

September 2025

Dear Third Grade Families,

Last spring, I had the opportunity to work with 2nd graders for a 6-week Introduction to Violin unit. The students learned a great deal about violin care, parts of the instrument, posture, plucking and bow holds, and we had a lot of fun! I'm pleased to share that violin instruction will continue in 3rd grade! We are hoping that third graders will take the opportunity to join this new instructional music program. Please check in with your child about whether they would like to continue this school year.

**Sign-ups must be received by Friday, September 12th.**

Lessons will be on the following dates:

**Proctor:** Wednesdays beginning September 17th

**Zeh:** Thursdays beginning September 18th

**Peaslee:** Mondays beginning September 22nd

**Lincoln Street:** Mondays beginning September 22nd

**Tell me more!** Enrollment in strings is open to all 3rd-grade students and is entirely voluntary. 30-minute group violin lessons will be held once a week, with students being pulled out of their regular classes. Teachers will work with students to make up any missed class work during their lessons and may be required to complete additional work at home if necessary. The size of the groups will depend on the number of students who register for the program. Violin instruction will continue in 4th grade, and other string instruments, like viola, cello and bass, may also be added in subsequent years. Students are expected to demonstrate proper respect for both the instruments and their fellow classmates. Maintaining self-control is crucial when handling delicate and valuable instruments.

**How do I get an instrument?** We strongly suggest renting-to-own. If you buy, you will need to continually purchase the next size up, as your child grows. Beginning students need to feel *great* about their sound, and an instrument that's not in top condition quickly leads to discouragement. *Please* do not buy instruments from Amazon or eBay!

**Renting-To-Own** We have representatives from [David French Music](#) and [Music & Arts](#) (both in Westborough) who receive lists of our specifications, and rent instruments that are perfect for beginners. Please pre-order your violin using the links above and pick up on rental night, September 16th anytime between 6-8 pm at the Melican Middle School cafeteria. Alternatively, a QR code to David French Music and Music & Arts, as well as your child's specific sizing is being sent home. If you cannot attend rental night in person, please still pre-order, and choose the option to either pick up in store, or have the violin delivered to your child's school.

**Are other materials required?** We will provide a folder. In addition to the instrument (rentals will come with a [shoulder rest](#)), each student will also need supplemental items:

- 1) [Essential Elements for Violin](#), book 1 (2000 edition or later)
- 2) [A folding metal music stand](#) to keep at home
- 3) A [soft cloth](#)
- 4) A tote bag can be helpful to keep all supplies together.

**What about practicing?** Just like brushing one's teeth every day, it is **vital** that students practice daily in order to develop the skills and muscles needed. Students are required to practice for 5-10 minutes, 5 days per week. Your child will need your help and encouragement in planning the best times for practicing at home. Home practice is the key to success! I will be sending home practice sheets and videos.

**Will my child be graded in String Class?** Yes, students' will be assessed on the following areas: **Coming** to class prepared with all required materials, **Performing** with technical accuracy, **Demonstrating** proper playing position, posture, **Fulfilling** his/her weekly practice commitment, and **Showing** responsible behavior and effort.

**How do we sign up?**

[Please register here](#) or scan the QR code below



Learning to play a string instrument is a very big commitment. It takes hard work, but the rewards are wonderful!

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Email is the best way to reach me. If you'd like to meet me in person, I will be at the open house on September 9th at Peaslee from 6-6:45, and at Proctor from 7-7:30.

I look forward to working with our 3rd grade violinists!

Musically yours,

Mrs. Kate Kent Northborough Public Schools Strings Teacher  
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