

2022 Fall Virginia Run Strings News

- Beginners have learned to pluck the notes D, E, F#, G and A. Using these notes they are learning familiar songs like Mary Had a Little Lamb and Hot Cross Buns. They are also bowing their open D and A strings.
- Intermediate and Advanced students have been excelling in bettering their note reading skills, and learning to play together as an ensemble.

At-Home Practice is Essential to Success!

It is important that students are practicing the skills taught in class at home. Learning to play a string instrument takes strengthening of muscles. It is recommended that at first students practice frequent, shorter sessions instead of longer practice times to build their muscle strength and stamina.

Suggested guidelines for practice:

1st year students- 60 minutes total per week (six 10-minute sessions)

2nd plus year students- 120 minutes total per week (six 20-minute sessions)

Ideas to encourage and promote at-home practice:

- Some students enjoy recording their practice times. A practice record can be found on the inside cover of the Essential Elements Book.
- Each student has access to the soundtracks that accompany the Essential Elements book. Use this website to access soundtracks: www.myeelibrary.com. Students have their own access code which is found on page one of their book.
- Ask your student to play a concert for you!
- Ask your student to teach **YOU** what they are learning. Teaching someone else is a great way to reinforce their skills!



CONCERTS:

- Our Spring concert will be at the end of the school year and all Strings students are required to attend. It will be on **Tuesday, June 6th at 7:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar now! You will be amazed at how they all sound together in one big orchestra!
- "Holiday in the Halls" will be on **Wednesday, December 14th. This is only for 2nd and 3rd year players** (No beginners/1st year players are involved in this). The intermediate and advanced Strings students will play some classical and holiday tunes in the foyer in the morning as students are arriving to school! More information will be sent home as the date approaches.