

Good morning!

I am so excited for yet another school year to begin!

To returning students-I can't wait to see everyone and begin making music together in the classroom once more. To new students and families-I can't wait to meet you all! We have a wonderful Orchestra program here at Campo Verde and what makes it great is our wonderful students and our supportive parents and community.

To ensure your child's success, please take a few moments to read through a few important things below. During the first week of school, a handbook will be distributed via email and a calendar will be distributed which will include performance dates, as well as many other important things in addition to the things below. *You may receive this email twice, but I like to send this out early for those who like to get a head start on acquiring materials or those who may have any schedule questions*

Materials: Please make sure that your child has a 1 inch black binder with at least 10 protective sheets. They will use this to store their music in.*Returning students should have their black music binders with protective sheets from last school year* Every student needs an instrument, rosin, a music stand to practice with at home, rock stops (for cello and basses), and a shoulder rest (for violins and violas only). All violin and viola players need a combination lock for their lockers (not a key lock).

If you are looking to upgrade your child's instrument or buy an instrument, please do NOT buy off of amazon or FB marketplace. Instead, please email me and I will help you find a quality instrument within your budget

Not required, but asking for donations of tissues boxes, Clorox/or like brand wipes, expo markers of any colors, and hand sanitizer (the school provides some, but it's sticky and gooey which makes it hard to play the instruments after using it). Thank you!

At Home Practice Materials for Success:

Please have the following items at home to aide in successful practice sessions and live classroom sessions:

*A Music Stand -You can buy an affordable music stand on Amazon or any local music stores (such as Milanos or Music and Arts) or online music stores such as sharmusic.com, or southweststrings.com

Something like this would suffice: [Music Stand](#)

*Rosin- You can buy rosin on Amazon or any of the previous mentioned places above. Here is a link to an affordable example for violin rosin: [Violin Rosin](#) Please just make sure you search "Bass rosin", "Cello Rosin", or "Violin/Viola Rosin" as there is a difference between each instrument and what rosin is needed/will work better.

*Cellos should have a rock stop/cello strap if they are practicing on hardwood floors to prevent slippage. Something like this: [Cello Rock Stop Strap](#)

*All violinists and violists should have a shoulder rest. Something like this: [Shoulder Rest](#)

Strongly recommended, but not required: A set of extra strings. Some affordable, but solid sounding string brands I recommend are: For violins/ Violas: Thomastik Dominant (violins-make sure you look to see if you have a "ball" or "loop" e string so that you order the correct ones), D'Addario, and Thomastik Infeld Vision, Violas: D'Addario, Thomastik Infeld Vision, Cellos/Bass: D'Addario brand strings, Larson, Jargar

Most students have these things, but if you do not, I advise investing in these so that you have these resources handy at home.

If your child needs a metronome or tuner, there are some great phone apps to assist students at home:

Tuning Apps:

Tonal Energy (a tuner and metronome app in one)

ClearTune

InsTune

Tunable

Violin Multi-Tuner

Tuna Pitch

A free tuner (which just plays pitches, but cannot tell if you are sharp or flat) can be found on the following websites:

violinonline.com

celloonline.com

violaonline.com

stringbassonline.com

You can find a free tuner under "Basics" and then under "Set Up"

Metronome Apps:

Metronome Plus and many more.

You can also use a free metronome app on your chrome book here:

metronomeonline.com

School Instrument Rental: If your child is in need of a school instrument (VIOLINS AND VIOLAS ONLY AT THIS TIME) for home usage, please fill out this google form: [CVHS Orchestra School Instrument Rental Request Form](#) The cost to rent a school violin/viola for the school year is \$50.*

We only have a limited number of school violins and violas, so those instruments will be assigned based off of financial need in addition to a first come, first serve basis.

Cellos and Basses will be provided for school use within the classroom for our cello and bass players. Otherwise, your child needs their own instrument at home to practice with/complete at home assignments.

*If you do not have a personal bass at home to practice on or to complete assignments, students are encouraged to come in during their lunch periods, before, or after school to practice and submit assignments.

