



Parent/Student Handbook
2016-2017



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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year of FAYM (Foundation to Assist Young Musicians). FAYM's after-school music instruction program requires parent/guardian participation at each lesson and in-home practice, thus creating a wholesome and substantial family activity. Students' self-esteem and performance with school work is greatly enriched through acquiring musical skills. Public performances given by the youngsters give them a sense of pride and spur them on to higher levels of accomplishment. Giving children an early start in a substantive activity will keep them on a positive path where they can live more productive lives and compete with their more privileged peers for choice magnet schools and scholarship opportunities.

This handbook will provide you with information about:

- FAYM's policies and procedures
- the importance of both parent and student commitment
- care of your instrument
- our school year calendar and weekly schedule
- FAYM String Orchestra audition requirements

We hope this handbook is a valuable resource for you and welcome your feedback and suggestions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Program Coordinator Tim Thomas at (208)-514-9723 or email at timthomasFAYM@gmail.com.

We look forward to a wonderful year of music making and memories.

Hal Weller
FAYM Founder/Trustee

POLICES AND PROCEDURES

1. Enrollment and Re-enrollment:

- Only students in grades three, four, and five will be accepted as new members of FAYM with priority being given to third graders.
- Any of our current FAYMsters, regardless of their age, will of course, continue with us. With our rapid growth, we have found it necessary to limit the age requirements for all new students.

2. Attendance Policy:

- Students are expected to attend all classes. Group violin lessons are held two days a week, and some students will participate in a third day for the FAYM String Orchestra. If there is an emergency and a class must be missed, the parent or student must contact Program Coordinator Tim Thomas.
- A parent or close relative is expected to attend all classes with their child. Group 1 parent/relative must participate in the classes for the first semester. Siblings are also invited to view the class as long as there is no disruption to the classroom.

3. Tardy Policy:

- It is expected that students arrive to each class at least 10 minutes before the announced start time in order to be in place, set up, and ready to begin on the downbeat. Students who arrive late more than two times may not be permitted into the class. If accountability is still not met, your child's space in the program will be replaced by the first person on our waiting list.

4. Class Preparation:

- It is expected that students will practice and come to each class totally prepared. Parents will need to sign their child's practice record each day and supervise their child's musical development.

5. Discipline Policy:

- If a child is disruptive in class, the teacher will address the issue. If disruptive behavior persists that inhibits the teacher from teaching those students who are interested in learning, the parent will then be contacted to meet with the teacher and Program Coordinator. The student may be terminated from the FAYM program.

6. Policy of Nondiscrimination: FAYM does not discriminate against any race, religion, color, national, or ethnic origin or disability.

TUITION

To operate a program like FAYM the budget is extensive and large. In the past we have relied solely on donations and grants from generous people and foundations. The program has grown larger over the last several years and with the current enrollment we have seen our budget get stretched thin. We are going in require a small tuition for the upcoming school year.

The tuition will be \$20 a month. Enrolled students will receive a violin, two group lessons a week, method books, performance shirt, recital and performance opportunities, and a custom musical education.

Three ways to pay:

- 1.** You can pay \$20 per month
 - a. Due the First week of the new month**Total Cost = \$180 for the entire year**

- 2.** You can pay for One Semester at a time:
 - a. September –December \$85 Due September 12, 2016
 - b. January –May \$85 ... Due January 3 , 2017**Total Cost = \$170 for the entire year (savings of 6%)**

- 3.** You can pay for one year up front and receive one month FREE!
 - a. Due September 12, 2016**Total Cost = \$160 (savings of 11%)**

Payment Methods

Credit/Debit Payments

All payments can be made with a credit or debit card online at thefaym.org under the Violins for Kids tab.

Cash or Check

You can also pay cash or check to Tim Thomas during the first week of the month. Please contact him at timthomasFAYM@gmail.com or 208-514-9723 to arrange payment.



TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

If students are unable to afford the tuition for the Violins For Kids Program there are a limited number of full and partial scholarships available.

Scholarships are based upon financial need and will require income documentation for your household and claimable dependents.

Viola, Cello, Bass Orchestra Scholarships

Since there is a need for viola, cello, bass players in the orchestra FAYM has set up an instrument scholarship fund. Students who wish to play in the orchestra but do not have their own instruments can apply for this program.

FAYM will provide with you an instrument at no cost but will require strict attendance, practicing, and instrument care. Students who are selected for this program will be able to use this instrument year round and upon completion of their High School Graduation will take full possession of it. If students quit the orchestra or fail to meet the performance requirements FAYM will take back possession of the instrument.



OUR STAFF

The FAYM staff includes teachers from both the Clark County School District and private studio instructors from our community. All FAYM members come together frequently to share ideas and to ensure that they are providing your child with the highest quality of instruction and support.

