

MATERIALS FOR BEGINNING SIXTH GRADE STRING ORCHESTRA



ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS

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www.GahannaOrchestras.org

**All equipment needs to be secured by the week of
Monday, September 26, 2016**

MATERIALS FOR BEGINNING STRINGS

By this point in time you're probably asking, "What do I need – and where can I get it?" Here is a list of items you will need, names of dealers who sell them, and their locations.

INSTRUMENT

The Loft Violin Shop

4604 N. High St.

Clintonville, OH

267-7221

www.theloftviolinshop.com

Rettig Music

6321 Sawmill Rd.

Dublin, OH

792-2100

www.rettigmusic.com

Be sure to call for hours. Since stringed instruments come in various sizes, your child must be present to be properly sized for the instrument. You will need to take your child with you when going to rent an instrument. A good rental program should include repair of the instrument with all rental monies going towards the purchase of an instrument.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE:

Do not buy an instrument either at a pawn shop, through a catalog, a department store, a used instrument shop, off the internet, or a music store (at this point in time). These instruments are not reliable and are often hard to play, hard to keep in tune and expensive to repair due to poor craftsmanship and materials. Instrument brands such as: Cremona, Merano, Skylark, Mendini, Bellafina, Kapok, Stentor, Rossetti and any colored violin or viola will make beautiful wall ornaments, but are nothing more than just "Violin Shaped Objects" that students will not benefit from. PLEASE contact us if you are considering an instrument elsewhere to make sure that you are making a wise investment.

METHOD BOOK – *New Directions for Strings – Book 1, Published by FJH Music Co.*

Please note that this is a different method that what has been used in years past. Also, bass players will need the "A Position" version. This book can be purchased at the following locations. You will be wise to CALL AHEAD to make sure that the book is in stock so that you do not have a wasted trip!

- The Loft Violin Shop*
- Rettig Music*
- Stanton's Sheet Music
(Downtown – just off I-70) 330 S. Fourth St.
614-224-4257

*Representatives from this store will make weekly visits to Gahanna for repairs and supplies. If you need something, contact them and it will be delivered on their next trip to your student's school.

FOLDING METAL MUSIC STAND - Extremely important during home practice times. This is not needed for school. The Loft Violin Shop, Rettig Music, or many other locations carry these items.

BEGINNING STRING PARENTS GUIDE

Dear Parents:

We would like you to know that it is a pleasure to have your child as a member of our Middle School Orchestra Classes. Our chief objectives are to help students develop a life-long interest in music, become musically literate, to develop performance skills, and to enjoy making music.

The success of your child is dependent upon his or her own attitudes, attention to class instruction, amount of practice, and concentration during practice. It is necessary that you, as parents, give your child all the support and encouragement necessary for this endeavor to develop under the best conditions possible. What can you do? The following items will aid your child greatly:

1. **Be interested and involved** in your child's daily progress. Find out what he or she learned in class each day. Make sure that your child's concerts are a priority in your schedule. Help maintain your young musician's interest by increasing your enthusiasm and commitment in their playing, and in so doing, encourage them to make a commitment to their music studies. Check their homework and quiz them as they learn to read the lines and spaces of the staff.
2. **Develop a schedule for daily practice** – *As parents, it is important that you monitor the amount of time your child is practicing. Each student is different -- the amount of time one spends in practice is not as important as practicing the entire assignment correctly. Developing a daily practice routine is more crucial to a student's success on an instrument than the actual amount of time practiced (see the attached daily practice schedule to help establish a personal schedule). In the beginning weeks, only 10 – 15 minutes is all that is necessary. Later on, students can be encouraged to practice 20 – 30 minutes per day and about five days each week. Breaking up practice time into a 10 minute session immediately after school and another 10 minute session after the evening meal is usually a good arrangement. Do not use practice as a means of punishment, but consider including it as a part of their daily routine that they are responsible for.*
3. **Encourage, but don't coax** a young musician to practice. Encouragement is a better way to develop a desire within a child to continue on an instrument. Offer compliments and encouragement regularly. Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less than perfect playing. Instead, listen to your child's practice and acknowledge improvement.
4. **Select a practice area** that is as private as possible. Do not permit interruptions. Be sure to have good lighting, an environment free from distractions, a good chair and a music stand.
5. **All equipment** is needed at school on class days. This consists of the instrument, music book, a pencil, a cloth, and rosin. Keep music stands at home – we will provide these at school.
6. Make sure that the **instrument is in good working order**. DO NOT attempt any repairs on your own. Special glues and equipment are used for stringed instrument repair. Most repairs are covered in your rental agreement. The strings of an instrument can and will break in time. String

may or may not be covered in rental agreements and may be responsible for replacement. It is wise to keep a spare set of strings, just in case.

