

Elementary Strings

The Gilbert Christian Elementary Strings Program is designed to give students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of music on the instrument of their choice: violin, viola, cello and string bass. Grade 1-3 students play only the violin, and by the end of their first year will be reading music in treble clef, and will have performed in two separate concerts. First grade students will play *pizzicato* (plucking) for the first concert and will learn to use the bow for the Spring concert. Fourth & fifth grade students will be able to choose viola, cello or string bass (depending on body stature and hand size!), and new students will be reading music in the appropriate clef (treble for violin, alto for viola and bass for cello & string bass) by the first concert in November. Also, fourth and fifth grade families must rent the instrument from a local music store, the advantage being that the student will always have an instrument, and the instruments are generally higher quality than those we've been using. In addition, some stores have a rent-to-own plan that allows the family to build equity for future purchase! I look forward to guiding your children in their "Stringy" musical journey!