



Dear Chestatee Families,

My name is Rebecca Gerstenlauer and I teach elementary general music at Chattahoochee Elementary. We just finished our 6th year of our Chattahoochee String Orchestra and we are excited to expand to Chestatee!

Fill out the survey below to be contacted for more detailed information in the Fall of 2021 about the Chestatee String Orchestra!

[Click here for survey](#)

Read below for what to expect in the Chestatee String Orchestra program:

As an orchestra member, students, with the help of their parents, should expect to commit to the following below:

- I commit to being a member of the Orchestra for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year.
- I commit to being on time with my instrument, book, *music binder, *music - organized neatly in folder pockets and NOT folded - and pencil for each class. (*Music binder and music will be provided).
- I commit to having a positive attitude and being on my best behavior during class.
- I commit to working hard and trying my best to learn during class and also practicing at home each day.

As the parent, I commit to the following below:

- I commit to bringing my child and their materials on time each week for the entire 2021-2022 school year.
- I commit to helping my child with their practicing goals by giving reminders and being encouraging and an active listener during at home practice sessions.

The costs associated with the class (other than the instrument and book fees) is a \$25 fee for the year. This includes a shirt and also helps fund the program so that we can buy new music, binders, etc. We will perform in our shirts and black pants at the concerts.

If you are in need of a scholarship for class fees, instrument, book, etc., then please let me know and I have always found a way to accommodate students who need financial assistance.

Additionally, if you are interested in donating money to help students who may benefit from a scholarship then please add that to your fees at the time of registration and thank you in advance!

At-home practicing: "Only practice on the days that you eat!" ~ S. Suzuki

****Practicing at home every day is the key to being successful with learning these challenging instruments. Students will be required to practice what they learn on their instrument in class for a short amount of time at home every day to continue to make progress. Short practices every day are the most beneficial as opposed to a long practice every few days (similar to working out at the gym). Parents should take the initiative to fit daily practice into their child's schedule and also be involved in the practice at least at the beginning. Have your child show you what they have learned each week and maybe even try to teach it to you as they will learn by teaching you as well. Children are not used to this kind of discipline (meaning practicing a new skill on their own each day) and will need help for awhile until it becomes part of their routine. Encourage good practicing habits from the beginning! Even if the music to practice is very easy in the beginning, still have your child practice anyway to establish the habit of daily practicing for when practice becomes more challenging. Music to practice will either be sent home and/or also posted via email and/or ItsLearning and some instructional videos may be there as well. If there are ever any questions about what or how to practice at home, just shoot me an email and/or a video and I will do my best to help clear up any confusion. Students will learn to enjoy playing more and more only by becoming familiar with holding the instrument and reading music on a regular basis. Class time is used for learning new skills and for learning to play together in a group and should not be considered a practice time. Students who do not practice will fall behind in class, will not progress, and will most likely lose interest. ***Parents are certainly welcome to tag along in class and be a student as well for the sake of supporting your child's learning (and also for fun!).*

Students may also take private lessons outside of school. There are other fees associated with taking private lessons. I can refer you to private teachers for those interested.

I look forward to sharing this unique and enriching experience with your children. I am excited for a great year and thank you for supporting this program!!!

~Rebecca Gerstenlauer "Ms. G"

rgerstenlauer@forsyth.k12.ga.us (Email with any questions!)