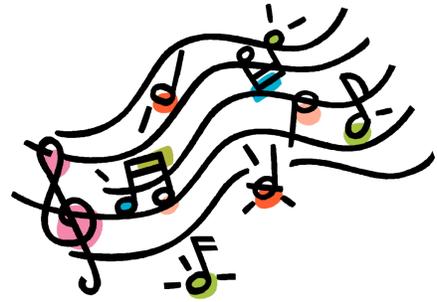


Welcome to the St. Robert School Strings Program!

Your child is of the age that he or she is now eligible to enroll in Beginning Strings. In this packet you will find a description of the St. Robert String groups, meeting dates, lesson and ensemble expectations, tuition, and materials list.



- * **Individual/small lessons:** will be arranged and scheduled within the first two weeks of class
- * **Beginning Violin Masterclass A (5K & 1st Grade):** Wednesday - 3pm to 3:30pm
- * **Beginning Violin Masterclass B (2nd through 4rd Grades):** Monday - 3:15 to 3:45pm
- * **Beginning Cello Masterclass (5K through 4rd Grades):** Thursday -- 3:15 to 3:45pm
- * **Concert:** beginning students will perform in our Elementary Spring Concert (May of 2020)

Along with an exciting group masterclass each week, each participant will receive a 30min small lesson, scheduled on an individual basis. Meeting both as a group and individually each week allows for student-specific musical challenges, respect for peers, and individual confidence.

There is no experience required to participate in Beginning Strings program! If there are concerns or further questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

I look forward to meeting and working with you and your child this academic year!

Warmly,

Tony Perez

tperez@strobert.org

(414) 517-6261

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About Me...

I graduated from Brigham Young University (BYU) in 2009 with a degree in Music Education. While in my native Venezuela, I studied violin at the Academia Latinoamericana de Violin with Jose Francisco del Castillo and Sergio Celis. I was a member of "Jovenes Arcos de Venezuela", a chamber orchestra which specialized in music of the Baroque and Classical periods, as well as several other pre-professional and professional symphony orchestras from the Caracas area. I also served as a violin teacher and orchestra instructor for the highly successful and renowned 'Venezuelan System of Youth Symphony Orchestras' (also known as El Sistema) in several of its Caracas branches. I also worked for Carroll University's 'El Sistema' inspired orchestral program for elementary school children at the Hadfield Elementary (Waukesha School District), from 2011 to 2013. This program, which was funded by Carroll University and local citizens, offered private instrumental lessons as well as string ensemble instruction to children from the Waukesha area. In May of 2012, I earned a Master's Degree in Chamber Music Performance (Violin) from UW-Milwaukee, studying with Dr. Bernard Zinck. I'm also the founder and concertmaster of the *Camerata Milwaukee* Baroque Ensemble. More information about this ensemble can be found at www.CamerataMilwaukee.com. I have a passion for music and for teaching and look forward to sharing the joy of music with your child!

Program Opportunities

By learning music through performance and practice, students develop self-discipline, respect, creative thinking, teamwork, self-confidence, and a sense of community. The valuable skills acquired through musical instruction allow our students to develop into aspiring musicians and more importantly, unique individuals. The String Program currently consists of the following opportunities:

Individual/Small Lessons:

These lessons allow the student and teacher to focus on a more personal and individual basis. During this half-hour lesson, the student and teacher will review group material as needed, study precise technique, develop a beautiful tone, and hone musical ideas through a series of solos, duets, and exercises. Each week the student aims to meet the goals set in the lesson, and keeps a journal log of material to practice, how to practice, and a checklist to record daily practice.

- If your child is in the 5K to 5th grade range and is currently (or has been) enrolled with an outside teacher or strings program, please contact Mr. Perez before enrolling to make a proper transition.
- If you enroll at the St. Robert strings program as a beginner, please know that you ***should not*** enroll with an outside teacher simultaneously. This guideline applies during the school year and during the summertime.

Group Masterclass:

Violins and Cellos will hold a separate weekly masterclass right after school. During this weekly meeting, students learn the fundamentals of ensemble playing in an edifying learning environment. Principles of written and aural theory, music history, basic technique, and musical genres are taught through group activities and exercises. Students will have the opportunity to perform during masterclass at least once per month, demanding a respectful audience and allowing for unique opportunities to perform in front of their peers.

Junior String Ensemble:

This group is open to students in 4th & 5th grade (sometimes 3rd grade), who have demonstrated an exceptionally high level of commitment and mastery. They will meet with Mr. Perez once per week on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 3:45pm, for a separate masterclass/ensemble rehearsal. Each "Junior" student will still receive a weekly private lesson. They participate at the Christmas and the Instrumental Concert at the end of the year.

