

ELEMENTARY STRINGS HANDBOOK — 2023-24 SEASON

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CYSA MISSION

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association (CYSA) is a non-profit dedicated to providing young people with opportunities for exceptional musical experiences, enhancing school music programs, and developing an awareness and appreciation of great music in the community and for our students.

CYSA is committed to being a welcoming and safe community for young musicians and their families of all cultures, races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and circumstances.

CYSA CONCERT CALENDAR

Corvallis Youth Symphony (CYS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 10 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Cabaret Concert and Dance	Saturday, March 2 7:30 PM – Concert 9:00 PM – Dance	Ashbrook Independent School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 28 4:00 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Willamette Valley Junior Honors Symphony (JHS)

Winter Concert	Sunday, December 10 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center
Mid-Season Concert	Saturday, February 10 4:00 PM	Crescent Valley High School
Spring Concert	Sunday, April 28 2:30 PM	LaSells Stewart Center

Elementary Strings (ES)

Winter Concert	Saturday, January 6 Level 1: 2:00-2:30 PM Level 2: 3:00-3:30 PM	Corvallis High School
Spring Concert	Saturday, June 1 Level 1: 2:00-2:30 PM Level 2/Encore!: 3:00-3:45 PM	Crescent Valley High School

ELEMENTARY STRINGS CALENDAR

Elementary Strings (ES) follows the Corvallis School District calendar and closures, including holidays and inclement weather days.

September

26 Tues ES Kick-Off Corvallis High School

October

11 Wed ES Classes Start Various Elementary Schools

November

01-03, W-F No ES Conferences
 10 Fri No ES Veterans Day
 22-24, W-F No ES Thanksgiving Break

December

01 Fri No ES Non-School Day
 Dec 18-Jan 01 No ES Winter Break

January

02 Tues ES Classes Restart Various Elementary Schools
 05 F 5:30-7:45pm ES Dress Rehearsals Corvallis High School
 06 Sa 2:00-4:00pm ES Winter Concerts Corvallis High School
 15 Mon No ES MLK Jr. Day

February

01-02, Th-F No ES Non-School Days
 19 M No ES President's Day

March

15 F No ES Non-School Day
 25-29, M-F No ES Spring Break

April

03 W, 6:15-7:30pm *Encore! First Rehearsal* Crescent Valley High School
 17-19, W-F No ES Conferences

May

27 M No ES Memorial Day
 31 F 5:30-8:00pm ES/Encore! Dress Rehearsals Crescent Valley High School

June

01 Sa 2:00-4:00pm ES/Encore! Concerts Crescent Valley High School

ELEMENTARY STRINGS (ES) CLASS SCHEDULE 2023-2024

Please choose one class to be your “home” class.

You are welcome to register for any class that works for your schedule.

Level 1 Classes – *For New Students*

School	Classroom	Days	Time	Teacher
Adams	Music Room	Mon & Wed	7:10 am – 7:55 am	Bettine Zimmermann
Franklin	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	2:35 pm – 3:20 pm	Ella Jones
Garfield	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	2:35 pm – 3:20 pm	Anne Ridlington
Bessie Coleman	Music Room	Mon & Wed	7:10 am – 7:55 am	Viola Stark
Lincoln	Music Room	Mon & Wed	2:35 pm – 3:20 pm	Bettine Zimmermann

Level 2/2+ Classes – *For Returning Students*

School	Classroom	Days	Time	Teacher
Franklin	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Ella Jones
Garfield	Music Room	Mon & Wed	2:35 pm – 3:20 pm	Anne Ridlington
Bessie Coleman	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	7:10 am – 7:55 am	Viola Stark
Lincoln	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	2:35 pm – 3:20 pm	Bettine Zimmermann
Adams	Music Room	Tues & Thurs	7:10 am – 7:55 am	Bettine Zimmermann
Letitia Carson	Music Room	Tues & Fri	4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Bettine Zimmermann

*Mt. View level 1 & 2 and Letitia Carson level 1 classes are unavailable this year due to teacher shortage.
We apologize for the inconvenience!*

Class times/locations are tentative through the enrollment period and contingent upon achieving minimum enrollment of 5 students per class.

Classes are capped at approximately 20 students.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must be in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade to participate.
2. Each member must agree to abide by the Policies laid out in this Handbook.
3. Each member must register for an Elementary Strings class online in order to be admitted to class.
4. Each Elementary Strings member must sign a Release of Liability, included as part of online registration, before their first class.
5. Students may not register for a class if it is full. Student may opt to join a waitlist for a class that is full.

ELEMENTARY STRINGS TUITION

Elementary Strings tuition for the 2023-2024 school year is \$500.

Payment options:

Option 1: One payment of \$500

Option 2: Initial payment of \$63 followed by seven monthly, auto-debit payments of \$63.

