ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ELEMENTARY STRINGS PROGRAM - Grade 3

Hello Andover Families,

We are pleased to invite your child to join our elementary instrumental music program in Grade 3. In Andover, students *may* begin string instruction in Grade 3, when they have the *option* to play a **string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass).** This will be a regularly scheduled part of their music curriculum, and string instruments ***must*** come to school for weekly lessons**.** Students who do not opt into this program will receive other additional music instruction.

Strings Instruction - *Things to consider:*
Learning a string instrument is a wonderful way to begin an instrumental music career in school. However, there must be a commitment to home practice and instrument care. Students enrolled in the string program are expected to participate for the whole school year, be prepared for scheduled public performances, and practice regularly. Students and families are encouraged to review policies around instrument rental and care. We are here to support you. The first few lessons will focus on some real basics: unpacking/packing, bow hold, instrument position, and instrument/bow care, but through commitment and regular practice, students will be performing several short, recognizable songs by the end of the year.

We ask that you consider this with your child and make the selection by **July 1st, 2025** - if possible. **Families who do not wish to participate in the strings program do not need to respond to the form below:**

Grade 3 Strings Registration

Renting an Instrument:
There are several instrument rental options for the Fall for families interested in string instruction. Below is a partial list of vendors. Families are welcome to explore other rental options. This information will be shared again later in the summer:

Johnson String Instruments of Newton, MA - http://www.johnsonstring.com
Leonards Music of Bedford, MA - http://www.leonardsmusic.com
Spencer Brook Strings of Maynard, MA - http://www.spencerbrookstrings.com
Rowen Strings of Boxford, MA - https://www.rowenstrings.com

Renting a good-quality string instrument has many benefits. Rental companies provide security in terms of repair and size upgrades as your child grows. Instrument pricing, sizing, and rental information for these companies can be found on their websites. **We strongly discourage parents from buying an instrument at this time.** Grade 3 students will need a smaller instrument fitted to their specific size in order to learn successfully and will need a size upgrade every year or so (free through a rental service) after that.

ACE
Andover Coalition for Education

PLEASE NOTE: Instruments purchased online may be of poor quality. A poor quality instrument will greatly hinder your child's progress. While buying online may seem like an attractive option, it may cause many unnecessary challenges. Through a generous donation by the Andover Coalition for Education, for beginning *Grade 3 string players*, we have many high quality, school-owned stringed instruments (violins, violas, cellos, and basses) available for those who qualify for financial assistance. More information will be available later in the summer.

Sincerely,

Julie Diehl, Elementary Strings Instructor - julie.diehl@andoverma.us