with more information on this.](#)

VTSP does not provide instruments to students in an effort to keep costs low. Rentals can be acquired through a local music store, [Rocket Music](#). They have the correct size bowed string instruments, 3/4 size guitars (younger kids/petite teens and adults will need this size), and full size guitars for rent. Email or call Rocket Music to schedule a 15-minute fitting. Appointments are recommended; call before you go.

www.rocketmusic.net
greg@rocketmusic.net

1308 N. Main St., Blacksburg VA 24060
 (540) 961-7655

Never attempt at home repairs. If your child's string breaks, contact Rocket Music to purchase a new string as soon as possible. **At home, instruments should be kept in a safe place**, in their cases while not being played, and at a moderate temperature. **Don't leave your instrument in the car, near an AC unit, or near a heater.** We recommend purchasing a wire music stand for at-home practicing. You will also need a tuner or tuning app.

Bowed Strings: We use the progressive Essential Elements books for bowed strings in our classes, and teachers will notify you when it is time to purchase a new book. Books can be purchased at Rocket Music or online. Teachers may also assign additional solo pieces outside of the Essential Elements books. All classes will learn several string orchestra pieces each semester, and copies of this music are included in program tuition.

Guitar: Teachers will notify you of any necessary book purchases

Practice Expectations and Parent Involvement

We have all heard the old adage "practice makes perfect." Here at VTSP, we are not striving for unattainable perfection, but know that **practice makes permanent!** If students practice the techniques

and skills learned in class regularly at home, they will develop into confident, polished, and healthy performers. Music lessons are different from many sports and after-school clubs/activities in the sense that, in addition to classes, much of the skill-building and learning is done during practice at home. We encourage students to practice every day at home. Numerous studies have shown that short bursts of focused practice repeated on a regular basis are much more effective, enjoyable, and sustainable than one or two longer sessions over the weekend. Students in more advanced classes are naturally expected to increase their practice time as the musical level of difficulty increases. Teachers will provide clear practice expectations and goals on a weekly basis. Learning music can be a lifelong experience and it takes **many years** to cultivate a beautiful tone on these instruments.

Parental involvement and positive reinforcement at home are both critical steps to student development. What can busy parents do to encourage the development of a love of practice? We welcome all parents to watch classes, take notes, and ask questions of our staff and teachers. Schedule practice time into the day, write it on the family calendar, and commit to it. Set aside a special space in your home for your child's instrument practice. Keep the instrument and music in a highly visible place so practicing is never forgotten. Sense when a practice session is over. Encourage them on a daily basis, listen to music of all styles together, and take them to area concerts! We offer periodic parent workshops and will notify you of these via email and Facebook.

Parent/guardian volunteers are always welcome and needed for various tasks such as room setup, tuning, ushers for concerts, etc. Please email the VTSP director at stringproject@vt.edu if you are interested in being a parent/guardian volunteer, and THANK YOU!

We strive to make VTSP an affordable learning option for all members of the community. If you feel called to **make a donation** to cover the cost of tuition for a family in need, please let us know. If your workplace or small business is interested in acting as a program sponsor, **we'd love to connect with you to discuss how they can support VTSP and promote their business at the same time.**

Tuning

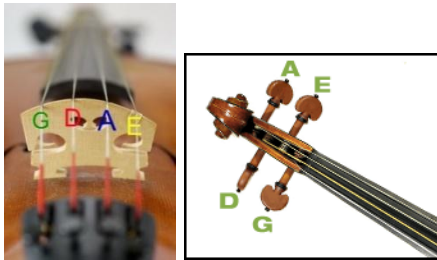
The parent should learn first and then help the student learn. Every child is different; some will take to tuning and be quite independent, while others may rely solely on the adult at home to tune their instrument. Remember, the worst-case scenario for home tuning is that a string breaks, and that is not the end of the world! This happens if you turn the peg too far, tightening the string so much that it pops. Strings can easily be replaced, and once one breaks, you most likely won't ever break another! Take a moment to watch the tuning video of your child's instrument below before attempting to tune it.

Tuning apps: Ins Tuner (basic version is free), Tunable (\$5), Pano Tuner (free), Tuner Lite by Plascore (apple only, free), ClearTune (\$3.99), and Tuna Pitch (\$2.99)

Tuners (some might include a metronome): any Korg brand tuner (\$14-\$25) and any Shar brand tuner (\$10-\$20)

Violin: Tuning video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_LPOlITXas

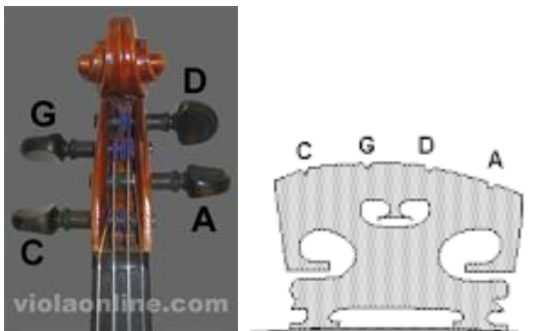
The strings of the violin are tuned in 5ths and are the notes G, D, A, E.