Middle School String Ensembles:

The St. Robert Middle School String Ensembles are open to students in grades 6 through 8 who have been playing for at least three years; however, younger students who meet the screening standards for the ensemble may participate (contact Mr. Perez). These ensembles are designed for the intermediate/advanced student; the ensembles present challenging repertoire, dive further into the study of music history and theory, and continue to refine the student's ensemble skills. Playing and performing in a string ensemble provides a creative and stimulating experience that will nurture musical gifts while developing a sense of discipline, teamwork, and self-confidence. These groups study a wide variety of genres throughout the year. Our middle school string ensembles meet two times each week during the school day, and perform in several concerts, Masses, and some other special venues each year. Participation in the ensembles fulfill the music curriculum requirement for grades 6 through 8.

Tuition

Payment for participation in the strings program will be billed through TADS Tuition. The tuition rates for the St. Robert String Program for the 2019-2020 school year, are as follows:

Beginning/Junior Strings: \$1,000 per school year

This includes weekly individual and group lessons for the entire year, recitals, and school concerts.

Middle School String Ensembles: \$750 per school year (6th, 7th, and 8th Grades)

This does not include individual lessons, which would be also available for an additional fee.

*** Participating in the St. Robert string program requires a universal, one-time \$25 materials fee.*

Obtaining an Instrument



Renting:

Renting an instrument from a local music store is very common. The store will measure the student and will fit him/her to the appropriate size instrument. This is typically a monthly rental agreement.

***** I highly recommend Korinthian for violins, and Brass Bell for cellos *****

Below are a few local music stores that rent string instruments:

- **Korinthian Violins:** 2900 S. Delaware Ave.; (414) 744-1350; www.korinthianviolins.com

- **Brass Bell:** 210 W. Silver Spring Dr.; (414) 963-1000; www.brassbellmusic.com

- **White House of Music:** Various Locations: (414) 607-3900; www.whitehouseofmusic.com

Borrowing: your child may have the opportunity to borrow from a relative or family friend. This is definitely acceptable, as long as the size of the instrument is appropriate for the student and the instrument is in playable condition. Please, talk to me personally if this is your case.

Purchasing: buying an instrument is a great investment if the student has reached a full-size instrument and plans to continue learning music. There are many great student instrument deals out there, but please seek advice from Mr. Perez before purchasing any instrument outfit to make sure you are receiving the best possible instrument for your money.

Things you need: I will provide necessary music, folders, and pencils for use in group and individual lessons. Each student is required to have the following materials *by the first lesson*. Bring each item to class unless specified otherwise.

- 1) Instrument and bow. If you rent a violin, then also get a “blue shoulder rest”, preferably from Korinthian violins store, since they have the better shaped ones.
- 2) Suzuki Book 1, for either violin or cello
- 3) Music Stand (for home practicing, so you may purchase it on your own time)
- 4) Rosin
- 5) Cleaning Cloth: an old dish towel works well; there is no need to buy a special cloth
- 6) Make sure you keep your child’s left hand fingernails well trimmed. Always!



Frequently Asked Questions

What will be expected of my child?

Dedication, good spirit, and a strong effort to contribute and improve are three expectations of both individual lessons and the ensemble. Consistent attendance and dedication will prove a strong learning curve throughout the semester. Music is an invaluable curriculum, and with a positive attitude, patience, and practice, the student will receive a stronger sense of reward in return.

How long is my child expected to practice?

In our group and individual lessons, I will emphasize the quality of practice, not a time quantity. By using a notebook that the student brings to every lesson, the student will not only be writing down what to practice, but also *how* to practice. I expect students to practice *a minimum* of four days a week, for about 15min each time, record what they practiced in their notebook, and return to their lesson with a parent signature. Practicing is a skill developed over time, and with a collaborative and positive effort, your child will learn how to balance and be responsible for their own work.

What instruments are offered?

This year, we are offering violin, viola, and cello. If beginner students are interested in viola, I recommend starting on violin and making an easy transition to viola when foundational technique is in place after about two years.

“The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul”
~ Johann Sebastian Bach ~

**St. Robert School
Beginning & Junior Strings
Enrollment Form
2019 - 2020**



I, _____ (parent), would like to enroll _____ (student) in the St. Robert School Strings Program for the 2019 - 2020 academic year.

This program includes one group lesson (master class) and one individual lesson per week, both thirty minutes in length. Group lessons will be held right after school: Intermediate violins on Mondays, Junior Ensemble on Tuesdays, beginner violins on Wednesday, and beginner cellos on Thursdays. Individual lessons will be scheduled on an individual basis, according to the student's availability, usually during recess/lunch periods. Participation for a full academic year in the program includes a \$1,000 fee per student, payable through your TADS tuition account.

As you know, the program has grown significantly since it began six years ago. Given the current numbers, availability is limited so we recommend that you return this form as soon as possible!

Students entering the **5K to 2nd grade range** will be given priority and are **strongly encouraged** to join; however, everyone is welcome to enroll!

Feel free to contact Mr. Perez (Tperez@strobert.school) for more information about the program.

***** Please return this form to the school office by Friday May 31st *****

1) Instrument of choice (circle one): VIOLIN --- CELLO

2) My child *will* be in: _____ GRADE

3) This is a (circle one): NEW or RETURNING student

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parent's Email Address: _____