

The Catholic Schools' Collaborative String Program

Come play with us!



The ***Catholic School String Program*** will begin its ninth year this September! Your child **(grades 2-8)** can learn to play a string instrument by participating in a weekly, in-school small group lesson during the school day **and** will also be eligible to join one of the New Bedford Youth Symphony Groups that meet on Saturdays at UMass Dartmouth. These groups are made up of students from the entire South Coast area! Please contact me for more information if you are interested.

- In school small group lessons are \$15.00 per week.
- Students who are studying are eligible to join the NBSYO groups which meet Saturdays at UMass Dartmouth. These groups perform additional concerts!
- Payments must be by check, money order, or bank check, and may be monthly (\$60.00) or by semester (\$260.00 discounted).
- Instruments can be rented at the Symphony Shop on Rt 6 in Dartmouth (508 906-3301).
- Students perform a minimum of two concerts each year.
- Participating students attend any NBSYO concert free at the Zeiterion Theater!
- To sign up for lessons, fill out page 2 of this notice and return to school by September 6th with lesson payment. Email Bonnie Harlow to let her know you are signing up!:
Classiquechambermusic@comcast.net C 781 254-8525 H 781 753-6733
- Lessons start the week of Sept 10th in school for registered students.

String Instrument Lesson Sign Up

I would like to sign up my child for lessons on (check one instrument)

Violin _____ Viola _____ Cello _____ Years played _____

Child's name _____

List any allergies _____

Name of school _____

Grade _____ Other instruments studied _____

Mother's name _____

Home address _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Father's name _____

Home address _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

I agree to pay for *weekly in school lessons*: (please check one option)

_____ Monthly

(\$60.00* due on the 10th of each month Sept-May – includes small billing fee)

**Checks should be made payable to Bonnie Harlow

_____ Semester

(\$260.00* due by Sept 10, 2018 & by Jan 10, 2019- includes small discount)

**Checks should be made payable to Bonnie Harlow

Signature of Responsible Party _____ **Date** _____

“Developing skills that will transcend beyond music and childhood.”

I am greatly honored to offer your children an opportunity to learn an instrument with the support of your school. The excitement when a child works so hard and then finally can perform a piece they love is worth all the effort. Practicing an instrument teaches time management, delayed gratification and a sense of accomplishment. Whether your child continues to study music into adulthood or not, I believe that their experiences here will have a profound effect.

Expectations

Music is not just a once or twice a week event. I strongly suggest that everyone, (especially beginning students!) take the very low cost New Bedford Symphone Youth Orchestra emsembles on Saturday, if at all possible, as well as the in school small group lesson, because it is so important to get positions correct right at the beginning. It also allows me and the Youth ensemble conductors to help a student with potential problems playing, which can get very frustrating if they are not addressed for a whole week. Daily practice is encouraged! ***I would like beginning students to practice fifteen minutes a day.*** I also recommend that children try playing with friends in the neighborhood as well as with parents (who may not have played since their childhood!) It is much more important that children practice daily than how long they practice. Ask your child to show you what they have learned each week. Perhaps consider taking a lesson from your child! Set up little concerts often for family and friends and give lots of encouragement! Your involvement is so important!

Performances

Each school has at least one performance per semester. Though not mandatory, performance is the culmination of all of the students' labors. Children develop a deep sense of satisfaction when they play on stage and hear the applause.

New Bedford Symphony

All children who participate in the strings program are allowed to attend the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra for free with a paying adult. I love to see students in the audience! Sometimes, a professional event is just what is needed to really inspire a child's love of music!

Benchmarks

1. Be able to demonstrate correct posture and positioning.
2. Learn to read music within their instrument's range.
3. Listen to and appreciate various types of music.
4. Maintain proper etiquette between peers and instructors.

The Instrument

All students are expected to bring their instruments, music, folding music stand and a pencil to every class. I am not always able to offer substitute instruments. Due to the expensive nature of a string instrument, I do not allow sharing either.

