Weekly Focus: Finger Placement and Intonation
We are going to learn (or review) two different finger patterns that will require listening carefully to yourself and adjusting intonation. The first finger pattern we will be focusing on is using the notes on the D string: E, F#, and G. When playing these notes, you will have both your second and third finger down when playing F#. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:

Next, we have our second finger pattern which includes D, E, F, and G. There is one very small, very important difference between these patterns and that is the difference between F# and F. For F (also called F natural) we will not have our 3rd finger down on the string. Instead, to play F natural, we will only have 2 fingers down. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:

![Second Finger Pattern](image)

These two notes should sound different so make sure you can hear the difference when you try both these finger patterns out. One important part of playing these two patterns correctly is having Perfect Orchestra Posture (or POP) which will be explained later in the handout.

**Warm Up:**

Try playing the notes of your D scale if you know all of them! As a reminder you start on the D string and play D, E, F#, G then move to the A string and play A, B, C#, and D. First try to play this pizzicato (with just your fingers) and then if you feel comfortable feel free to play it with your bow. You can play each note once with the bow or you can experiment with different bowing patterns.

**Musical Excerpts to Practice Our Two Fingering Patterns**

Strengthen fingers by exercising them!

**Fingering Pattern One:** Remember, for this pattern, we hold our 2nd and 3rd finger down to create an F#. The following song uses F#:

**FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 1**

“normal” – High 2 – F Sharp

Mary Had a Little Lamb (see music on next page)
Fingering Pattern Two: Remember, this pattern has only our 2\textsuperscript{nd} finger down and not both 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} which results in an F natural:

\textbf{FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 2}

“new” – Low 2 – F Natural

Minor Mary LOST her Little Lamb (see music on next page)
Make sure that while you are playing these two variations you are focusing on your Perfect Orchestra Posture!

**P.O.P.**

**Perfect Orchestra Posture!!!**

- Sitting/Standing up tall – feet flat and spine tall!
- Instrument in correct place
  - Cello: Hamster Hide-y Hole, Peg behind left ear, facing forward, knees hugging, wings up
  - Violin/Viola: instrument into neck, look at your fingers, keep Froggie safe, elbow under and loose, fingertip playing
- Check for loose bow hold
  - (tap fingers for violin/viola, float and place for cello)
- Straight bows = big sound!

**MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS**

For Cello Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

[https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV](https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV)