

FAITH MUSIC ACADEMY CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Strings Class 1

- For beginning violin/viola/cello students.
- Students will learn the foundations of how to play violin/viola/cello including:
 - How to hold the instrument and bow
 - How to properly care for the instrument and bow
 - How to read music
 - How to play in a group setting

Parents are required to sit in on the class and help their child by taking notes on specific practice points.

Strings Class 2

- For students with approximately one year of violin/viola/cello experience.
- Students will be introduced to the skills needed for participating in chamber orchestras and church ensembles including:
 - How to play with a good tone
 - How to be proficient in reading music
 - How to play in multiple keys
 - How to carry their own part in a complex orchestration
 - How to improvise on simple chords.

An audition is required for this class and will take place a week before the Fall classes start. Parents are required to sit in on the class and help their child by taking notes on specific practice points.

Strings Class 3

- The first semester builds on skills learned in Class 2; such as placement of fingers in the correct place, being able to name the notes on the staff and fingerboard, and being comfortable sight-reading in the keys of D and G.
- Students will continue to work on sight-reading in different keys (C, F, Bb).
- Some syncopated rhythm is introduced at the end of the year, along with shifting.
- Simple improvisation on praise music is introduced the second semester.
- Students must practice a minimum of 2 hours a week in order to maintain their skill level.
- Girls must have short fingernails in order to play each note correctly.
- "Essential Elements" Book 2 is used for this class.

An audition is required for this class and will take place a week before the Fall classes start. Parents are required to attend the class the first semester and help their child by taking notes on specific practice points.

Strings Class 4

- Students should be able to comfortably sight-read in the keys of C, G, D, A, F, Bb, and Eb.
- Shifting and vibrato are worked on continually throughout the year.
- Ensemble playing is important at this level as students are taught to listen to each section playing their parts.
- Playing hymns by ear and improvising on a chord chart are continually refined throughout the semester.
- Students must practice a minimum of 3 hours a week in order to maintain skills.
- Girls must have short fingernails in order to play each note correctly.
- "Essential Technique" (Book 3) is the book used for this class.

An audition is required for this class and will take place a week before the Fall classes start. While parents are not required to be in this class, they are certainly welcome.