

Important Dates

SEPT 17: Strings classes begin
Please get instrument asap

SEPT 27: All students have instruments

OCT 16: Opt out date deadline. 5th grade strings is a year-long program. After this date, students cannot switch out of strings class into music.

DEC 18: WINTER CONCERT 7:00pm @ WBHS

MAY 7: SPRING CONCERT 7:00pm @ WBHS

Strings Class Schedule:

Hogan/Brown	Mon & Fri	7:55 - 8:25
Steele/Anderson	Mon & Thurs	8:30 - 9:00
Thompson/Richardson	Mon & Thurs	9:05 - 9:35
Limtiaco/Griffin	Tues & Fri	8:30 - 9:00
Hall	Tues & Fri	9:05 - 9:35

Concerts: There will be two performances for parents during the school year. (Tues, Dec 18 and Tues, May 7)
All students are expected to perform in scheduled concerts.
A reminder letter will be sent home before each performance.

Mrs. Sandra Crocker received her B.A. from Western Michigan University and her M.A.Ed. from Old Dominion University. In 1995 she began teaching instrumental music at Windsor Middle School and High School (Isle of Wight County, VA). In 2001, she was awarded "Teacher of the Year" at Kilby Shores Elementary (Suffolk, VA). In 2018 Mrs. Crocker joined the faculty at Western Branch Intermediate and Western Branch Primary (Chesapeake, VA).

A Guide To Beginning Strings



Western Branch Intermediate
2018-2019
Sandra Crocker, Music Teacher

A Guide to WBI Beginning Strings

Instruments: It is the responsibility of every beginning string student to provide his/her own instrument for class.

There are many music dealers in the area that sell or rent quality instruments. Renting is highly recommended for 1st year string players. Be careful of instruments sold in "non-music/big box" stores... they are often problematic & are of very poor quality. Also be very cautious of instruments found on the internet and/or sold 3rd party. Please contact Mrs. Crocker at sandy.crocker@cpschools.com if questions.

Proper fitting of the instrument to your child's physical size is **very** important. Please make sure your child is present when you go to rent or purchase an instrument.

Supply List:

1. Instrument w/case and name tag
2. Rosin
3. Cleaning Cloth
4. Pencil
5. Shoulder Rest (*violin/viola*)
6. Rock stop (*cello*)
7. Extra Set of Strings (*optional*)
8. Music Stand (*at home for practice*)
9. Nail Clippers (*at home for trimming nails*)

Practice Success at Home:

1. Set up a practice area that is distraction free
2. Use a music stand
3. Practice 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week
(Students do not turn in 'practice cards')
4. Keep in safe place - no siblings playing instrument

Concert Etiquette: When attending a concert, we model respectful, responsible and safe behavior. We therefore ask that you would please stay for the entire performance and no walking in or out of the auditorium during a musical selection. Cells phones should be turned to 'silent' and please keep movement and talking to a minimum.

Student Concert Attire:

- ♫ Plain White Dress Shirt (any sleeve length)
- ♫ Solid Black Dress Pants
(to the ankle / prefer *no leggings or black jeans*)
- ♫ Black Dress Shoes (with black socks/hosiery, as needed)

What To Expect in Class:

- Get your instrument and bring to class asap!
- Weeks 1 & 2: reading music, parts of the instrument, string instrument history
- Week 3: How to hold, pizzicato (plucking) open strings
- Week 4+: Learning songs and new techniques!
- We will use the bow with the instrument after the students have learned the basics

Classroom Etiquette: Learning to play a stringed instrument requires patience and cooperation. It is essential that every student abide by the following rules to insure our success. *Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe*