

# Welcome to Orchestra (Strings) at Maple Creek



Dear Parents,

I am Ms. Olson, strings director at Maple Creek. Your child has chosen to participate or continue to participate in the Maple Creek Strings Program and that comes with extra responsibility. Please read this letter carefully so that you and your child understand their responsibilities.

**Please see the attached calendar for rehearsal and performance schedules.**

**\*ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY UNLESS EMERGENCY OR PRIOR NOTICE\***

Students who participate in strings will receive an effort grade of an **O for outstanding, S for satisfactory or N for needs improvement.**

- To receive an O, your child must attend all performances (attendance will be taken), participate in class and have good classroom behavior.
- To receive an S, your child may have missed one performance, have some classroom participation and have minimal classroom behavioral problems.
- To receive an N, your child will have missed one or more performances, not participated in class and have had several classroom behavioral problems.

Please note that strings is a **2-year** commitment and a student **will not be allowed to quit** strings or switch into choir or band without completing the written application form and a parent-teacher conference. Strings students should practice at home to be successful. Periodic playing tests will be given in class to assess the students' progress on the instrument. Students are expected to bring instruments and supplies (music folders, shoulder rests, etc...) to school on days when music classes are scheduled.

**Block H:** Students can earn Block H points by participating in strings. Block H is the highest achievement a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader can achieve. By being in a co-curricular activity such as strings your child can earn Block H points by attending performances and earning an "O" or "S" in strings. (**O**utstanding or **S**atisfactory)

**Strings Uniform:** Strings students are expected to 'dress up' in nice clothes for our performances.

**Behavior in Class:** Due to the large numbers of students in strings, it is necessary to be on our best behavior at all times. My expectations are high but achievable, so I expect each student to be on task and use good judgment when making decisions.

**First Offense:** Verbal warning and mark in book if they forgot instrument/music.

**Second Offense:** Minor referral and mark in book for nature of offense.

**Third Offense:** Minor referral #2, and mark in book, and after school detention with a phone call home.

**Parent Participation:** Parent help is always welcome! If you would like to help the strings by being a chaperone when we travel, please feel free to email me. Please complete the information sheet found in this packet and return it by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [lauraolson@cusd.com](mailto:lauraolson@cusd.com)

Sincerely,  
Laura Olson

# Maple Creek Strings *Calendar*



Please put these dates on your calendar and inform me if you have any conflicts. You will receive email and print reminders as we approach each event.

## **August 27, 2019**                      **Strings classes begin**

We will rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday. Strings will rehearse concurrently with Choir and Band, with ALL 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in a performing group, thus students will not miss any class time to participate in Strings.

Tuesday		Thursday	
11:00-11:45	Sixth Grade	1:30-2:15	Sixth Grade
11:45-12:30	Fifth Grade	2:15-3:00	Fifth Grade

## **November 13, 2019**    **CW Area Strings Articulation Concert**

6:15 pm            Fifth Grade Strings Performance  
7:30 pm            Sixth Grade Strings Performance

## **Feb 18-28, 2020**            **CUSD Fundamental Skills Testing**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup> TBA**      **CUSD Elementary Strings Festival (6<sup>th</sup> grade only)**  
Clovis North Performing Arts Center. Time TBA; takes place during school hours.

## **April or May 2020 TBA**                      **Maple Creek Spring Concert**

Includes Strings, Band, Maple Creek Singers, and Concert Choir  
6:30PM            report to MPR  
6:45-7:45        performance

If you have questions about any of these events, or would like to volunteer to chaperone, please contact me via email, [lauraolson@cusd.com](mailto:lauraolson@cusd.com)

## MUSIC STORE INFORMATION

**Here are music stores in our area that sell or rent instruments\* and carry instrument method books\*.**

**AMERICAN MUSIC**  
2597 E. ASHLAN  
FRESNO, CA Ph 221-0233

**THE HORN SHOP**  
4337 N. GOLDEN STATE BLVD #106  
FRESNO, CA Ph 276-2247  
*(purchases & repairs only)*

**GOTTSCHALK MUSIC CENTER**  
328 POLLASKY AVENUE  
CLOVIS, CA Ph 298-4400

**PATRICK'S MUSIC, ETC.**  
769 E. BARSTOW AVENUE  
FRESNO, CA Ph 224-7287

**HARVARD HOUSE** *(No method bks)*  
90 E. ESCALON, SUITE 115  
FRESNO, CA Ph 432-9071

**JT's MUSIC** *(No method bks, Supplies)*  
325 CLOVIS AVENUE #101  
CLOVIS, CA 93612 Ph 326-0493

### **STRINGS METHOD BOOK:**

*I use my own method plan called "Quest". Students will be supplied with these in folders for their use. You are welcome to purchase one of these other method books as a supplement.*

***SOUND INNOVATIONS – Book 1***  
***Essential Elements for Strings- Book 1***

We have a great musical year ahead of us!

Ms. Laura Olson  
Strings Director

\*Students are not required to purchase strings and orchestra books and/or provide their own instrument to be in strings or orchestra. Information on vendors is given out as a courtesy to those students and families who wish to provide their own books and/or instruments. Providing your own instrument or book is considered a Voluntary Donation.