

February 2017—Violins/Violas

(DUE the week of March 6th)

Dear parents,

As we wrap up our first grading period for music classes, we want to update you on where your child's skill level should be in the strings class. By this time, students should be able to play: Mary Had A Little Lamb, and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. We are also asking students to work on three more difficult songs in: French Folk Song, Ode to Joy and Tuneful Tune. Students should work on playing all of these songs by the end of February for a demonstration concert. We will play the seven songs mentioned which are found on pages 28-30 in our music book.

If your child is struggling with the first three songs and has been practicing diligently at home, then you should let us know by email so we can provide special help and check for technical problems. We have been working in class to identify students who are struggling so we can help them and so we can let you know. Remember that practicing at home is the first order of getting better. **Ten to twenty minutes of nightly practice is expected to achieve these results.** Some students do it with less time and some students may need coaching on how to practice smarter.

If your child is struggling to play the first two songs, we may grade them with a 2—"Approaching Grade Level Standards". Please have your child play for you and encourage them to practice for improvement. It is not too late to achieve basic standards. Also, we do look for effort in posture and hand positions and an understanding of fingerings. The more your child feels success the more they strive to achieve.

Music Grades

All students in grades 4 and 5 receive music grades during the 2nd and 3rd Learning Cycles. All music grades will be the same as the rest of the academic subjects: 4, 3, 2, 1. All students should be working toward the grade level standard(s) in music (Benchmark songs). By the end of February, your child should be able to play Mary Had a Little Lamb (p. 24 line 60) and Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (p. 24 line 63), and French Folk Song (p. 25 line 65) with his/her book.

Rubric for 2nd Learning Cycle 4th Grade String Grades

3	2	1
Your child is able to play Mary, Twinkle, & French Folk Song with good tone quality (good sound), posture, and position.	Your child is working toward being able to play Mary, Twinkle, & French Folk Song with good tone quality (good sound), posture, and position.	Your child is struggling to play Mary & Twinkle with good tone quality (good sound), posture, and position.

Thank you,

Bill Hunker and Kory Wentzel, Orchestra Instructors

Due Week of March 6th

Name _____ School _____

Instructions for Home Practice Guide Completion: Each week, your child's practice should have a specific focus. We are providing you with practice goals and objectives for each week of the month. In most cases, your child will receive instruction on the material prior to playing the material at home. Each week, he/she needs to practice the assigned material repeatedly. Once your child feels prepared to play the assigned piece(s) for you, he/she will give you a short concert and/or explanation of the material. Once the concert is completed, please sign the appropriate week's box.

Date	Page #s	Pages Completed/Song(s) Played	Parent Sig.
	24	#57 and #58- D Major Scale	
	25	#59 Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	
	25	#60 Twinkle Variation	
	26	#61 French Folk Song	
	27	#63 Tuneful Tune #64 Ode to Joy	
	28-30	Play ALL Honor Songs #65- Mary Had a Little Lamb #66- Mary Doubles #67- Twinkle #68- Twinkle Variation #69- French Folk Song #70- Ode to Joy #71- Tuneful Tune	

Match the note names with the correct fingering.

E	open A string
F#	3 on the D string
D	2 on the A string
A	open D string
G	1 on the A string
hi D	3 on the A string
C#	1 on the D string
B	2 on the D string

Due Week of March 6th