



STRINGS @ LAKESIDE POLICY SHEET 2024-25

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Strings Music program will teach 3rd-7th grade students to play the violin, viola, or cello. While learning the basics of playing a stringed instrument, we will also teach the children many classical pieces of music literature. Music provides students with a wealth of fringe benefits. In addition to obtaining the life-long skills needed to become a music performer or consumer, a child learns skills that can be used in every facet of life. Teamwork, dedication, self-discipline, and responsibility prepare a child for a successful future in any profession he/she may choose. Various research shows that music students are among the academically strongest in their schools and score higher on the SAT than other students. Most colleges and universities now look for more than good grades on a child's transcript. They want well-rounded students who have been able to accomplish more than just textbook knowledge.

FEES

Lesson cost for group lessons for the 2024-25 year will be \$50 per month, due on the fifth (5th) of each month, August-May, paid to Lakeside Presbyterian Church. Lesson costs may be paid by the semester: August – December (\$250)/January – May (\$250), or monthly (\$50) by bank draft. As the tuition cost is not merely a “lesson time” only charge, no refunds will be made on missed lessons. Individual lessons may be arranged through the string's director.

A one-time music and supply fee of \$50 will cover the cost of music, tapes, notebooks, and prizes for the whole school year. **The supply fee is due by June 1st and will be paid to Lakeside Presbyterian Church.** (after June 15, the fee will be \$60).

GROUP LESSON TIMES

Lesson times will be 45 minutes once a week. Please ensure your child has his/her instrument and music for class time. To derive the most benefit from the lessons, regular attendance is imperative. As lessons are designed to be progressive, frequent absences hinder progress and destroy continuity and enthusiasm.

FIRST YEAR, SECOND YEAR, AND ADVANCED GROUP LESSONS

This year, classes will be offered for Beginners (first-year students), Intermediate (second-year students), and Advanced (third-year students).

PRACTICE

Students should practice 20 minutes daily, 5 days a week to derive the most from the lessons. Playing a musical instrument is a learned skill and requires practice as with any skill. The exciting thing is that children can and will learn quickly when the work is done. Practicing is a responsibility that parents and students must share. Remember, each student's progress is determined, in part, by what he or she does at home. Set up and maintain a regular practice schedule. Each student will be given a practice chart to record his/her practice time and will have a place for the parent's initials on the chart. Awards will be given to students who achieve this practice goal. Each year about 95% of the students achieve this, so it is a very reasonable goal. The practice chart greatly aids our teaching. If a student is having a difficult time learning a new concept, teachers can easily determine if the problem is due to lack of practice time or failure on our part to make the concept clear.



PERFORMANCES

There will be several performances during the year.

NANCY BATEMAN

Nancy Bateman will oversee the program. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in music. She started the Strings Program at First Presbyterian Day School in 1999 and continues to direct it. She has played cello with the MS Symphony from 1993 to the present.

INSTRUMENTS

You will need an instrument for your child by the first day of class in August. You can pursue several options in securing an instrument for your child. First, you can rent an instrument from Mrs. Nancy Bateman or through several of the music stores in town. Secondly, you may purchase an instrument through Mrs. Bateman, music stores, or mail-order companies. Last year's prices for one mail order ran around \$190 for the whole violin "outfit," which included the violin, bow, and case. Thirdly, there may also be a limited supply of violins that have been "outgrown" by students already in the program. Before you buy or rent, Mrs. Bateman will need to measure your child so you can get the correct size instrument for him/her. If you rent or buy from Mrs. Bateman, money will be due by July 1. We will be very happy to help you find an instrument within your budget. We have many "connections" in the music world, so don't hesitate to call us for help.

OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are Belhaven graduates/students and love teaching children to enjoy and appreciate music. We find joy in teaching your child and take that responsibility very seriously. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Colossians 3:23

SIGN-UPS

Please complete the attached form or sign up online by visiting www.lakesidepres.com/lakeside-strings.