

Village Adventist Elementary School
Symphony Class Syllabus
Spring 2025
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Introduction

Numerous authoritative studies have confirmed the positive and powerful effects of early music education on children, as well as its direct correlation with academic success. In recent years, since the COVID-19 pandemic, music ensemble playing has become even more vital in nurturing emotional quotient. VAES Symphony integrates physical, mental, and spiritual components of true education through engaging string instrument classes.

Course Description and Objectives

VAES Symphony equips young string players with essential ensemble skills, including technical instruction on string playing, music theory appropriate to the course level, rehearsal techniques to enhance listening and leadership, and opportunities to develop musical understanding and expression through organized rehearsals and performances.

Three classes are offered in the Fall 2025 semester:

- *Allegro* – Introduction to String
Tuesday, 2:10 – 3:00 PM
- *Vivace* – Intermediate Players
Tuesday, 2:10 – 3:00 PM
- *Con Spirito* – Advanced Players
Friday, 1:30 – 2:20 PM

Course Eligibility

- For *Allegro* class enrollment, the child should be able to:
 - Sit still for 15 minutes and follow the teacher’s verbal instruction
 - Work independently for at least 5 minutes on a given task
 - Go to the bathroom alone without assistance
 - Know the English alphabet and be able to write his or her own name
 - Sing “Happy Birthday” in tune to a given starting pitch
- For *Vivace* class enrollment
 - Play most pieces from Suzuki Book 1
 - Sightread hymns in D or G major
- For *Con Spirito* class enrollment
 - Play most pieces from Suzuki Book 3

- Sightread most hymns in C, D, G and F major
- Play with vibrato
- Shift to 3rd position

Required Materials

- All students are required to bring their own violin fitted by a professional music teacher to ensure proper size and function. Please visit Quinlan & Fabish in Stevensville and Mishawaka to get a rental violin or purchase one. www.sharmusic.com has good beginning violins.
- For *Allegro* class
 - Ball, Sarah, Margaret Sleby, Christopher Selby, and Scott Rush. 2024. *Habits of a Successful Young String Musician (Book 1) - Violin*. Gia Publications, INC. Textbooks can be acquired via Amazon or from the Habits Strings website <https://habitsstrings.com>.
 - Ros, Stephen. *Violin Junior Theory Book Level 1*. Schott Music Publication. This book can be purchased from Amazon or <http://schott-music.com>.
- For *Vivace* class
 - Gillespie, Robert, Pamela T. Hayes, and Michael Allen. *Essential Elements for Strings – Violin Book 2*. 2025. Hal Leonard. This book can be purchased from Amazon, other reputable online music websites, or Quinlan & Fabish Music store.
 - Anderson, Gerald E., and Robert S. Frost. 1989. *All for Strings Theory Workbook 1 – Violin*. Neil A Kjos Music Co. This book can be purchased from Amazon or other reputable online music websites.
- For *Con spirito* class
 - The instructor will provide sheet music

Assignments

A successful outcome is only possible through consistent practice at home. All *Allegro* and *Vivace* class students are required to do complete and submit the weekly practice chart.

Attendance

If the student misses more than 3 sessions in one semester, the instructor will re-evaluate and decide on the enrollment and performance eligibility.

Due to the nature of the course, missed instructions will not be made up.

Performance Schedule

A list of performances will be provided at the end of September.

Assessment and Evaluation

Students will have performance opportunities throughout the semester and will receive a written evaluation at the end of the term.

Grading Rubric:

Assignments	60%
Class Participation	20%
Performance	20%

Behavior Policy

For optimal learning environment, students who display disinterest, disruptive, or aggressive behavior will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Fees

This course can be taken through the Berrien Springs Partnership Program if the child is:

- In 6th through 8th grade, is currently enrolled in any Partnership Program class, and is *not* enrolled in any other group lessons (e.g. LMYO Orchestra) through the Partnership Program
- In K through 5th grade, is currently enrolled in any Partnership Program class, and is *not* enrolled in a private music lesson or any other group lesson through the Partnership Program

The Partnership Program covers tuition and books. The program does not cover instrument rental fee.

For students paying out of pocket, the monthly fee of \$50/month covers instruction and performance. Fees related to books, instrument purchase or rental, and instrument maintenance are not covered in the monthly instruction fee.