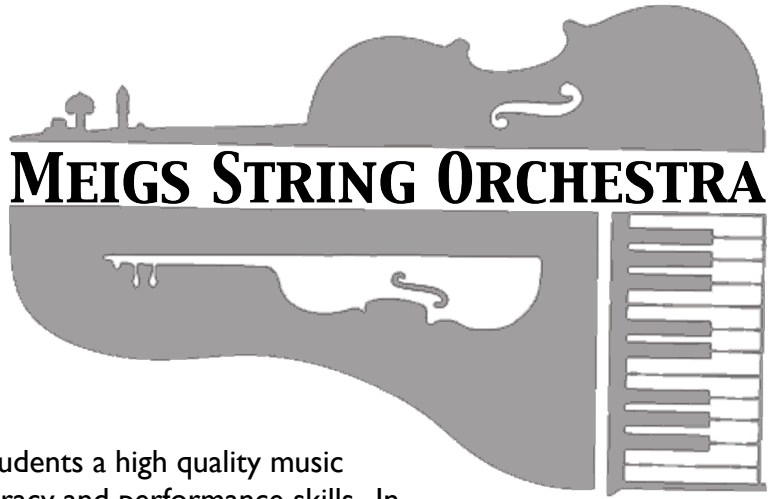


Welcome to Meigs!

I hope you are considering having your child join us in Strings! Students will learn to play **Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass** and no prior experience is required!

MEIGS STRING ORCHESTRA



The Meigs Strings program offers students a high quality music education with a focus on music literacy and performance skills. In addition to the joy of making music with peers, the program provides many enriching experiences to look forward to such as concerts, honors groups, solo/ensemble and field trips.

Our Advanced 7th and 8th Grade Orchestras travel for performances and regularly receive the highest ratings at regional Concert Festivals! Last year, students participated in a clinic at the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music and traveled to the Dollywood Theme Park!

What does the research say? Studies have proven that playing an instrument exercises the brain *in ways that no other activity does* and that the lifelong benefits reach far outside of the music classroom!

- ✿ Instrumental music students have higher academic performance than non-music students (*Young et al., 2014; Guhn et al., 2020; Elpus, 2022*)
- ✿ Students who are actively engaged in instrumental music classes have significantly higher standardized test scores in Math, Science, and English than students who are not involved in instrumental music (*Guhn et al., 2020*)
- ✿ Years of involvement in instrumental music is positively correlated with higher academic achievement (*Guhn et al., 2020*)
- ✿ Instrumental music students possess higher executive functioning skills than non-music students. These skills help them be successful academically, socially, and emotionally (*Guhn et al., 2020*)
- ✿ Instrumental music students are significantly more likely to major in a STEM field than non-music students (*Elpus, 2022*)

Students can benefit from playing music throughout their lives, despite their career choices! Many scientists, engineers, and medical professionals are instrumental musicians and continue to play simply for the joy it brings themselves and others.

How do I get started? The most important thing to do is to make sure you sign up for the Strings + Related Studies Rotation when you register for classes. You will receive more information on supplies when school starts.

The 5th Grade Strings class fills up quickly and often has a waiting list, so don't wait to sign up!

What if I've never played violin, viola, cello, or bass? Most 5th graders start as beginners! During the first week, students explore the different instruments in the Strings family and select an instrument based on their interests. Students are taught how to care for the instrument, how to hold it properly, and ultimately how to make beautiful music!

What if I already play Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass? Students with prior experience act as class leaders and help model correct technique as their peers catch up. There are also extra opportunities for experienced students such as the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students also have the option to change instruments with parent permission.

Where do students get instruments? *Do not let cost deter you from playing an instrument.* Most families rent their instrument from local music stores. These stores have a low monthly rental rate with the option to be applied towards a future purchase. Purchasing instruments is discouraged until the student grows to a full size. If you are interested purchasing an instrument, please consult Mrs. Funderburk first - she can help you get a quality instrument at a fair price. Meigs also has a limited number of instruments available for students in need of financial assistance. Mrs. Funderburk will do her best to make sure any student who really wants to learn to play an instrument has the opportunity to do so!

Are private lessons required? Lessons are never required, but are always encouraged! Students will receive individualized instruction whether it be refining skills or providing an extra challenge. Many music stores offer lessons in-house, some teachers will allow you to come to their home studio, or some teachers will even travel to you! Meigs also offers a limited number of lessons spots during the school day and after school.

What about sports, drama, etc? Many Meigs students participate in multiple activities in addition to being enrolled in music! Coaches and directors work around schedule conflicts.

What about the related studies rotation? The Meigs schedule allows 5th and 6th grade students to take Strings **and** the related studies options (drama, computer, PE, art)!

What is the time commitment outside of class? 5th Grade Strings students will have 2-3 required concerts after school during the year. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 10 minutes a day to review and reinforce the skills learned in class.

Please consider joining the long tradition of fine instrumental groups at Meigs. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions!

Sincerely,



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