

March 2005

Dear Parents,

Your child attended a string orchestra demonstration today and was asked to bring this letter home if he or she was interested in learning to play a string instrument starting next school year. Beginning instruction on the string instruments (violin, viola, cello and string bass) is offered to students entering the fourth grade as a regular part of the curriculum in the Centerville Schools.

COST: The actual lessons are free; however, students do need to provide their own instrument of the correct size and will be asked to purchase a book that costs approximately \$5. Instruments can be rented from local music stores. Violins and violas rent for \$14 to \$18 per month; cellos for \$34 to \$36 per month; and basses for \$45 to \$50 per month. A few school basses and cellos will be available for rent from the school at a reduced cost depending on the size needed. Due to the need to commit staff and arrange schedules well in advance, the elementary principals also require a non-refundable \$25 monetary commitment before scheduling a student for fourth grade strings. In return, you will receive by mail in July, a \$25 coupon off the cost of renting a violin, viola, cello or string bass.

Lessons will be given as group classes twice a week: once during the regular Integrated Arts time; usually in place of general music, and once earlier in the morning from 7:45 – 8:30 a.m. (yes, parents are responsible for driving the student musicians to school by 7:40 a.m. in order for class to start by 7:45 a.m.) By substituting for general music, strings class becomes part of the state minimum requirements.; therefore, the initial commitment required is for the first semester (August through January) as the strings grade will appear on the regular report card. In addition to the parental responsibility for transporting the student to school one morning a week, home practice is expected of the students. Fifteen minutes, six days each week earns an A+ on the weekly practice records. You know best how your child meets academic responsibility and if he/she can handle the added expectations.

We will hold an optional parent information meeting on Tuesday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m. at CHS in the South Unit Commons to answer any questions. This will be the last day to turn in the Enrollment Form and \$25 commitment.

A parent and every enrolled student do need to come to one of the Instrument Fitting Sessions. Please mark your calendars now for one of these two sessions either Wednesday, July 20th or Tuesday, August 9th. They will be in the Centerville High School South Unit Commons from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. After a brief explanation of the program and time for questions, students will be measured for the correct size instrument by their future teacher. Yes, string instruments are made in many sizes to fit any child! For your convenience, the three local music stores who meet the Recommended Dealer Requirements for Centerville Schools will be available at both meetings to order an instrument for you to be delivered the first day of school in the fall.

If you wish to enroll your child in a beginning string class for the 2005-06 school year, please fill out the attached form and return it with a \$25 check (made payable to Centerville City Schools) to your child's elementary school office by the end of March. The enrollment form can also be found on line at centervilleorchestra.org. We will mail reminders and maps prior to the May 31st meeting and the Fitting Sessions.

Sincerely,

The Centerville Elementary School Orchestra Directors

***** ORCHESTRA ENROLLMENT FORM *****

Please check those that apply. **Forms must be returned by the end of March.**

_____ We are enrolling in the Centerville School Orchestra Program, have attached the \$25 check made payable to “Centerville City Schools”, and will attend one of the Instrument Fitting Sessions.

_____ We are enrolling in the Centerville School Orchestra Program, have included the \$25 check, but will not be able to attend either Instrument Fitting Session. My child and I will visit one of the recommended dealers to be sized for and rent an instrument before the first day of school.

_____ We are enrolling in the Centerville School Orchestra Program, but we already have an instrument. We will bring it and the student to the May 31st meeting for a size fitting in lieu of the \$25 commitment fee.

***** If you have any questions, please plan to attend the parent information meeting *** on May 31st.**

STUDENT NAME _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE NEXT YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City Zip

TELEPHONE # _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENTS' NAMES _____
(for mailing labels)

INSTRUMENT CHOICE ONE _____

INSTRUMENT CHOICE TWO _____