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Dave Funderburk Cello & Bass
Beginner & Advanced Orchestra
Matthew Salomon
High School Full Orchestra

April 20, 2008

Dear String Program Parent,

With the end-of-year concerts almost here I would like to inform you about our policy of students participating in our String Program concerts.

As a member of the String Program your child is expected to play in two concerts a year and any additional performances we make mandatory which included the recent National Anthem performance at the Mall and the Beginner Orchestra concert at the Martinsburg Library in March. This also includes the Hershey Competition trip.

Your child has not participated in some of these events and we would like to find a way to make it possible for your child to be there. As a single mother working full-time I have great understanding for the difficulties in getting your child to rehearsals and concerts but I would hope that you can find creative ways to get your child there: ask a neighbor, relative or string friend of your child to provide a ride. We will be happy to give you phone numbers of other orchestra members if needed. Monday evening string classes can make up for missing Thursday Orchestra to a certain degree, although not replace it.

Please be reminded that no band or choir director would allow a child to be a part of the musical group but then not show when that group performs. Common consequences are a lowering of the grade or removal of the child from the program. We feel that we have been extremely lenient in allowing students to participate and study strings in our program and not show up for concerts or orchestra, however, we may not be able to do that in the future. We do not want to ask your child to leave the program but there is no "free lunch". The payback for your child to receive a top notch musical and instrumental education worth thousands of dollars over the time from 4th grade to high school graduation is that they play their instrument in our school and community concerts.

We trust that you will make every effort to make it possible for your child to attend the remaining orchestra rehearsals and concerts of the year. The dates for these have been sent home in a newsletter and can also be viewed on our website www.bc-strings.org.

Please contact any of the string teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

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Sincerely,
Eva Price, David Funderburk, Chris Cushwa