Some of our teaching philosophies include:

- fostering the idea that an orchestra is a community where everyone supports each other
- holding high expectations in musical and academic excellence for each child
- developing the whole child, not only as a musician, but as a citizen and scholar
- providing a fun, flexible, productive, and safe learning environment
- recognizing that every child is an asset and brings unique strengths
- understanding that education can provide empowerment, liberation, and pride
- believing that music and art can be powerful agents of social change

Our FAYM instructors are highly qualified musicians and music educators with a vested interest in our community. Teachers receive professional development training and are observed and evaluated on a regular basis to ensure they are providing your children with the highest quality of music education.

Our volunteer assistants are advanced practicing educators dedicated to not only serving the community, but to instilling a passion for learning in your child.



CARE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT

Instruments are expensive and fragile. They are very sensitive to extremes in heat and cold. Never leave your instrument in the car for any length of time.

Always wipe the rosin from your instrument and bow stick after each use. Always loosen your bow before putting it in the case. Try not to touch the hair on your bow.

Never attempt to repair your own instrument. Please notify us immediately if a repair is necessary.

Thousands of instruments are lost and damaged each year. Typical losses include:

- Instruments stolen from automobiles (no excuse – they should NEVER be left in automobiles).
- Bows knocked, causing the tips to break. Bows are very fragile – please be very careful.
- Instruments dropped, stepped on, sat on, etc. (all careless actions).
- Small children knocking over unattended instruments.

Should such avoidable damage occur to a FAYM instrument, families will be expected to cover the cost of repairs.

How to Report a Broken Instrument

If your instrument does get damaged please report it to your teacher during your next class. Each FAYM teacher has the skills to do minor repairs or will contact the correct people to bring you a replacement or get it fixed. Please be very honest and patient with your teacher so we can get you playing again ASAP.

Carelessness Costs

If instrument damage is caused due to carelessness repair/replacement costs are the responsibility of the student and parent. Carelessness can be defined as improper use, other people using it, leaving stored out of the case.



FAYM STRING ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS

It is an honor to be selected to play in this group, as it is the very best of FAYM's young talent. We look forward to hearing your audition.

Audition Requirements

1. Student must be in Group 3, or Group 4, or an Advanced Group, or a FAYM graduate. FAYM graduates will be required to pay \$90 tuition for the year. Students already enrolled in other FAYM class receive free enrollment.
2. Must have a music stand, clip tuner, and rosin.
3. Perform a two octave G Major scale with a clear tone in single bows (quarter note = 90)
4. Orchestral excerpt (TBD).

Policies

1. It is expected that each student admitted to the FAYM String Orchestra will attend all rehearsals and performances. (See rehearsal and performance schedule.) If there is an emergency and a rehearsal must be missed, the parent or student must notify Mr. Thomas, FAYM Program Coordinator
2. Rehearsals start at 4:00PM. All students must be there no later than 3:50 to get set up and ready the room. Tardies will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the Orchestra. Rehearsals end at 5:30PM.
3. In addition to your FAYM group class practice, students will be required to practice the orchestra music for 3 hours between rehearsals. If students under perform, they may be asked to leave the orchestra.
4. It is expected that the FAYM Orchestra perform for all recitals, fundraisers, concerts, and community events. Due to the uncertainty in scheduling of these performances extra rehearsals may be called at Mr. Thomas' discretion.

Auditions

Audition materials can be found on the website, thefaym.org. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 3:00PM. The first rehearsal will start promptly at 4:00PM. Please contact Mr. Thomas about scheduling an audition. timthomasFAYM@gmail.com



INSTRUMENT PURCHASING

Student Instruments are available for purchase. If you want to purchase an instrument from FAYM you should adhere to the terms and policies below.

Tim Thomas, Program Coordinator, is the only FAYM employee with access to sell you an instrument. You may contact him for your purchasing requests.

All instruments supplied to students are property of FAYM and need to be returned after the Finale Recital May 20, 2017 on that day. If you wish to purchase your violin and keep it they can be bought for \$80 at any time during the year.

The \$80 purchase includes the instrument loaned to you, a bow, strings, and a case. The instrument is your property once you have paid the fee in full.

As the student grows into larger size violins they may access the “Trade to Upgrade” program in which you may trade your current violin plus a \$20 upgrade fee to get the next size. The violins come in Quarter, Half, Three-Quarter, and Full size.



CONTACT US

If you need assistance understanding any of the information in this handbook or have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We are always happy to hear from you. Please direct your inquiries to:

Violins For Kids – English

Tim Thomas – FAYM Program Coordinator
208-514-9723
timthomasFAYM@gmail.com

Violins For Kids – Español

Art Ochoa – Co-Founder
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Historical and Donation Information

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Las Vegas, NV 89117

2016-2017 FAYM Board Members

Hal Weller, Founder
Art Ochoa, Co-Founder
Richard McGee, Member
Dennis Ortwein, Member
Guy Amato, Member
Rick McEnaney, CCSD Advisor
Donald Barsky, Treasurer
Gloria Gorlin, Secretary