You are obligated to obtain your child's own instrument. A very reliable place is the Symphony Shop in Dartmouth, on Rt 6 opposite Bishop Stang High School. Their phone number is (508) 996-3301. They offer the opportunity to rent or to buy. I would recommend starting out with a rental for many reasons. This is a

personal decision which we would recommend discussing with them or with me. You may find good used instruments among older students who are progressing to a larger size.

Why learn to play an instrument?

When performing, a person must be able to read and interpret symbols. They must be able to count and calculate mathematically. Students will learn to interpret and memorize passages. They learn to see relationships between various intervals, scales and chords. They must develop good posture and strong hand eye coordination. A student must be able to follow directions from the conductor and work as a team. The student will learn to express themselves emotionally through the music. They will learn to balance their time and work towards a goal. Studies have shown that students who play instruments perform better academically than those who have no musical background. The social, physical and academic skills will build self esteem and improve your child's ability to succeed in all aspects of life.

Getting Started

The lessons Ensemble groups will follow the school calendar. Students will generally participate weekly in a small group lesson and a Saturday NBSYO group (optional, but recommended) We ask that you inform the teacher of any expected absences.

Your Instructor

Bonnie Harlow classiquechambermusic@comcast.net : Bonnie is an alumna of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She teaches cello privately and also plays in the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra. Bonnie has extensive experience teaching strings in school settings, and has implemented string programs in several school districts including Scituate and Mansfield. She has been an adjudicator for the SEMSBA, District and All State Festivals, and has conducted the Jr Semsba orchestra. She is currently on the faculty at UMass Dartmouth and has been on the faculty at Bridgewater State College, and is one of the sectional coaches and assists with conducting the New Bedford Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has played under the renowned batons of Maestros Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, Mstislav Rostropovich, Arthur Fiedler, John Williams and many other illustrious conductors.

Financial matters

For the in school small group lessons, you may choose to pay monthly: \$60.00 due on the 10th of each month Sept-May. A small monthly billing fee is included in this amount.

Checks should be made payable to Bonnie Harlow and should be mailed to:

Bonnie Harlow

61 Cedar Street

Plympton, Ma. 02367

For the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra groups, please contact me for schedule, fees and sign up information. Anyone studying with me is eligible to join!

Students should plan to play the instrument they have chosen for the school year. Please call me and talk to me if something is bothering your child and they are not playing or practicing, or if they are having a difficult time with something. If there is any other problem due to a change in circumstance, please call me to discuss.

I have included an expected number of absences within a semester. No money will be refunded for missed lessons, or for lessons for which your child has forgotten his or her instrument.

Accessories (all available at the Symphony Shop)

Students should purchase a folding music stand (\$20.00) and a lesson book (\$10.99 plus tax). Violins and violas will also require a shoulder rest (\$20 plus tax) or a sponge shoulder rest. (\$5.00 plus tax) Cases are durable, but instruments must be treated with great care. Because so many cases look alike, please put a name tag (available at the Symphony Shop \$2.50 plus tax) on your child's case to avoid confusing it with someone else's case. Instruments should be kept in a safe spot at home and not in direct sun, not next to a heater, and not in a room with no heat. During hot and cold times, instruments should not be left in the car for any longer than you are in the car. Instruments react very badly to extreme temperatures, and can crack the wood of the instrument..

The Symphony Shop in Dartmouth on Rt 6 carries instruments, music books, stands, and all the accessories needed. Rental prices: Violins and violas are \$19 per month, and cellos are \$36 per month. This includes a repair fee as well as the rental.

I recommend renting so that students can trade up in size as they grow and end up owning a full size instrument. You should purchase a book to get started: Essential Elements Book I for your child's instrument, a folding stand, and a shoulder rest for violins and violas, prior to the first lesson.

I am so excited to get started and to meet all the new students and to make music!!!!

Sincerely, "Miss Bonnie"

Bonnie Harlow cell 781 254-8525 home 781 753-6733 classiquechambermusic@comcast.net