The Dorothy Gerber Strings Program is an educational initiative of the Great Lakes Center for the Arts



Embark on your musical journey today!



School Strings Classes



Ages: Students in 4th grade or above may participate.

held in twelve locations during the school year.

Levels: Beginner, intermediate, middle school orchestra, and high school orchestra levels are offered.

Class Locations

DGSP is proud to offer classes across three counties in Northern Michigan!

Cities include: Alanson, Boyne City, Central Lake, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Elk Rapids, Ellsworth, Harbor Springs, and Petoskey.

Instrument Rentals

Families are encouraged to rent an instrument rather than buy. DGSP is available to assist families with this process and ensure that the student receives an instrument of the correct size.

To learn more, contact Greg Binger gbinger@greatlakescfa.org

Scholarship Assistance

The mission of the DGSP is to offer strings education to every family who is interested, regardless of financial status. If your family requires assistance to participate, please contact David Reimer at 616.828.8321 or dreimer@greatlakescfa.org.



Private Lessons

Traditional Lessons

Individual lessons are one of the most efficient ways to develop strings skills by customizing one-on-one lessons to a student's strengths and areas for growth.

Suzuki Lessons

The Suzuki Method specializes in teaching young students with a strong emphasis on parental involvement and learning music by ear.

Ages: Students as young as four years old.

Dorothy Gerber Youth Orchestra

The Dorothy Gerber Youth Orchestra is a full symphony orchestra made up of advanced students conducted by Dr. Reimer. These students perform at a variety of events throughout the year and have the opportunity to go on annual tours and work with great musicians from leading ensembles and universities in the region.

Levels: Advanced students who have graduated from the junior orchestra level. Students from around the area are invited to audition for acceptance in the DGYO.



The Dorothy Gerber Strings Program offers in-school strings classes, individual lessons, and an advanced youth orchestra program.

Youth ages four through seniors in high school, can learn violin, viola, cello, or bass from accomplished instructors in a fun environment.

Strings Students Excel in Many Areas of Life





"The skills required of me to succeed in playing my cello translate to my life - helping me develop my sense of discipline and use of internal motivation, accepting delayed gratification."

Lena Sytsma-Reed Joined the program in 2016

Activities: Varsity Soccer, Government for Tomorrow Board Position, and Model UN

"I discovered the fun of working together with others for a shared goal. My second year playing we had a DGSP Practice Challenge that showed me something important: I discovered that practice made a difference in how well I did. This is true in my other pursuits as well."

Ricky Bristol

Joined the program in 2017

Activities: Football, Baseball, Cross-Country, Wrestling, Drama, and Band





Dr. David Reimer Program Director Doctoral of Musical Arts in Violin Performance



For full faculty, visit dorothygerberstrings.org



Rodrigo Quintana Instructor Master of Music in Violin Performance and Pedagogy



Dr. Benjamin Wu Assistant DirectorDoctor of Music Arts
in Viola Performance



Beth Deininger
Classroom Instructor
Bachelor in Violin
Performance and
Masters in Music
Theory



Greg Binger Instructor Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance



Elizabeth Bert
Private Lesson
Instructor
Bachelor in
Instrumental
Music Education



Peter Tolias
Classroom Instructor
Master of Music



Derek Weller Private Lesson Instructor Master of Music in Bass Performance

Register & Learn More

about the Dorothy Gerber Strings Program by visiting dorothygerberstrings.org