Viola and Cello: Tuning videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMU3-tt3n6Y> (viola)

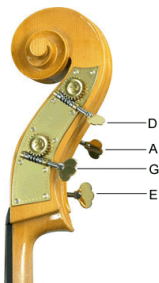
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1H4mgj_izi0 (cello)

The strings of the viola and cello are tuned in 5ths and are the notes C, G, D, A.



Bass: Tuning video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUDwlwfMk5I&t=210s>

The strings of the bass are tuned in 4ths and are the notes E, A, D, G



Guitar: Guitar Tuning Video [How To Tune Your Guitar - Beginner Guitar Lesson #6](#)



Concert Etiquette

At the end of each semester, our students get to showcase their music and progress in the form of a concert. It is truly a remarkable celebration of their work, and the entire community is invited. Parent emails with specific information will be sent as concerts approach. **We ask that all students look nice and dress in clothing conducive to performing on their instrument. Skirts and dresses should reach the knee or be lower in length. Keep in mind that your child will be performing on a raised stage when you consider skirt and dress length.** In an effort to build a sense of community among all of our string players and out of respect for the hard work and commitment involved in preparing for the concert, we ask that all students stay for the entirety of the performance. We understand busy schedules and will always endeavor to keep our concerts at a reasonable length. We want all of our students to have a large and enthusiastic crowd of their parents, friends, and peers! Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Concert Opportunities in the NRV

We encourage you to attend live concerts. The Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts and the VT Center for the Arts offer excellent concerts throughout the school year. Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, and some other great string groups are coming to the CFA this year. Don't miss out on these experiences! Here's a running list of string related concerts in our area. [The CFA offers \\$10 ticket deals for children 18 and under](#). VTSP students (adults and children) also get in free at VT Philharmonic Concerts. Give your name at the box office for your free ticket!

Other Helpful Information

Gift Ideas for String Players

Set of extra strings (Thomastik Dominant strings are fine for most instruments)

Rosin: Hill dark or Hill light

Mute: Tourte

Cellists: Endpin Anchor

Tuning fork: A-440 with case

Electronic Tuner or App

Identification tag for case
 Flash cards for note reading
 Nice tote bag to carry music
 Lint-free cloth to protect and wipe off instrument
 Tickets to hear a concert
 Wire music stand and carrying case for music and stand
 Metronome or metronome app
 Personalized stickers (name & phone number) for music
 Folder or binder for organizing music
 A pencil case with pencils, erasers, and a sharpener
 Hill Peg Compound: to put on pegs to keep them from sticking and slipping

Gift Ideas for Guitar:

Clip On Tuner (snarks are great but there are many others)
 Capo (Kysers work great and they aren't over priced)
 Guitar Picks
 Extra Guitar Strings
 -We personally love to use Elixir Strings. They are a little more expensive but they last way longer because of the coating on the strings.
 -If your fingers hurt often, try using D'Addario Folk Strings. They are nylon but have a ball end so that they can fit any guitar [More info here on those](#)
 Guitar Stand for when you aren't using it. They fall over a lot easier than you may think.
 Wire music stand and carrying case for music and stand
 Metronome or metronome app
 Personalized stickers (name & phone number) for music
 Folder or binder for organizing music
 A pencil case with pencils, erasers, and a sharpener

Resources

Rocket Music
www.rocketmusic.net
greg@rocketmusic.net
 1308 N. Main St., Blacksburg VA 24060
 (540) 961-7655

SHAR Products – Strings, supplies music, books, Suzuki materials, instruments, etc.; everything for strings
 sharmusic.com
 (1- 800-248-SHAR)

D'Addario Guitar Products- <https://www.daddario.com/products/guitar/>

Games: Apps such as Rhythm Quiz, Note Squish, Flashnote, and Rhythm Solitaire are fun and can sharpen musical skills. There are numerous online games and many orchestras have educational

games and information on their websites.

Books

The Inner Game of Music, Barry Green and W. Timothy Gallwey

Stories of Composers for Young Musicians, Catherine Kendall

More Stories of Composers for Young Musicians, Catherine Kendall

The Talent Code, Unlocking the Secret of Skill in Sport, Art, Music, Math and Just About Anything,
Daniel Coyle

Nurtured by Love, Shinichi Suzuki