

Beginning Strings
Tulsa Area Homeschool Orchestra
Fall 2025 - Spring 2026
Bethany Atkinson, Director
918.859.2048

Course Description:

Beginning Strings offers instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, and training in music literacy. Check out tulsaareahomeschoolorchestra.com/resources for recommendations regarding instrument purchase or rental suggestions. This class is ideal for those who have never played an instrument before. This group will perform in the Spring Concert.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will develop an understanding of their role as a member of a performance ensemble.
2. The student will develop an understanding of their role in support of community and church functions.
3. The student will develop and continue to articulate their musical ability through the use of small ensembles and cooperative learning groups.
4. The student will work towards learning and mastery of beginning music skills.

Participation:

- Students must have all equipment for class daily.
- Students must take an active role in classroom procedures and feedback of information.
- Students must be prepared for assigned work (practice assigned music at home and come to class with music prepared).
- Students must attend all rehearsals and concerts.

Required Supplies for Beginning Strings

Everyone:

- **Black, 1", 3 ring binder**
- **Pencil**
- **Cleaning cloth for instrument**
- **Music stand**
- **Essential Elements for Strings Book 1**
 - for your instrument
- **Uniform for concerts**
 - black slacks, skirt, or dress; white button up or blouse; nice black shoes

If you play...

<i>Violin:</i>	<i>Viola:</i>	<i>Cello:</i>	<i>Bass:</i>
Violin with case (violinists are expected to provide their own violin, see the handout "Help! I need an instrument!" for more info)	Viola with case (violinists are expected to provide their own viola, see the handout "Help! I need an instrument!" for more info)	Cello with case or bag (cellists are expected to provide their own cello, see the handout "Help! I need an instrument!" for more info)	Bass with case or bag (bassists are expected to provide their own bass, see the handout "Help! I need an instrument!" for more info)
Shoulder rest (note: a shoulder rest is essential to playing the violin, violinists without a shoulder rest will not be allowed to play until they bring one)	Shoulder rest (note: a shoulder rest is essential to playing the viola, violists without a shoulder rest will not be allowed to play until they bring one)	Rock stop (rock stops will be used during performances and rehearsals on non-carpeted surfaces)	Rock stop (rock stops will be used during performances and rehearsals on non-carpeted surfaces)
Bow	Bow	Bow	Bow
Rosin	Rosin	Rosin	Bass Rosin (Bass rosin is stickier than rosin for other instruments. Any brand will be fine, but I prefer Pops rosin.)

Suggested Supplies - not required but very helpful

- Chromatic tuner or tuner app
- Metronome or metronome app
- Plastic page protectors
- Extra strings (violin, viola, and cello only)
- Shoulder rest bag (violin and viola only and only if the shoulder rest doesn't fit in the case)