



August 16, 2019

Dear Parents,

I am very excited about the upcoming year of music at BWS! It is my pleasure to announce the continuation of the BWS after school Strings programs, Presto, Allegro and Chamber Music and the addition of the after school Fiddle Club!

We offer the after school programs in addition to the class experiences and ensembles. Participation in the after school programs is not mandatory.

Allegro focuses mostly on early music reading and basic ensemble playing concepts. There will be approximately two Allegro performances per school year. Presto will also focus on music reading and ensemble playing skills with a strong emphasis on performance. Presto will share music with the BWS community and the greater Berkshire community and beyond. Chamber music ensembles will focus on reinforcing the same skills, in a smaller and more soloistic setting, as well as performance sharing. Fiddle Club will provide students in grades 1-8 with the opportunity to play and sing in a less formal way and to experience American and World folk music as well as delve into song writing and improvisation. Older students will mentor the younger students and all will experience the joy of making music in this multi instrumental ensemble.

Weekly Schedule:

**Monday** – beginning October 7<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade chamber music group will meet from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

**Tuesday** – beginning October 8<sup>th</sup> - **Allegro** (beginning strings) will meet at 3:00pm.

**Presto** - (Intermediate-Advanced Strings) at 3:45pm.

**Thursday** - beginning October 10<sup>th</sup> – **Fiddle Club** will meet 2:45pm to 3:15pm

**Thursday** – beginning October 10<sup>th</sup> - **Student led chamber music** will meet 3:15 to 4:15. Any student in the 8th grade who plays in Presto may participate. Younger students who are interested will require my permission. Participants should also be members of Presto, with exceptions made for students participating in ESYO and other similar music programs.

Students will be required to participate in an audition for all after school groups (even if they were in the ensembles last year). I assure you that the audition experience will be



fair, positive and empowering. The goal is to provide the students with positive and constructive feedback, not to intimidate or discourage.

Auditions for Presto and Allegro String groups will be held, after school, on Wednesday, September 25th and Thursday, September 26th.

**Audition criteria and process:**

Auditions are open to all students.

Students should be prepared to play:

1. A solo or two solos that demonstrate both slow and lyrical playing and faster, more technical playing.
2. Sight-reading – Students will be given a brief musical example to sight-read. (Don't worry if your child's music reading skills are very basic or not yet present. We will work on that!)
3. Two scales (two or three octave scales for Presto) of the student's choice.

Please email me ([emarkland@gbsss.org](mailto:emarkland@gbsss.org)) BEFORE September 20, 2019 to sign your child up for an audition.

NOTE: There is no fee for BWS students to participate in Allegro, Presto, Chamber Music or Fiddle Club.

Please note that Allegro, Presto, Chamber Music and Fiddle Club will be finished for the year by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any thoughts or questions.

All the best,

Eileen Markland  
Music Director