SPRINGBORO INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA

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 **Welcome to Orchestra!** Orchestra at Springboro Intermediate is taught by both Kirsten Abrams and Larissa McIntosh. We look forward to meeting and working with your child this year!

**Meet the Teachers:**

**Kirsten Abrams**

This is my 12th year teaching at Springboro! I am a graduate of the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati (Master in Music Performance), and Miami University, Oxford (Music Education). Before teaching in this district, I played cello professionally with the Dayton Philharmonic for 5 years. I have two children- Zachary (9th grade), and Dustin (7th grade). I have taught orchestra and general music in this district for the past 11 years.

Springboro Intermediate has 88 incoming orchestra students this 2018-2019 school year! Springboro Orchestra is offered for grades 6-12. Classes at SI meet every day.

**Larissa McIntsoh**:

I’m a proud graduate of the Springboro Schools! My daughter, Sophia, is in the Pre-K program at CE. I went to the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD and while there got a job in the Baltimore County Public Schools. I’ve had the opportunity to teach strings, band, special education music, American music, and World music to 6-8th graders. I play the clarinet, piano, cello, and guitar and love them all. I’ve been teaching choir at SI for a year and a half and am excited to be teaching strings with Mrs. Abrams this year as well. I’m thrilled to be back in Springboro giving back to the community that gave me such a wonderful foundation in life.

**Course Description:** Students will play either violin, viola, cello or bass. All students will receive instruction for producing proper tone, pitch, rhythm, posture, dynamics, and performance. Students will have the chance to work at his/her individual pace. All students will be expected to perform in 2 concerts (December and May) with the option of an extra performance in November at Christmas in Springboro. **Orchestra is a performance class and therefore concert attendance is mandatory according to the Ohio Department of Education Music Standards.** Performances are important as we depend on each student to make our concerts successful. Each concert is a culmination of the entire group’s hard work and dedication.

**Grades:** Students will be graded as a reflection of their progress toward meeting the goals and expectations of the orchestra program. Quizzes will be given regularly (but always announced ahead of time). Practice charts will be collected bi-weekly.

Preparation/Practice Charts/Quizzes/written assignments: 60%

Performances: 40%

**Class Expectations:**

Come to class with technology (other than a phone), music folder, instrument, and pencil. (Cellists may borrow school instrument as cellos are too large for bus transportation). During the week, students may leave violins and violas overnight. The classroom doors are locked at 3:30 PM. Students may enter the strings room to pick up instruments after attending after school activities (including going to the “K”). **For practice reasons, we encourage students to bring home instruments during the week when possible. Instruments must be taken home over the weekend!**

**Practice Charts:** Practice charts will be handed out bi-weekly with a return date marked on top. Students are required to practice a total of an hour a week. The ideal breakdown is: 20 minutes three times a week. Spreading out practice time throughout the week is better than practicing one time for an hour. Practice logs will be recorded in Progress book weekly. Students will enjoy class and progress faster if skills learned during class are reinforced at home through practice.

**Concerts:** Performances are at Springboro High School in the auditorium. Both performances start at 6:00 PM. Students will arrive to the High School by 5:15 PM to organize seating arrangements and rehearse on stage. Dates are: December 19th and May 2nd. Please mark your calendars.

**Concert Attire**: A white polo shirt with black pants or black skirt, is the concert attire for 6th through 8th grade. We will offer white polos with a “Springboro Orchestra” logo during the first month of school.

**Communication:** Both orchestra teachers communicate mostly through email. We will have a brief informational meeting after Open House on August 23rd at SI to start gathering contact email information. Also, we will send home an email contact form sometime during the first week of school.

**Springboro Orchestra Association: (SOA)** The SOA is a large part of why our strings program is thriving and growing in Springboro Community Schools! **SOA meetings are on early release Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the JH. We ask that parents attend regularly or even just occasionally, if possible.** The SOA raises funds to purchase and maintain school-owned instruments. The SOA also helps fund and organize: Master Classes and workshops, annual fall festival, annual field trip to a professional symphony, high school senior recognition banquet and awards ceremony, a spring post concert celebration for 6th grade, polo concert attire for 6th grade and much more….. Please plan to attend.

We look forward to meeting and working with your child and we are excited to see (and hear) the progress throughout the year!

Thank you!

Kirsten Abrams and Larissa McIntosh