

Beginner Strings

The strings benchmark is a playing test that will count as a test grade. Students are required to prepare two beginner level songs: *A Mozart Melody and Christopher's Tune*. They should also prepare the D and G one octave Major scales. All benchmark materials will be posted on my Google Classroom page. Students will be provided ample time to practice and learn the material during class time in the weeks before the test. It is essential that students advocate for support and ask clarifying questions during benchmark practice times. To support strings students in their preparation they will be provided a weekly journal assignment to document their practice progress as well as a rubric that clarifies how the test will be graded.

Students are expected to take assigned instruments home to practice daily so long as they have turned in a signed instrument loan form.

The four categories of the test rubric include: Posture, Bow Technique, Tone, Rhythm, and Pitch. In addition to practicing students will need to spend additional time reviewing note locations, finger numbers, as well as staff line and space names. Additionally, some students may elect to learn a set of *intermediate level songs* beginner songs to prepare with teacher approval.

Submitting the test: Students must submit a video recording of themselves performing the scales and songs. The students do not have to be seen in the video, but the sound should be clear and the student should state his or her name before they play. The recordings are due no later than 3:30pm on November 22nd. Students may elect to take their instruments home for a quieter recording environment if they have turned in a signed instrument loan form.

Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, and Advanced Strings

The strings benchmark is a playing test that will count as a test grade. Students are required to prepare a set of Major and minor scales that are listed on the document entitled "Strings Benchmark List." All benchmark materials will be posted on my Google Classroom page. Students will be provided ample time to practice and learn the material during class time in the weeks before the test. It is essential that students advocate for support and ask clarifying questions during benchmark practice times. To support strings students in their preparation they will be provided a weekly journal assignment to document their practice progress as well as a rubric that clarifies how the test will be graded.

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