

Good morning!

We had such a great start and great energy in orchestra this year! SO excited for these kids!

This year is the largest 1st year orchestra class we've ever had with 25. There were about 6 that signed up that didn't show up this week, so please notify me if you plan on having your child in orchestra or not. That will help us gauge how many to set up for. We use the roadrunner room and so far it's taking me about 15 minutes (with help) to set everything up in the morning and the less chairs I have to set up the better, so just let me know!

I will be sending out concert dates soon once I have them finalized.

A few things to think about:

1. Do not let students use their bows yet. This is a crucial step that needs to be taught very specifically so they do not form bad habits.
2. Parents—do not attempt fix instruments. If something breaks, bring it to me first and then I will either fix it, or tell you to take it to your rental shop for them to repair.
 - An out of tune string is not broken.
 - A string that pops loose is not broken.
 - A bridge that falls over is not broken.
3. Students should be practicing putting on their shoulder rest this weekend. "The wider side of the shoulder rest goes on the chin rest side."
4. Next, they need to practice holding their instrument with their chin only and not their hands. "High on the shoulder, not on the chest."
 - This takes time and is uncomfortable at first. Encourage them to keep at it and they will get used to it after a few weeks.
5. Lastly, encourage them to play with their instrument everyday to encourage daily practice habits. They are encouraged to go as far as they would like in the book until they reach a point that they truly don't understand. So, they ALWAYS have something to practice. When they say they have mastered a song, tell them to play 100 more times. Practicing is building muscles. Needs to be done everyday, even if they feel they have mastered it.

Have a great weekend!

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