



August 25, 2014

Dear Fourth Grade Parent,

This week your child was introduced to the fourth grade Violin Program offered at his/her elementary school. We are excited to provide this fantastic musical opportunity for your child. The Ladue Orchestra Staff are inviting parents to an informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 3 from 6:15 – 6:45 pm** in the Fifth Grade Center Cafeteria at 10900 Ladue Road.

The Ladue Orchestra Program provides students in fourth through twelfth grades a variety of instructional opportunities to develop individual skills and talents. In the fourth grade, violin class meets twice a week before school from 7:50-8:40am.

Our informational meeting will address logistics and the value of this training, in depth. We want our students to enjoy the benefits of violin class and consistent attendance is an essential contributor to student success. Please consider your child's schedule for both class attendance and home practice before enrollment. Monetary investments include violin rental and a few supplies. Students who enroll are expected to attend all classes and practice daily at home. Parents are actively involved by listening and providing directed support at home. In fifth grade, students will be able to continue with violin or switch to viola or cello with class instruction during the school day.

Learning a stringed instrument will help your child feel successful, confident, and improve cognitive development using engaging strategies. The fourth grade before school class allows for a head start into the wonderful world of instrument performance. We hope that your family will take advantage of this exciting program. Please come meet us and consider a rich, musical education for your child.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dalbey
4th--Conway and Spoede
Edalbey@ladueschools.net

Ruth Panhorst
4th--Old Bonhomme and Reed
Rpanhorst@ladueschools.net

Fourth Grade Strings Program Points

◆◆Strings classes meet between 7:50-8:40 am at the students' home school. Conway meets on Tuesday and Friday. Old Bonhomme meets on Tuesday and Thursday. Reed and Spoede meet on Monday and Wednesday. **Classes will begin the week of September 9th!**

◆◆Parents are responsible for renting an instrument and maintaining it. Call or visit one of the following stores for more rental information. This short list is by no means all-inclusive or preferential.

Bearden Violin Shop, 8787 Lackland Ave., 314-427-7570

First String Violin Shop, 3107 Brown Road, 314-426-1192

Top Notch Violin Shop, 3109 Sutton Blvd, 314-696-2172

St. Louis Strings Violin Shop, 6331 Clayton Ave., 314-644-6999

Mozingo Music, 100 Clarkson Road, 636-227-5722

Violin Rental Outfits should include the violin with high quality strings, fine tuners, a bow, and rosin. A correctly sized shoulder rest is required. The shop should be able to find the **correct size violin** for your child and be able to fit a shoulder rest to the violin. (Most students will use a one-half size violin in the fourth grade year.)

Please do not hesitate to contact your teacher if you have any questions regarding the rental process. Instruments are provided for interested students on the free or reduced lunch plan. *Please contact your teacher as soon as possible to reserve a violin.*

◆◆Students are urged to purchase the following supplies: a Kun or Everest shoulder rest, a 3 ring binder with pockets for notes, a Suzuki Violin Level 1 recording for listening at home, a folding stand for home use.

◆◆Students are expected to attend all classes.

◆◆Students are expected to practice daily.

◆◆Students will perform in two concerts to show off their amazing new skills. One is an informal concert in December during their respective class time and again on May 12, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Fifth Grade Center Gymnasium.

Please acknowledge that you and your student have read this material by signing and returning this sheet to your classroom teacher by: Friday, August 30.

_____ Yes! We are interested in the strings program and will be attending the parent meeting.

_____ Yes! We are interested in the strings program, but cannot attend the parent meeting. I will e-mail with any questions.

_____ I already play a stringed instrument and would like information about performing in concerts.

Registration for Beginning Violin Class:

Student's Name _____

School _____ Classroom Teacher _____

Preferred Parent Email _____

Preferred Phone Number _____

Parent Signature _____

**Final Registration Date: September 5, 2014