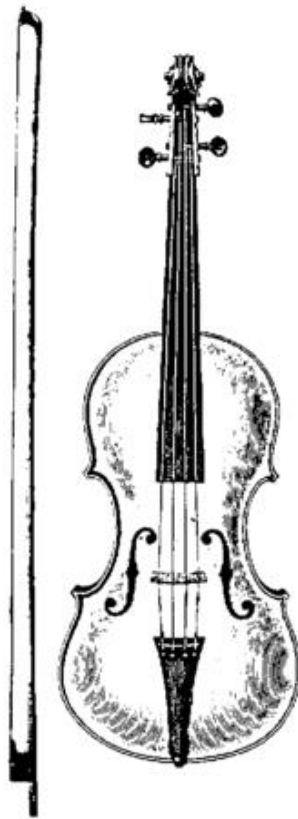


STRING ENSEMBLE

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

2022-2023



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The St. Francis after-school String Ensemble is intended for students in grades 1-6. The program offers programming for all ability levels, including beginning, intermediate, and advancing strings students. No previous experience is required to join!

Students in grades 1 & 2 begin with violin instruction. Beginning in third grade (or after one year of violin instruction), students may choose between violin and cello instruction.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays in the church from 3:15-4:30. Students will perform at some School masses and Sunday masses throughout the year. Other performances include school concerts, and the year end Strings Program recital.

CLASS SCHEDULE

3:15 Student arrival.

Students are escorted to church for snack (brought from home) and set-up.

3:30 Class instruction.

4:30 Student dismissal.

Parents pick-up students from the church or students are escorted to the ESP.

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Students must have an instrument on the first day of class. Families are responsible for renting or purchasing an instrument for their student. Families are encouraged to rent a properly-sized instrument to promote good technique and healthy posture. Students typically grow out of an instrument between 6 months and 2 years. Any questions about instrument sizing can be directed to Stephanie Urban, the St. Francis Strings Program Director.

Instruments may be rented at Shar Music at 2465 South Industrial in Ann Arbor. Shar will fit students for an instrument. More information can be found at sharmusic.com.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents will receive weekly information from their child's teacher detailing goals for the week. Parents are encouraged to ask questions of their child's teacher, and are welcome to visit class. Families will also receive a guide to help their child develop good home practice habits.

Parents will also receive email reminders before Sunday masses and All-School masses, as well as before any major performances.

Any questions or concerns can always be directed to Stephanie Urban, the St. Francis String Program Director.

PRACTICE POLICY

Regular practice is necessary for student success, but does not need to be lengthy. Depending on the age and ability of the student, 10-30 minutes of regular practice is perfectly appropriate. Even when cumulative weekly practice time is the same, a regular practice schedule of short practice periods tends to lead to more improvement than 2-3 longer periods per week. Fifteen minutes of regular practice (5 times per week) can be a great start.

Practice can (and should!) be an enjoyable experience. Try using a practice chart or calendar to mark off days practiced. Kitchen times can be used to help keep students on track. Set weekly and daily goals and offer rewards for achievements of these goal. Try different times of day: some students prefer morning practice before school while others would rather wind down and practice before bedtime. Have family performances and practice together. Private lessons can also be extremely helpful and are highly encouraged. All of the strings staff maintain private studios in addition to their teaching at St. Francis.

COVID PROTOCOLS

St. Francis String Ensemble will follow the direction of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School with regard to COVID protocols.

Any questions or concerns about protocols can be directed to Stephanie Urban.

TUITION

The tuition fee is \$425 per semester and is payable by check or billed through a family's FACTS account (registered St. Francis families only). This fee covers the costs of instruction, music, and other educational materials. Instrument rental costs are not included in tuition. Tuition is non-refundable and will not be pro-rated.

Families paying by check should make their check payable to St. Francis of Assisi Church with the memo Strings. Checks may be hand delivered to Mrs. Urban, or dropped/mailed to the school or parish office.

Mailing address:

SFA String Ensemble
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2150 Frieze Avenue
Ann Arbor MI 48104

2022-2023 ELEMENTARY STRINGS CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER

Class Sessions | 3:15-4:30pm

September 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
October 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31
November 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30
December 5, 7, 12, 14, 19
January 9, 11

SPRING SEMESTER

Class Sessions | 3:15-4:30pm

January 18, 23, 25, 30
February 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 22, 27
March 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22
April 3, 5, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26
May 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24

Winter Concert: Wednesday, January 11

Final Concert & Celebration: Wednesday, May 24

SCHOOL MASS PERFORMANCES

October 1
November 18
December 16
January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19