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, your second finger will need to be up next to your third finger. This is what we call a “high two” and what makes the note an 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 have our second finger move to right next to our first finger. This is also called “low two” and produces an F natural. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:

![Finger Pattern Diagram](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, this pattern has our 2\textsuperscript{nd} finger next to the 3\textsuperscript{rd} finger, this results in an F#. The following song uses F# or our “high two”

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 1
“normal” – High 2 – F Sharp

Mary Had a Little Lamb (see music below)

Fingering Pattern Two: Remember, this pattern has our 2\textsuperscript{nd} finger next to our 1\textsuperscript{st} finger, this results in an F natural or “low Two”

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 2
“new” – Low 2 – F Natural
Minor Mary LOST her Little Lamb (see music below)
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 Viola Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV