

Hey there, string parents. Our first week is complete!

This week we **began our review** of content from last year, with a heavy focus on **healthy and relaxed technique**. We'll conclude our review this coming week. Returning students are eager to move into new content, yet review of the basics is vital to a musician's growth. It sustains our **strong foundation** which will allow us to learn advanced technique with greater ease. Our review is also progressing ahead of schedule! It is a blessing to have students who display such focus and dedication.

We have **new students** joining us at two schools. They are keeping up well thus far. Next week, they may begin to feel overwhelmed as they learn technique and notes all at once. But have no fear, they will have **ample time** to master what they learn, and they will have **mentors in class** to help them catch up. **Complete your video assignments, establish a strong practice routine**, and **you'll do well**.

❖ As I write this, I am watching the first round of surfing at the summer Olympics in Tahiti. I can't help but draw parallels to class.

Three competitors are treading water, awaiting the clock to start and the first wave to arrive. They no doubt feel a deluge of emotions: excited, anxious, giddy, focused.

Ethan Ewing from Australia hops on the first wave, taking the lead! He disappears from view, then zooms out of the barrel and scores high. Several of my students are likewise chomping at the bit, asking to test for belts! They've been preparing and are eager to show their results.

Tim Elter from Germany catches the next wave, and it swallows him! But he bobs up on the other side. Our new musicians will soon feel like this, surprised by the strength of the waves. They too will stumble, and they too shall come out the other side ready to catch the next wave.

Most students have instruments! This is encouraging to see. If you'll be renting from a store, please get an instrument as soon as possible. If you'll be requesting a district instrument, make sure I have that **paperwork by Tuesday's class**. Orchestra staff will be meeting Wednesday evening to assign instruments, and I'll confirm if we have an instrument available on Thursday.

The year is off to a great start! See you Monday.



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**Chaparral Elementary, Gateway Pointe Elementary,
& Higley Traditional Academy
HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #60**

"Preparing Learners for Limitless Opportunities"