

## Andrew G. Curtin Intermediate School Orchestras

Mrs. Radspinner, String Specialist

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[www.mrsradspinner.com](http://www.mrsradspinner.com)

YouTube Channel: PortProud

Zoom Room: 766-101-7752 Password: Radspinner

Dear Orchestras,

I am so excited to start making music with you this year! Life is going to look quite a bit different in our class. The bulk of our changes have to do with how we handle procedures in the classroom. It is crucial for us to be safe and follow all rules, even if we don't like them. Change can be difficult. We have already had to endure so many changes already. Remember, "When it is difficult you are learning AND growing!" I promise to be positive to help you through these strange times. Will you do the same for me and all of the other students and staff? ☺ Here we go!  
~Mrs. Radspinner

### Lessons

Every Orchestra student will experience two lessons a week. At least one of the lessons will be in the orchestra room if we are in school. The other may occur live OR online. Students will be assigned a lesson time and group by the end of September. Special care is taken in determining each lesson so that a student is not missing a class that they are academically struggling in. If you have concerns about the assigned lesson time, please let me know ASAP. The reason for TWO lessons this year is to make up for the loss of Ensemble. Due to COVID-19, we must use social distancing at all times. Since we have so many students in the orchestra, we are unable to have a full ensemble. Our second lesson time of the week will be with multiple lesson groups together. I am greatly looking forward to having this extra lesson with you. We are going to learn so much faster this year!

### Livestreams, YouTube & Zoom (OH MY!)

Each week there will be an assigned day for large group practice on Zoom. The day and time are to be determined for each grade level. Classes will be in Zoom on MUTE. If students are unable to attend, there is no penalty. At a more convenient time, students should go to my YouTube channel to watch the instruction. Students are always welcome to look up other YouTube Videos on my channel to practice along with.



## **Instrument Info**

All instruments must have their name on the handle of the case, inside the case and a tag on the instrument. I will provide all of the nametags. Please make sure they stay attached and in the right place. Violins and violas are expected to bring their instruments to school on their lesson days. Cellos and basses will use the instruments in the orchestra room. ALL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE SANITIZED BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR LESSON. ☺

## **User Fees**

If your child is using a school district instrument, please return the User Fee form as soon as possible along with your payment choice. NEVER turn in money without putting it in a labeled envelope. All money and forms should be returned to Mrs. Radspinner's DROPBOX which is located in the Orchestra Foyer.

## **Classroom Procedures**

On the day of your lesson, enter Door 9. If you are a violin or viola player, please set your instrument in the hallway outside of the orchestra room. Continue walking the same direction toward the cafeteria for breakfast or up to your homeroom. If you forget your instrument, please come to the orchestra room and grab a forgetter instrument and a post-it to put your name on the case in the hall.

1. Masks MUST BE WORN.
2. Sanitize your hands in the foyer. You don't need a huge amount! Fully rub in the sanitizer until your hands are dry. Sanitizer will harm your instrument. DO NOT wipe your hands on your pants to dry them. Keep rubbing!
3. Enter the orchestra room and locate your instrument on the hook. And your stand and music.
4. Exit through the Eldred Street side and pack up your instruments. Leave them in the hall and pick them up at the end of the school day.

## **Practicing**

Practicing is a significant part of what we learn in school as it reinforces the material gone over in class. Students should practice 4-5 days a week for 20-25 minutes each. There will be many playing assessments this year. Students will receive their book and other supplemental materials shortly after lessons begin. When a student practices they should go to [www.mrsradspinner.com](http://www.mrsradspinner.com) to log their practice. This is also a place where students can let me know if they had trouble with something OR if there is a problem with their instrument. Practicing is necessary. The more you practice, the easier it becomes.



## Communication

Communication is key to a successful year. All of my information will be distributed through our Schoology Course. Please make sure you have your notifications on. I would also like to use the REMIND 101 app to communicate quickly with parents and guardians. Parents may also text me through this app with questions. This is the fastest way to reach me. Please see below on how to sign up.

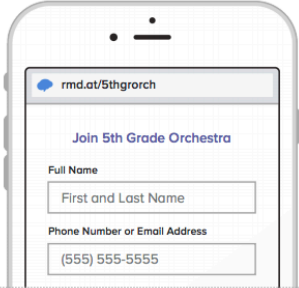
Pick a way to receive messages for 5th Grade Orchestra:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/5thgrorch](http://rmd.at/5thgrorch)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @5thgrorch to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @5thgrorch to (801) 528-3495.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/5thgrorch](http://rmd.at/5thgrorch) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## Wellness

We will make music at every lesson. However, my first job is to make sure the students know they are loved and cared for. My door is always open to ALL students who need to talk about something that is bothering them. As a parent of a teen, a tween and a 7 year old (ALL GIRLS) I have lots of experience with the struggles that are kids are having today. I have a special box in the orchestra hallway if students need to leave me a note to let me know they need to talk or if they see something that is happening in class that I am missing. When we are remote, students can send me a note through Schoology if they need to chat. Intermediate school students are heading into some incredibly formable, but often tough, years. It is my job to help them through it with their heads held high. Parents, feel free to reach out to me if there is anything I can do to support your child. Likewise, if you as a parent need an outlet, my door is open to you as well. IT TAKES A VILLAGE! 😊



**Please return this form to Mrs. Radspinner's DROP BOX**

Reminder: NEVER turn in money without putting it in an envelope with your name on it!

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (cell is preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

Is this number able to receive text messages? YES NO

Is your child permitted to have their picture shared on social media (no names)? YES NO  
(I have a YouTube channel and Curtin Orchestra Facebook page. I am asking if I may share video of our class or pictures)

Student: I understand that it is my job to be present at all ensemble rehearsals and lessons throughout the school year. I know that I must practice at home so that I can help make the orchestra sound great. I also understand that I must be present at all concert dates posted. I know that my classmates depend on me to be there. I make a difference in our orchestra.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: I understand that I need to encourage my child to practice at home, even when it may not sound the best. I also understand that I must make arrangements for my child to attend each of the concert dates posted.



Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Anything else I need to know??? Feel free to use the back of this sheet.  
It's going to be a GREAT year! ☺