7. Help your child **develop a personal music library**. Expose your young musician to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals.
8. **Encourage performances for family and friends**; however, do not insist that your child play for others when they don't want to.
9. **Private instruction** is an important extension of the classroom for those students who wish to further enhance their musical experience or for those who simply need individual attention. The *individual attention* that a student receives in private instruction helps develop their unique maximum potential as a player and member of the Gahanna Orchestra Program. Class lessons and large group performances are important, but they do not always provide the individual attention necessary for full development of all playing techniques. Private instruction offers students the opportunity to explore the extensive wealth of solo literature for their instrument and provides special performing opportunities that bring recognition for your child through solo recitals. This avenue is a very effective way to enrich a student's string experience. Feel free to contact us about such valuable opportunities and for a list of recommended teachers.

Questions are always welcome!

Please feel free to contact us:

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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Make a one year commitment** to playing and practicing your instrument. Don't just try it – do it! There will be ups and downs sometime during the year.
2. **Come to class prepared to learn.** Make sure that you always have your **Instrument, music, pencil.** There will be some homework to do as you learn to read music – don't forget to bring it too! *If you forget any of these items for our lesson, come to class anyway!*
3. **Finger nails must be kept short!** Contact by left-hand fingernails on the string will not allow the finger to fully stop the string, producing an undesirable sound. (This is an included requirement in our Rehearsal & Class Contribution Rubric – see our grading policy.)
4. **Plan to practice 5 days each week.** Instruments and music will need to go home throughout the week and on weekends. The amount of time you spend in practicing is not as important as practicing the entire assignment correctly. It's important to remember that a little practice each day is better than a lot of practice once or twice a week. In the beginning weeks, only 10 – 15 minutes is necessary. Further into the year, plan for about 20 – 30 minutes each day for about 5 days per week.
5. **Always do your best** and remember that nobody is perfect. There may be times that you will get frustrated with your instrument. That's when you need to put your instrument down and relax – do something else for a while and be sure to try again later. There is no such thing as a dumb question. If you're still having problems **ASK FOR HELP!**
6. **Concerts and extra rehearsals are required.** Part of the fun of playing an instrument involves performing in a group – you *will* miss out if you aren't there! You are expected to stay for the **entire** concert. It is considered rude to leave in the middle of concerts. Besides . . . you'll probably hear something that you like!
7. **You will determine your own success!** Keep a positive attitude and KEEP TRYING!

MY DAILY PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Write down all of your daily & weekly activities. Then determine the best practice time.
Plan it and write it down!

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 AM							
7:30 AM							
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM							
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9:00 PM							

2016 – 2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept.	26	First week of Strings Classes begin All equipment <u>must</u> be secured for classes (The exact starting day will vary within each building)	In School
Nov.	15	District 6 th Grade Strings “ <i>Informance</i> ” @ Lincoln High School Auditorium (This is an <i>informal</i> concert – jeans and tennis shoes!)	7:30 pm
Feb.	9	Middle School West Winter Concert @ Middle School West (MSW 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm
	14	Middle School South Winter Concert @ Middle School West (MSS 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm
	16	Middle School East Winter Concert @ Middle School West (MSE 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm
May	1	Middle School West Spring Concert @ Middle School West (MSS 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm
	11	Middle School South Spring Concert @ Middle School West (MSE 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm
	22	Middle School East Spring Concert @ Middle School West (MSW 6th – 8th grades) (This is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	7:30 pm

All events are required activities that you will participate in throughout the year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA POLICIES (2016-17)

GRADING

CATEGORY I – Concerts: 15% of your grade

Concert Rehearsals & Attendance: 25 Points for After-School Concert Rehearsals, 50 Points for Concerts. These activities are a required part of participation in Orchestra.

- A Student with an excused absence (which includes personal illnesses or *extreme* family emergencies) will be required to provide a written note from home explaining the absence. The note must include a parent signature. This must be submitted to the Teacher within one week of the concert date. Conflicts with non-school related extra-curricular activities are not considered an excused absence from concerts or concert rehearsals.
- *Students who do not stay during the entire length of a concert will earn a partial credit of 30 points.*
- *Inappropriate concert behavior or dress will result in a deduction of concert attendance points.*

CATEGORY II – Tests & Assignments: 70% of your grade

The Student will be given periodic tests that assess development of specific skills, which will include performance of scales, rhythms, and skills covered in method books. In addition, playing tests will be given based on pieces covered in class, and written assignments and/or quizzes based on material covered in method books.

CATEGORY III – Rehearsals: 15% of your grade

Each Student will complete a self-evaluation rubric of their participation and contribution once per grading period. In addition, your teacher will complete an evaluation two times per grading period. The final rehearsal grade will be an average of the three grades. A copy of the Participation and Contribution Rubric can be found on the Gahanna Orchestras website.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is available for extra concert attendance and extra performance participation. Ask your teacher for more information.

CONCERT DRESS POLICY

Students are expected to dress appropriately for concert performances. If you should have any questions about the policy, please feel free to contact your teacher.

