



DR. MARVIN CONNELLY, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

For over 40 years, the Cumberland County Schools' String Orchestra program has provided instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass to thousands of young musicians. We invite you to consider your child's participation in this exciting music program. Starting at the fifth grade level, orchestra instruction in violin, viola, and cello is offered twice weekly during the school day. Each of these instruments has been demonstrated to your child to assist him/her in determining a preference for study. If your child is interested in playing the string bass, we would recommend that they begin study on the violin, viola, or cello this year and switch to bass next year in middle school. Orchestra instruction is also available at the middle and high school levels throughout the county school system. If you decide to take advantage of this educational opportunity, **please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and have your child return it to his or her classroom teacher.**

If you choose to enroll your child in the Orchestra Program, we invite you to attend one of the **Parent Night Sessions** listed on the back of this letter. This session is a "drop in" for parents and students between the hours of **4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** in locations around the county. Members of the orchestra faculty will be available to answer questions or concerns, give you information about the orchestra program and counsel parents and students on instrument size and selection. Your child will be measured at this time for the proper size instrument and given the times and dates of orchestra classes offered at his/her school. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please contact your child's orchestra teacher for further information.

Learning how to play a string instrument and belonging to a school orchestra opens up a whole new world of friendship and fun. As a string orchestra player, a student will be able to take advantage of music performances with orchestras at the middle and high school levels as they progress. Orchestra students may participate in academic and athletic activities, as well as other extracurricular activities and still be a part of the school orchestra.

Thank you,

The Orchestra Faculty

----- (Detach and return to your child's classroom teacher) -----

Student's Name _____
(First) (Last)

School _____ Classroom Teacher _____ Gr. _____
____ Yes, I would like for my child to study: (Check one) Violin _____ Viola _____ Cello _____

Parent's Name _____ Parent Signature _____
Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Evening) _____

Orchestra Parent Night Sessions

Tuesday, Sept 7	Mac Williams Middle	Cafeteria	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Pine Forest Middle	Band Room	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Lewis Chapel Middle	Front Lobby	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Nick Jeralds Middle	Theatre	4:00-7:00 p.m.

Our Commitment: Every Student
Collaborative ★ Competitive ★ Successful

P.O. Box 2357 | FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28302 | 910-678-2300

Fully Accredited School System

Wednesday, Sept 8	Westover High	Auditorium Lobby	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	John Griffin Middle	Cafeteria	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Gray's Creek High	Atrium	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Spring Lake Middle	Cafeteria	4:00-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept 9	Max Abbott Middle	Theatre	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	Douglas Byrd Middle	Cafeteria	4:00-7:00 p.m.
	South View Middle	Cafeteria	4:00-7:00 p.m.

Factors to Think About

A decision to study a string instrument should not be made casually. String study should receive a stabilizing influence from the parents just as other subjects in the curriculum. Regular home practice will be required. Here are some factors you and your child may want to consider in deciding whether or not to study a string instrument.

1. Instruction is at school during the school day.
2. There is no fee for lessons.
3. It is recommended that each new string student should plan to take lessons for one full year unless advised otherwise by the string teacher.
4. String instruments are available through the local music dealers. These dealers have a rental-purchase plan as well as instruments available for purchase. Prices of string instruments are reasonable. The teacher should approve all instruments before final arrangements to purchase or rent are concluded.
5. String instruction is offered to students beginning in the 5th grade and continuing through the 12th grade. Students are encouraged to continue their strings study at each new grade level.
6. Regular home practice will be required for successful advancement

**Thank you,
The String Orchestra Faculty
Cumberland County Schools**