

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Prince George County Schools is pleased to again offer Strings Alive, an after school music program for instruments of the string orchestra: violin, viola, cello, and bass. There are 3 levels of instruction, ranging from beginner through 4+ year advanced student levels. If you have child in grade 4 or above, please consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Read the enclosed information, plan to come out with your child to the Info Night, or feel free to contact the director with any questions you have.

Ms. Sarah Howard, Director

About Strings Alive

Strings Alive was started in February of 2005 as an experimental afterschool program to introduce students to the instruments of the string orchestra. The program was originally underwritten by a grant from the Cameron Foundation, known throughout South Central Virginia for assisting cultural arts endeavors.

Now entering its thirteenth year, Strings Alive currently enrolls over 50 members participating in three ensembles, according to their age and experience level. Several past members have secured memberships in the Petersburg Symphony orchestra and the Appomattox Regional Governor's School orchestra. One PG grad is pursuing a music minor at Virginia Commonwealth University. All groups perform several times a year, as well as within their home schools and at local community events.

Instruments

Violin. The violin is the smallest of the instruments in the string orchestra with the highest pitch range. Sometimes referred to as a fiddle, the violin is the most popular of the string instruments and is used in a variety of musical styles, ranging from classical to country, and even in jazz and rock.

Viola The viola looks like the violin, but is bigger and has a slightly lower pitch range. Many students choose the viola because they like the deep mellow tones it creates.

Cello. The cello is much bigger than the violin or viola and is always played in a seated position. Many students choose the cello because they like the sound of the larger instrument in the low warm tones.

Bass. The string bass is the largest of the string instruments and is used in a variety of musical styles. Because of its size and expense, we currently do not offer instruction on bass for elementary students. Students interested in learning bass should take cello their first year of study.

Classes

Young Artists. 4:15-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Open to beginners grades 4-12. Starts October 24th.

Sinfonietta. 4:15-5:30 p.m. Thursdays. Open to students in grades 5-12 who have completed one year of orchestra or permission of instructor. Starts October 25th.

Chamber orchestra. 5:45-6:45pm Thursdays. Open to students who have completed two years of orchestra or have permission of the director. Starts October 25th.

All classes meet in the band room at J.E.J. Moore Middle School.

Who can join?

This program is open to all Prince George County students enrolled in grades 4 through 12.

What is the cost?

There is no charge for tuition. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument, available at local music dealers. They will also need to purchase an instruction book for their particular class, as well as any needed accessories such as rosin, shoulder rest or rock stop (cello).

Expectations

Attendance. Because classes meet only once a week, it is important to maintain a regular attendance schedule. Students will be given a syllabus outlining expectations for each class scheduled throughout the school year. Students are responsible for making up any work missed on their own.

Practice. All students are expected to practice regularly. You will be asked to keep a practice log, and have it signed weekly by a parent and turn it in to the director.

Conduct. All students are expected to follow all rules pertaining to the Prince George County schools code of conduct at all times during classes.

The director reserves the right to dismiss any student who fails to meet academic, attendance, or behavior expectations for Strings Alive.

Second Call !!!



Important!

Strings Alive Information Session
Monday, November 5, 2018
7:00 p.m.
J.E.J. Moore Middle School
Band Room

You will be able to get more detailed information about the program, meet the instructor, hear the instruments demonstrated, have your child measured for an instrument, and meet representatives from local music dealers that rent/sell instruments.

How to enroll (do **one** of the following)

You can enroll at the Information Session on
November 5, 2018

OR

If unable to attend this session, please email Chris Amaral at camaral@pgs.k12.va.us with your name, child's name, child's school and a phone number where you can be reached.

Why Join Strings Alive?

There are many, many reasons for taking music lessons at school. Here are just a few:

Recent studies found that students involved in the arts-based groups including music were:

- 8 times more likely to win a community service award.
- Nearly twice as likely to read for pleasure.
- Over 3 times more likely to be elected to a class office.
- 3 times more likely to win a school attendance award.
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math or science fair.
- 2 times more likely to win an academic achievement award.
- 4 times more likely to win school wide attention for academic achievement.

Sources: MENC - Music Education facts and figures 2002, www.schoolmusic matters.com

About the Instructor:

Sarah Howard graduated from Prince George High School in 2013 and is currently student teaching with Chesterfield County Schools. She will be graduating in December with her degree in Music Education from James Madison University. She has participated in various ensembles at JMU including orchestras, choirs, and bands, while focusing on studying viola. Having started her studies in the Strings Alive program thirteen years ago, Sarah is extremely happy to be returning to the program that started her music studies.

Prince George County Schools
Presents

Strings Alive



A Musical Performance
Experience for Students in
Grades 4-12.

Sarah Beth Howard, Director
sarahbethhwr1@gmail.com

2018-2019