

# Burlington Public Schools Music and Performing Arts Department

**John Middleton-Cox**  
*Performing Arts Director*  
(781) 270-1861

Burlington High School  
123 Cambridge Street  
Burlington, MA 01803

Dear Parents / Guardians,

September 30, 2013

This letter is to inform you of your child's opportunity to begin playing violin in 3rd grade. Currently the instrumental program in Burlington is very strong, including around 400 students in grades 4-12. Playing a musical instrument and participating in a musical organization fosters intellectual and personal growth. The study of music develops mental discipline, listening skills, and creative problem-solving abilities that can improve academic success. From music performance young people learn teamwork, poise and self-esteem.

Beginning the week of **October 7**, weekly 30-minute small group violin lessons will be scheduled. Lessons are offered as part of the curriculum during the school day and are on a rotating schedule minimizing missed classes. The students will present a performance at the end of the school year.

If you and your child are willing to commit to lessons and home practice on violin (recommendation is 4-7 days/ week for 10 or more min. each day), then please follow these steps:

1. Register online at [www.burlingtonviolin.wordpress.com](http://www.burlingtonviolin.wordpress.com) by **Oct 7**. Look for information about 3rd Grade Violin and follow the link. The information you fill out here provides us with information to contact you regarding the program as well as assisting us with scheduling lessons for next year.
2. Obtain a violin by **October 14** (or sooner).
  - a. Our current provider of rental instruments is Music and Arts (**musicarts.com**). They offer a reasonable rent-to-own program using quality instruments. **Please see the letter regarding their program.**
  - b. If you own an instrument, please be sure it is in good working order by **Oct 14**.
  - c. If you wish to obtain an instrument on your own, please be careful of low priced instruments that may also be of low quality, possibly making your child's experience difficult due to poor workmanship.
3. Obtain **Essential Elements Book 1** (aprox. \$9) and **Zaret Shoulder Rest** (aprox. \$4) by **October 14** or sooner. These materials are both **required** and available through Music and Arts, National Music in Woburn, amazon.com and others. A music stand is not required but encouraged.

Introductory lessons will begin the week of **October 7**. Lessons with instruments will begin the week of **October 14**. If you rent from Music and Arts they will be delivering instruments to your child's school prior to the second lesson. Your violin teacher will distribute these instruments at the lesson. Any questions please contact me at [middleton@bpsk12.org](mailto:middleton@bpsk12.org). You can also contact Ms. Berger, the violin teacher at Pine Glen Elementary at [lberger@bpsk12.org](mailto:lberger@bpsk12.org), or Mrs. Rzasa, the violin teacher at Memorial Elementary at [rzasa@bpsk12.org](mailto:rzasa@bpsk12.org). We look forward to getting started with our new students.

Thank you,  
John Middleton-Cox  
Performing Arts Director