



4th and 5th Grade Strings Club

April, 2021

Dear Families,

Strings Club is a program open to current 4th and 5th graders in the Upper Peninsula who are interested in learning violin, viola, or cello. This year, we have partnered with the Superior String Alliance to present a hybrid online/in-person course which will run from the beginning of May through the third week of June. This format is effective, safe, and fun! The course is geared towards beginners, but students of all experience levels are welcome. There is financial assistance available, and instruments will not be required until the in-person week in June.

So why learn a stringed instrument? Learning any instrument is of great benefit to mental health and brain development, and studying music is valuable in broadening one's mind and education at any stage in life. The UP also has a thriving community of string players, from the Marquette public school system, to university orchestras and the Marquette Symphony.

Our format this year is a bit different from the past. We have six weeks of Tuesday evening classes from 6-7PM starting May 4th and finishing June 8th. These will be held on Zoom as creative and laidback explorations of a number of topics and skills such as music reading, theory, history, and thoughtful listening. There will be ample games, craft projects, and chances to share ideas while getting to know students from other schools!

Our in-person intensive week runs from Monday June 14th to Friday June 18th. We will meet 10AM-12PM each day at the Senior Pavilion at Presque Isle, with social distancing and masks required, and have our final performance Friday, June 18th, at 11:30AM. This fun and eclectic week will reinforce the basics of how to play, perform, and practice, so that after the concert students can take what they've learned and keep learning!

Who is teaching SSA Strings Club? Our names are Adam Hall and Danielle Simandl, and we have extensive experience teaching music to all age groups, and many years of experience teaching kids at the Superior String Alliance Summer Music Camps, including at SSA's fully virtual summer camp last year. We are both professional musicians based in Marquette.

Strings Club tuition is \$195 and financial assistance is available; you can apply for financial assistance in the online registration form. Additionally, families will be responsible for procuring their own instrument. We recommend renting an instrument through a local music shop, and we can answer any questions you might have via email or at the parent Zoom meeting.

Speaking of, we will be hosting an informal Zoom meeting for parents of interested students to meet us and ask any questions:

SSA Strings Club Parent Meeting

Apr 27, 2021 06:00 PM Meeting ID: 947 5592 5587 Passcode: 238067

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94755925587?pwd=RzNxQ09zL1lyTmt0d25QVFB2MDZZdz09>

Registration and more information can be found on the SSA website at www.superiorstringalliance.org!

Sincerely,
the SSA Strings Club Team!

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