

Dear string parents,

July 20, 2023

Welcome to String Orchestra class!

Schedule

Classes meet each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday during the specials block.

Gateway Pointe

8:15-9:00 6th grade strings

9:10-9:55 5th grade strings

Chaparral

10:35-11:20 5th grade strings

11:25-12:10 6th grade strings

Higley Traditional Academy

1:30-2:15 5th grade strings

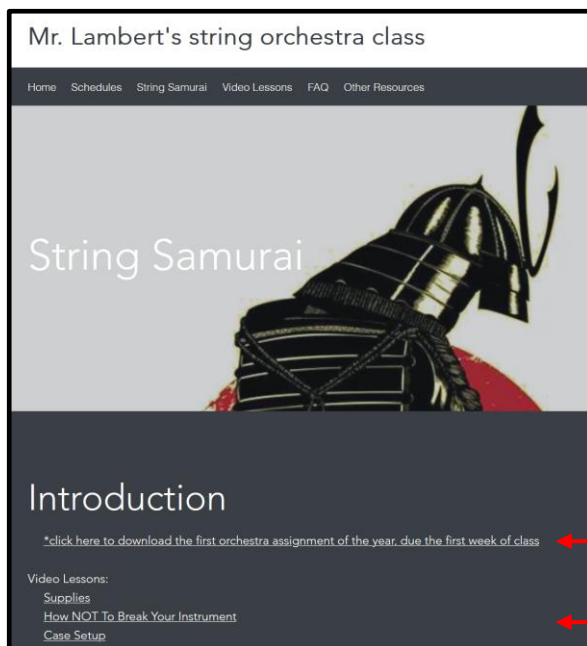
2:20-3:05 6th grade strings

I will be working on instruments at Gateway Pointe Elementary tonight. If you're there for Meet the Teacher, feel free to stop by! If you're at Chaparral or HTA, I won't see you tonight, but you can always reach me by email.

1st-year and transfer students: our first assignment

Can't wait to get started? If it's your first year in my class, our first homework assignment will be to watch a 3-part video series that goes over everything you need to know before you get started. Anyone who watches the videos and turns in the worksheet by Tuesday will start the year with **extra credit!** Returning students need not watch the videos again, though if you've switched instruments, they may be a good refresher :-)

I'll pass out the worksheet for the first videos in class on Monday; eager beavers may also download a copy on the class website at <https://www.string-samurai.com/string-samurai> . If you'd like to get a head start on playing your instrument, you're welcome to look ahead and watch the other videos, too.



Finger tape update

I'll be working through the weekend to set up instruments and apply finger tapes. I'm on track to finish by Monday, and I'll email you an update once your instrument is ready. If you haven't yet obtained an instrument, then once you do, I'll ask your student to leave their instrument at school at some point during the first couple weeks.

Instruments and Class Supplies

Students will not need instruments on the first day of school. We will begin using instruments on Tuesday, July 25th. If you do not yet have one by then, that's fine – you may even be waiting to decide what you'll play until classes begin. No worries! Just get one as soon as you can.

Local music stores include Andrew's Fine Violins, Milano Music, and Music & Arts, and they all offer fine instruments; I don't have a preference for any store in particular. Make sure to pick up class supplies while you're there – you can find a list for each instrument on the class website at <https://www.string-samurai.com/supply-list>.

District instruments will be assigned on Thursday evening, August 3rd. If you've requested one, I'll give you an update then. If you'd like to request one, make sure you ask me for the paperwork.

Sixth graders will need a copy of "Essential Elements for Strings, book 1". Each instrument has its own version, so make sure to get the right one! If you prefer to order online, make sure to get a modern edition. Amazon seems to be pushing old editions right now, and some of the descriptions don't match the cover art they display, so I'm not sure which book would actually arrive in the mail. Any edition from 2000 or later is compatible, but the older red-cover edition wouldn't work. I'll put pictures below along with links to Shar Music.

					
violin	viola	cello	bass	nope!	<i>old but okay</i> <i>(can you spot the difference?)</i>

ISO alert (Instrument Shaped Object)

Please do not purchase an instrument online! String instruments almost always come unfinished from the original luthier, but websites often neglect to mention this. Various components need to be adjusted to fit the local climate, and online purchases typically require several hundred dollars of additional work at a local luthier before they're ready. What's worse, even after having the instrument adjusted, it may have an unpleasant tone. Most kids who receive such an instrument quit out of frustration in their first year. Please, if you're in financial need and are considering an online instrument, consider applying for a scholarship for a district instrument instead. You'll be much happier for it!

I'm looking forward to a great school year! I'll see your kids on Monday,

Mr. Steven Lambert

Orchestra Director

Chaparral, Gateway Pointe, and Higley Traditional Academy

Higley Unified School District

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