

Elemental Strings

a Santa Monica tradition since 2004

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CONTRACT

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Elemental Strings, Santa Monica's premiere after-school string orchestra program for elementary school students. We would like to welcome new and returning students and their families to our eighth season, and look forward to an exciting and rewarding year of learning and making music together.

Please review the information contained in this document carefully and keep it for future reference. **Please return the signature portion to an Elemental Strings Director or Coach no later than Friday, Oct 7th, 2011.**

STUDENT SUPPLIES

All students should have (and bring every week):

a black 3-ring binder
10 clear plastic sleeves
at least 2 sharpened pencils with eraser
violins and violas need to have an appropriate shoulder rest
cellos need to bring endpin straps/rock stops

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Keep all notices in your black binders. Parents, please check the binder for important handouts each week (which will also be emailed).
- Bring your music, instrument (cellos need to bring end pin straps/rock stops, violins and violas need to have an appropriate shoulder rest), music binder, and 2 sharpened pencils with eraser, to every rehearsal. Mark your own parts!
- Be on time! Early is on time; on time is late. Please be in your seats by 3:40 so that we can start rehearsal exactly at 3:45.
- Come prepared! Please learn your part at home, and bring it in to your private teacher for help. If you do not have a private teacher, Elemental Strings Mentors are available to help. Suggested practice time is a minimum of 30 minutes per day.

- Be respectful and courteous to the teachers, mentors, parents, and orchestra members. We are guests at John Adams Middle School, and should behave as such. No food or drink (except bottled water) is allowed in the classrooms. Please do not chew gum on campus.

ATTENDANCE

- Rehearsals take place from 3:45pm to 5:45pm every Friday in the John Adams Middle School Orchestra Room, except as noted on the calendar.
- Students should arrive by 3:40pm to ensure a timely start of rehearsal.
- ABSENCES
 - All rehearsals and performances are mandatory!
 - Please carefully check the calendar (also available online) for dates, times, and locations of all rehearsals and performances. If you have a scheduling conflict, please notify Ms. Bersch immediately.
 - Each student is allowed only TWO absences during the entire year. More than two may result in dismissal from Elemental Strings.
 - Please notify us of upcoming absences by completing the online absence form available at our website, www.elementalstrings.com, or turn in a completed absence form (provided in this packet) prior to the day you are missing. If sick, please call or email Ms. Bersch at 310-985-1375 or kirsten@elementalstrings.com, and turn in an absence form the following week.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Shop early for your concert clothes! Students grow quickly, and often outgrow clothes and shoes during the year. Please check that everything still fits before each concert.

GIRLS

- White, long-sleeve tops (no t-shirts, no spaghetti straps)
- Long black skirt (must fall gracefully past the knees when seated) or pants (no leggings)
- Black dress shoes (no sandals or sneakers)

BOYS

- White long-sleeve dress shirts, tucked in.
- Black dress pants (no jeans)
- Solid black belt
- Black socks and black dress shoes (no sandals or sneakers)

White means solid white, and black means solid black. Please, no embroidery, patterns, polka dots, etc.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr Jo (Josephine Liu Moerschel), Executive Director 310-486-3857,
josephine@elementalstrings.com

Kirsten Bersch, Program Director (absences) 310-985-1375,
kirsten@elementalstrings.com

Most Elemental Strings documents and forms are available as PDF files on our website at www.elementalstrings.com.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

Please submit this signed form to an Elemental Strings Director or Coach no later than Friday, Oct 7th, 2011.

STUDENT NAME (printed) _____

Please check the box on the left hand side to confirm the understanding and agreement of the following commitments:

- I understand that Elemental Strings is a full school year commitment that requires the student to attend all sessions, including rehearsals (up to two absences, if any) and performances (no absences).
- In order to make possible a prompt and focused 3:45 PM start time, I understand that the student must report to each rehearsal by no later than 3:40 PM. I will ensure that the student will have a reliable means of transportation to and from John Adams Middle School in order for him/her to arrive and leave in a timely manner.
- I understand that the following conditions constitute grounds for dismissal from the Elemental Strings program:
 - A third rehearsal absence or a first performance absence.
 - Any pattern of tardiness or early departures, either consecutively or intermittently.
 - A lack of adequate home practice and/or rehearsal preparation.
 - Inappropriate or disruptive behavior during rehearsals.
 - Failure to follow the payment plan set forth in the Payment Form submitted to us.
- I give consent for allowing pictures of my child, in context to Elemental Strings activities, to be used for the Elemental Strings website, newsletters, archival use, or other official documents. Individual names will not be used unless with your express permission.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/ GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE