

Good morning, string parents. Welcome to orchestra!

Here is some information to start the year with.

Materials

- Classes will begin Monday. The class schedule is available [here](#).
- Check out the [Orchestra FAQ page](#) for ideas on where to get an instrument.
 - Our first day with instruments will be Tuesday.
 - If you haven't decided on an instrument yet, that's okay. We'll review instruments in class on Monday. Please get an instrument as soon as possible after deciding.
 - District instruments will not become available until the second or third week of school, unfortunately.
 - Students without an instrument should still come to class – we'll have lots of information to go over, and students can participate with “air” violin/viola/cello/bass in the meantime.
- Please be wary of online instruments:
 - Please do NOT buy an instrument from an online website like Ebay or Amazon. These websites neglect to mention that instruments are delivered incomplete – once you get the instrument, you will need to take it to a local luthier to get the bridge and nut fitted. Typically, these instruments also come with accessories intended for display only - bows, pegs, strings, and tailpieces that must be replaced with the real deal. Altogether, that \$50 violin may cost you another \$250+ before it's playable ... and even then, it might sound terrible. Many students who buy an instrument online get frustrated and quit before their second year.
- The class supply list can be found [here](#).

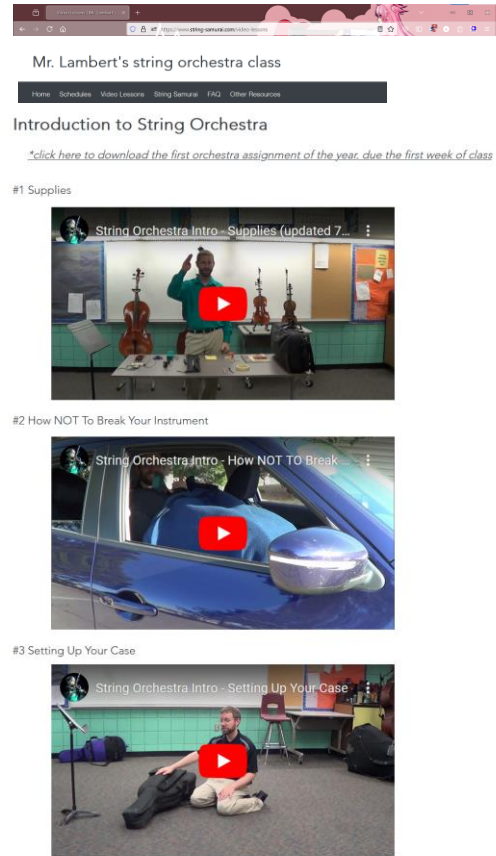
For sixth-graders

- Class supplies are the same as last year with the addition of a book: sixth-graders will need their own copy of Essential Elements for Strings, book 1. Make sure to get a modern edition; any edition from 2000 or later is compatible, but the older red-cover edition won't work. See pictures below. You can buy these through a music store, and they're also available at the following Amazon links.



For new students

- The first homework of the year will be due Thursday. It will be to watch three introductory videos. Go to the [Video Lessons](#) page of the class website to see them. Any student who wants to work ahead and complete this assignment early can turn it in on the first day of school for extra credit.
- If you'd like to get a head start playing your instrument, I encourage you to continue into the next set of videos. These will be homework over the next couple of weeks, but you're always welcome to work ahead. Make sure to select the videos that match your instrument :-)



For fifth-graders

- Here are potential dates to pencil into calendars for our first evening performance. The paperwork hasn't been processed at every school yet; I'll let you know when the dates become official (or if they change).
 - Gateway Pointe Elementary Tuesday, October 15
 - Chaparral Elementary Wednesday, October 16
 - Higley Traditional Academy Thursday, October 17

I look forward to sharing this year's musical journey with you!

Steven Lambert

Orchestra Director

Chaparral, Gateway Pointe, and Higley Traditional Academy

Higley Unified School District

[Mr. Lambert's class website](#)