

Violin at Brookfield

A Music Initiative 8/2/11

Brookfield School is very excited to announce that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, our curriculum will include a violin program! We have invited the very talented Valerie Nelson, a respected violinist, to share her passion in violin. Starting in September, all Pre-1st, 1st, and 2nd grade students will be introduced to violin study through preparatory activities. These activities include singing, musical patterning, ear training, and listening as well as coordination games to prepare students to hold the violin and bow properly. Musical notation will gradually be introduced. Students will begin on foam instruments and wood bows. Once their posture and correct bow and violin holding techniques are established, the students will be ready for real violins.

The program will be based on elements of the Suzuki philosophy.

- ◆ Every child has potential
- ◆ Positive learning environment
- ◆ Listening and imitation are emphasized. This guides the student to internalize rhythmic and melodic components of music before reproducing them on an instrument.
- ◆ A step-by-step approach with preparatory activities to increase coordination and establish a strong foundation; once the foundation is established, technique and repertoire are gradually expanded.

The teacher, Valerie Nelson, is a respected violinist in the Reno area. Valerie performs with the Reno Chamber Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic and other Northern Nevada ensembles. Valerie's passion for teaching is evident in her thriving Suzuki Violin studio. Her students have held prominent positions in the National Honor Orchestras, Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestras and have had great success with music in college and beyond. Valerie is also the founder of Reno's early childhood music program, Step Into Music.

Brookfield School will supply the foam-a-violins; these will be used until our students are deemed ready for a real violin. A flier will be sent out with rental/purchase information. Several violins will be owned by Brookfield for at-school use.

The Pre-1st students will have violin classes included in their curriculum during the school day. Additionally, we will be offering the 1st and 2nd grades an opportunity to have violin before school; Monday through Thursday from 8:30-9:00 AM. This will cost \$365 for the first semester. Full payment is due by September 12th. Violin classes will run from September 6th through January 26th. Since our classes for the 1st and 2nd grades will be limited to fifteen students, we will offer enrollment on a first come, first served basis. Please call the school (825-0257) or come into the office to reserve your child's placement. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child, sign up now!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Murray, Director