

# SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

September 2017

Dear Elementary Orchestra Parents,

I would like to welcome you to another exciting year of music making. My name is Robert Anderson , and I am the instrumental (Orchestra) teacher for Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary Schools. This will be my fifth year in Summit and I am very excited to start another year. As some of you may know I am currently in a summer graduate program at Ithaca College, and I have so many new ideas I can't wait to try this year! I am enthusiastic about working with your young musicians and continuing the tradition of excellence established here in the Summit School District. I have listed below some pertinent information regarding the orchestra program.

Enclosed with this letter is a school rental form. Please return it with a check payable to the Summit Board of Education , as soon as possible. (Instrument availability is limited). The rental fee for the year is: \$60.00. It is recommended that students studying bass privately rent an instrument for home practice to avoid complications related to transportation of the bass (although these can sometimes be provided). Smaller violin, viola, and cello sizes are also limited in availability; private rental is encouraged, if possible. Please contact me for more details. Any student who participated in the FLASH program this past summer may continue to use their instrument from FLASH and simply return the rental form and fee at the beginning of the school year.

In our lesson groups we will be using the “ New Directions for Strings ” Book 1 for both the 4th and 5th grades. These lesson books, as well as other music supplies, are available at local music stores such as Music and Arts in Milburn, Liss Pharmacy in Summit. Elefante Music in New Providence, or online at [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com) .

Practicing is essential for the success on any musical instrument. Please encourage your son or daughter to practice on a consistent basis and to bring their instrument home on the days that they are not needed in school. The recommended practice time at the elementary level is 20-30 minutes, 5-7 days per week (100-210 min/week) . This should be treated just like nightly homework, and will ensure the success of your child's instrumental study. Please have your child log each day's practice time and sign their practice form before the next lesson. This will help your child keep track of their progress and practice times, as well as keep your family involved in your child's learning. To encourage practicing, I will be implementing a few new ideas this year. Briefly, these will include student created songs, instructional videos, parent participation (if you're brave), and a “Practice Toolkit” students will be expected to use and reflect on weekly . Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students, please contact me if you would like information on local private teachers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone ext. 6485 or by email [randerson@summit.k12.nj.us](mailto:randerson@summit.k12.nj.us) . I will be creating email groups for each school and grade, and you should hear from me weekly. If lessons have started any you've yet to see a message from me there is a good chance I may have copied your email incorrectly, please reach out to me so that I can add you, I very much want an open line of communication with all of you. I look forward to spending this year with your children and either beginning or continuing their musical endeavors.

Musically yours,

Robert Anderson  
Elementary Orchestra  
Washington, Jefferson, & Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary Schools

See Reverse →

**Additional Supplies Needed:**

**ALL ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS:**

1. Folder (oversized for music if possible)
2. Pencil
3. Cleaning Cloth (can be any piece of soft cloth)
4. Rosin (instrument specific: Violin/Viola, Cello, or Bass)
5. Music Stand (for use at home)

**A. VIOLIN:**

1. Lesson Book "*New Directions for Strings - Violin Book 1*"
2. Chinrest Pad (Kinder Chinder: Sizes Large, Med., Sm., depending on instrument size) and/or Shoulder Rest (Kun: Sizes 1/4-3/4 or 3/4-4/4, depending on instrument size)

**B. VIOLA:**

1. Lesson Book "*New Directions for Strings - Viola Book 1*"
2. Chinrest Pad (Kinder Chinder: Sizes Large, Med., Sm., depending on instrument size) and/or Shoulder Rest (Kun: Sizes 12", 13", 14", depending on instrument size)

**C. CELLO:**

1. Lesson Book "*New Directions for Strings - Cello Book 1*"
2. Endpin Stop/Anchor (Sure Stop Cello Endpin Stop)

**D. BASS:**

1. Lesson Book "*New Directions for Strings - Double Bass A Position Book 1*"
2. Endpin Stop (Sure Stop Bass Endpin Stop)