The Full Payment or Initial Partial Payment can be made online when registering for Elementary Strings.

*Application for scholarships for families with **demonstrated financial need** can be completed when registering for Elementary Strings online. Families must qualify for the free/reduced lunch program to qualify for an Elementary Strings scholarship.*

COMMITMENT & REFUND POLICY

After you have paid 4 months' tuition (through January) you may drop out of ES by giving notice to the CYSA Office (cysassoc@peak.org) **by the 1st of the month in which you plan to quit.** If you provide notice later than the 1st, you will be charged tuition for that month. **No tuition refunds will be given for October-January.**

*(**Example:** You plan to quit after the January ES Concert. You must provide notice to the CYSA Office at cysassoc@peak.org no later than February 1, or you will also be charged for February tuition.)*

MUSIC BOOK REPLACEMENT

CYSA provides each student with a music book for class. If a student loses their Elementary Strings music book, there is a replacement fee of \$10 to get a new one from CYSA. Families can also order a new book online or buy one from a local music store. **Level 1 uses Essential Elements Vol. 1 and Level 2 uses Orchestral Expressions Vol. 2.**

PARENT PARTICIPATION & VOLUNTEERING

Elementary Strings parents/guardians may join their students' Strings class, learning alongside their student, for free! They must provide their own instrument and music book. All parents/guardians who wish to participate in their student's class, either by playing an instrument or simply helping the teacher, must complete the Corvallis School District volunteer application/background check (<https://www.csd509j.net/students-parents/volunteer/>) at least 3 weeks before participating in class, and email bettine.zimmermann.cysa@gmail.com for approval.

Volunteers are also needed to help with Elementary Strings concerts and events. Volunteer sign-ups will be shared by email prior to each event, and we greatly appreciate all parents/guardians who are able to sign up and help.

CONCERT DRESS EXPECTATIONS

- White tops (blouse or button-up shirt, *no spaghetti straps*)
- Black bottoms (black pants or long black skirt and black socks/stockings)
- Black shoes

Please do not buy anything for this concert! Wear the closest outfit you have to this dress code.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students must regularly attend their Elementary Strings class to be successful and make progress on their instrument and music. **If a student misses 8 or more classes in a concert set (October-January or February-May), the Elementary Strings teacher may recommend the student resign from the program and try again next year.** A refund for the remaining program portion will be given (following the [Commitment & Refund Policy](#)). If a student must miss class, inform the Elementary Strings teacher of their absence to receive any important practice assignments.

Students must be picked up **on time** at the conclusion of the Elementary Strings class. Elementary Strings teachers are not responsible for students who are picked up late from class. **If a student is not picked up on time 3 times throughout the year, they will be suspended from the ES program.**

CLASS CANCELLATION

CYSA follows the Corvallis School District's inclement weather policy. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, Elementary Strings classes will **NOT** meet that day.

If school is cancelled due to a holiday, conferences, emergency, or for any other reason, Elementary Strings classes will also *not* meet.

In the case of class cancellation due to an ES Teacher emergency: Families and the school will be alerted as soon as possible about any unforeseen class cancellations.

ES BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Elementary Strings (ES) classroom is a place for learning. All students have a right to learn and the teacher has a right to teach. If a student behaves inappropriately, other students cannot learn and the teacher cannot teach. Students are expected to respect others' rights and behave in a manner that (1) safeguards property from loss or damage, (2) protects everyone's health and safety, and (3) avoids serious disruption to the educational process.

In order to participate in the ES program, students must agree to:

- 1) Listen to the Elementary Strings Teacher, Assistant Teacher, or Substitute Teacher and follow their directions appropriately.
- 2) Respect ES Teachers and Assistants and other students in the classroom environment.
- 3) Come to class with materials ready to go before class begins, with assignments prepared.

Examples of disruption include but are not limited to: talking out of hand, misusing or mistreating your instrument or bow, arguing, playing without permission, threatening others, acting silly, touching others or their instruments, taking other people's property, forgetting your music/pencil/assignments.

All students are responsible for following the behavior expectations in order to have a peaceful, happy, and productive orchestra experience. To have a peaceful, happy, and productive classroom all students must be responsible for following the behavior expectations and for paying attention. Students that choose not to follow these expectations will be issued a warning. If a second warning is issued, a student and their parent/guardian may be asked to fill out a behavior contract.

If a student receives a third warning and/or the student violates the terms of their behavior contract, CYSA/Elementary Strings reserves the right to suspend the student from Elementary Strings participation, and a prorated refund will be issued to the student's family.

CYSA ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

CYSA is committed to providing an environment free of harassment and safe for all. Students, staff, and volunteers are expected to be respectful of one another in all regards. If ever concerns arise, please communicate your concerns to a senior staff member (Executive Director, Conductor, or Orchestra Manager) and/or board member.