Good morning, string parents,

Our first performance is coming up in a couple weeks! Check the class website (https://www.string-samurai.com/upcoming-events) for the date & schedule.

This event will be part open house and part concert. The goal is to make you feel like part of the orchestra as you discover what we do in class.

When you arrive, you'll notice that there is no audience seating … you'll be sitting within the ensemble! What's more, students will be teaching and preparing a parent or other older family member to perform a song on the student's instrument. (They should schedule some time with you if they haven't already.)

If able, please bring a music stand from home. Cellists and bassists, make sure to bring a rock stop.

It will be informal dress, for performers and audience alike – just make sure to follow the district dress code*. **The concert is outside of the school day, so HTA students aren't required to wear uniform (though you can if you'd like). You can find the district dress code at https://go.boarddocs.com/az/husdaz/Board.nsf/Public# - click "Policies" and then search for "JICA-R".*

There will be ice cream served after the concert. All are welcome. I recommend students have dinner or a snack beforehand.

I'm excited for the kids to share with you what they've learned!

The quarter so far

Here's what we've been learning in class!

- Posture
- Using our left hand to change pitch
- Playing pizzicato and arco (plucking & bowing)
- Instrument care
- Reading rhythms & notes
- Playing simple tunes

I'm proud how quickly the students are progressing.

ParentSquare

The district has switched to a new communications platform this year.

I am excited to get started with ParentSquare, as it seems like it will be more consistent and easier to use than previous software. (Messages sent via Synergy/ParentVue/StudentVue tend to disappear into the æther, never arriving in the recipient's mailbox.) ParentSquare will also allow me to set up groups for communication across schools, which will be handy for groups like honors orchestra.

Parents can receive and respond to messages via Parentsquare even if they don't set up an account. Once you do set up an account, you have great customization available – such as choosing whether to

receive messages instantly whenever a teacher/school/district sends one, or whether to hold them back and group them into "digests". You can also choose whether to receive them via email or text message.

To get ahold of me, you can send a message via Parentsquare (it will email me to let me know), or you can send an email directly. Either method's fine. I don't have a planning period, so I check email as I can on mornings, nights, and weekends. I often skim through the list, so if you don't hear back from me within two days, I've probably missed it ... just send me a follow up message (you can even use a /bump like on ye olde message board forums).

Yours in partnership,

Steven Lambert
Orchestra Director
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Chaparral Elementary, Gateway Pointe Elementary,
& Higley Traditional Academy
HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #60

"Preparing Learners for Limitless Opportunities"