

Dear Parents of 5th and 6th grade students,

My name is Mary Jackson. I am the music teacher at Croton Elementary. I am excited about the year and ready to start making music! If your child would like to participate in a music ensemble, please complete the interest form below and return the bottom portion to me by **Friday, August 24th**. Check every ensemble your child would like to participate in. The music ensembles that will be offered this year are Beginning Strings, Intermediate Strings, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cardinal Chorus, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Cardinal Chorus. The first day that each ensemble will meet is at the bottom of this letter.

In **Chorus** we will be learning how to sing. It will meet on **Fridays during their activity time**. Any student may participate in chorus this year, even if they didn't participate last year, as long as they are in 5th or 6th grade. All that I ask is that your child show interest and be on their best behavior. Depending on the interest, I might have to put a cap on the number of students that I can have participate. If I do, entrance into Chorus will be determined by motivation and behavior. You will be contacted about this, if I feel the need to cap the size of the group.

If your child is interested in **Strings** you may either rent an instrument from the school or from a local vender. I highly suggest you consider renting an instrument from elsewhere, especially if your child has played before. The instrument will be better quality and your child won't have to potentially share with another student if we run out of instruments. Please wait to rent or purchase from another vendor until you receive a letter from me giving you valuable information about this. In order to rent a string instrument from the school, there is a **\$25 fee for each semester, a total of \$50 for the year**. You may pay with cash or a check made out to Croton Elementary. If you can't afford the fee all at once, I can work with you, your child may still participate. Your child will not receive an instrument until I have either the fee or correspondence from you in regards to the fee.

If your student is in 5th grade, they will be in Beginning Strings. If your child is in 6th grade, they will be in Intermediate Strings if they have played before, and Beginning Strings if they have not played before. If your child is in 5th grade, but has played before, please contact me. **Beginning Strings will meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20-3:15 . Intermediate Strings will be meeting after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:20-3:15. It is very important that your student attends both rehearsals each week.** We will be constantly learning new things and I don't want your child to get behind.

I want to stress that discipline and commitment are very necessary to have a successful musical experience. As I have already mentioned strings class is a 2 day a week commitment. I will give a trial period for each ensemble; **after that your child is committed to staying with the ensemble until the end of the semester**. There is one exception; **membership in every ensemble is a privilege that could be revoked if behavior, or attendance becomes a problem.**

Whenever I need to communicate with you, I will be giving your students letters to take home and I also will be using email. When filling out this form, please give me an email address that you check often. If you would like to help out in some way, even if you don't have any musical talent, please let me know. I can use you no matter what your skills are. I am in need of volunteers willing to set-up stands, copy letters, and organize just to give a few examples. Please feel free to email or call at any time.  
My email address is [jackson.mary@brevardschools.org](mailto:jackson.mary@brevardschools.org) and my phone extension # is 41043.

Space is limited so turn in your forms quickly! Please turn them in to Mrs. Jackson by **Friday, August 24th**.

**\*\*\*\*\*If your child turned in this form, they will be starting rehearsals on the following days:  
Beginning Strings-Tuesday, Aug 28th/ Intermediate Strings-Monday, Aug 27th/ Chorus-Friday, Aug. 31st \*\*\*\*\***

I am so excited to get things rolling and looking forward to meeting all of you!

Musically,

Mary Jackson, Music Teacher

I understand that my child may be asked to leave a music ensemble if his/her behavior or attendance is not acceptable.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Please check what ensemble you want to join (you may participate in 1 or 2 ensembles):

Chorus \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Strings \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Strings \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(please print e-mail address clearly)

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day-time Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Text \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Note Home \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in Volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name/relationship) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_