****If for any reason, you cannot financially afford these items or need assistance obtaining these items/school instrument, please email me at crystal.payne@gilbertschools.net I can help students in need of financial aide and no one should be forced to drop orchestra due to financial needs****

Strolling Strings: For those new to our school, Strolling Strings (listed as Coyote Strings for registration purposes) is a class that is offered in addition to the traditional orchestra classes and must be taken in conjunction with one of the regularly scheduled orchestras. Strolling Strings is an A Hour Class (meets at 6:30 AM) which is a community and gig based ensemble. **If you are still interested in joining Strolling Strings, it is NOT too late!** In addition to learning more traditional music and popular

favorites, students will be working on an arrangement project (of a pop/rock song of their choice) as well as learning basic chord structures, melody, harmony, learning melodies by ear, being able to transcribe these melodies into notation while also learning to memorize new material given by me. If this interests you and you are interested in joining, please email me at crystal.payne@gilbertschools.net

Schedule Issues? If you are enrolled in the wrong class OR if you are encountering any schedule conflicts, please email Mrs. Payne ASAP so that she can advise you and work with your counselor to find a solution. Often, we can find a solution, but I can't help you if I don't know there is an issue.

Teacher Contact Info:

Mrs. Crystal Payne

Director of Orchestras and A.P. Music Theory Teacher

crystal.payne@gilbertschools.net

480-545-3100 x6766

Please feel to email me with any additional questions or comments you may have. Email is the best form of contact.

You can check out our website at campoverdeorchestras.org
And on our website, you can find the links to follow us on FB and Instagram!

I am excited to work with all of our wonderful students this upcoming school year. And as your teacher, it is my goal to make this school year the best it can be for our students!

Mrs. Payne

Youth Orchestra Opportunities:

If interested in other orchestra opportunities outside of school orchestra (you must still remain a member of your school ensemble to be a member in these ensembles), here are some youth orchestra opportunities and other musical opportunities around the valley:

Metropolitan Youth Symphony:

[https://www.azmys.org/_files/ugd/
0b0753_169f8b49d1114a0db060eb5a5a72b172.pdf](https://www.azmys.org/_files/ugd/0b0753_169f8b49d1114a0db060eb5a5a72b172.pdf)

Phoenix Youth Symphony:

<https://pysorchestras.org/auditions/>
Youth Symphony of the Southwest:

<http://yssw.symphonyofthesouthwest.org/auditions.html>

Gilbert Town Fiddlers:

<https://www.gilberttownfiddlers.com/>

Auditions are coming up soon. If you need assistance in preparing for an audition, please reach out.

About Mrs. Payne:

Crystal Payne has been the director of Campo Verde High School Orchestras since fall 2016. Prior to joining the CVHS Orchestras, Mrs. Payne taught orchestra, guitar and piano at Queen Creek High School and Newell Barney Junior High School. Under her direction, the junior high orchestra program grew from 14 members to 90 members. As an educator, she has been invited as a guest clinician for honor festivals throughout Arizona and previously served as the chairman for the AMEA All-State Junior High Festival, and currently serves as the chairman for the ABODA Fall Orchestra Festival. In 2022, Mrs. Payne was awarded the Arizona Music Educators Association O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Music Teaching Award. Mrs. Payne's students and ensembles have consistently received ratings of Excellent, Superior, and Superior with Distinction in various festivals throughout Arizona. In 2018, the CVHS Symphony was invited to perform at the World Strides Festival held at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Most recently, the Campo Verde Orchestra program was recognized by the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association as a 2021-2022 Program of Distinction within Arizona.

As a violinist, Mrs. Payne studied with Dr. Jonathan Swartz at Arizona State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Music Education. While attending ASU, Mrs. Payne was a member and played both violin and viola in the ASU Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Quartet Program. While she played in the ASU Symphony, she accompanied such artists as Regina Carter, Daniel Bernard Romain and Phillip Glass. While participating in the the ASU Chamber Quartet program, she had the opportunity to work with members from the Juilliard String Quartet and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Mrs. Payne also holds a Masters Degree in Music Teaching and Learning from ASU. Go devils!

When she is not playing an instrument or teaching, Mrs. Payne loves spending time with her husband Craig, her three children, and her 2 dogs. She loves everything outdoors like hiking and camping. She also loves to cook, read, and of course, she's always game for learning a new song or musical instrument! Mrs. Payne loves teaching at CVHS and truly believes that she teaches some of the best students around town!