GIRLS AND BOYS

- Solid White Dress Shirt
(Shirts are to be tucked in during all performances)
- Black Dress Pants (no denims, jeans or leggings)
- Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes)
- *Boys may wear ties – but not required*

REPAIRS

All instruments, at one time or another, will need to be repaired at a reliable instrument repair shop. If you own your instrument, one week is a reasonable amount of time to allow for repairs. Whenever a student is unable to participate because of a broken instrument (including bows) a note is required from the student's parent or guardian informing your teacher of the repair and the estimated time for repair.

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

The following is a listing of all equipment students should have for all orchestra classes and rehearsals:

- Instrument – All Students must have an instrument and bow in good working condition.
- Method Book or Music
- Rosin – Make sure it is not chipped into many pieces.
- Cleaning Cloth – Should be clean in order to clean! *Never use any type of furniture polish or cleaner.*
- Pencil – In working order with an eraser. **NO PENS.**

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES AND EQUIPMENT

- **Spare set of strings** (for violin & viola players) is highly recommended, if you own your instrument. Students will be given a *one week grace period* for replacing strings before being penalized for not having a functional instrument. See your teacher for help.
- **Tuner and Metronome** – *All students will eventually need their own tuner and metronome for home practice and preparation.* **Apps** on electronic devices are acceptable as well.
- **Access to a video recorder** – *All students should try to find access to video record themselves for taking playing tests.* Unless the class size is unusually small, we are not otherwise equipped to individually evaluate every student on a regular basis in class. Students need to be able to video record themselves and then submit the recording to their teacher through Google Classroom, or placed on a storage device, such as a flash drive, for the teacher to evaluate outside of class. Students who do not have such access will need to make other arrangements with their teacher.
- **Shoulder Rest (Violin & Viola students)** – *All violinists and violists are strongly encouraged to invest in a good quality shoulder rest.* The purple sponges you receive as a sixth grader will be sufficient for this year. These sponges are not sufficient for the level of musicianship required in the 7th or 8th grade. Students must have this equipment before entering high school. See your teacher if you have any further questions.

ORCHESTRA DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS

TEXT MESSAGING

➤ Text Messaging

We are using Remind which is a free, easy and safe way for families and students to receive important reminders about concerts, rehearsals and other information via text message. All personal cell phone numbers are confidential and are inaccessible to students, parents or teachers. Visit Remind.com to learn more.

DIRECTIONS:

Find your school and class on the right to text the appropriate information

Send your text to this number: 81010

You will receive a confirmation along with being asked to respond with your name

Once you have responded with your name – you’re registered!

<i>Find your school</i>	<i>Find your class</i>	<i>Text this information</i>
East	6 th Grade Strings	@MSE6
South	6 th Grade Strings	@mss6orch
West	6 th Grade Strings	@MSW6

Once you have sent the appropriate text for your teacher’s access number – you’re registered! Please remember that standard messaging rates apply. **Please sign up for this valuable resource!**

EMAIL & PHONE

DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
Jana Ross (MSW)	rossj@gjps.org	614-478-5570
Kevin Dengel (MSE)	dengelk@gjps.org	614-269-4693
Mark Kinser (MSS)	kinserm@gjps.org	614-337-3730

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK	TWITTER	INSTAGRAM
“Gahanna Orchestras”	@GahannaOrch	“Gahanna Orchestras”

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA POLICIES AGREEMENT 2016 – 2017

This document certifies that we have received the *Schedule of Events*, the *Policies of Grading*, and the *Class Expectations* for Gahanna Middle School String Orchestra Students. We understand that the student is responsible for attending Concerts, and that the student grade will be affected when an absence is unexcused from these required events. We also understand that conflicts with non-school related extra-curricular activities are not considered an excused absence from concerts or concert rehearsals. We have placed all applicable dates on our family calendar and will inform other related parties about future conflicts as soon as possible.

Print Student's Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Student Signature

Date

=====

GAHANNA – JEFFERSON ORCHESTRA DEPARTMENT PUBLICITY RELEASE

This document certifies that a parent or responsible guardian has given written permission (or not given permission) for photographs, quoted statements, audio or video of their child to be used by the Gahanna-Jefferson Orchestra Department, for the purposes of publication, promotion or achievement.

_____ I give my consent.

_____ I do not give my consent.

Print Student's Name

School Building

Grade

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Please complete this form and return it to your teacher no later than **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016**

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INSTRUMENT USE AGREEMENT FOR CELLOS OR STRING BASSES

EXPECTATIONS AND AGREEMENT

The Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Orchestra Department provides instruments for cello and bass students for use at school. This is to ensure home instruments are not damaged through the continual transport to and from school. As such, it is vital that these school-owned instruments are respected and taken care of. Students should ...

1. **CAREFULLY** transport the instruments from their storage location to the student's chair/stand. *
2. **NEVER** use the instrument as a "bulldozer" to move chairs and/or stands out of the way. These should be moved *prior* to having the instrument in one's hand.*
3. Know that hard and sharp-edged objects can scratch, dent and mark the instruments. Care should be made to ensure no damages are made.*
4. Hold the *bow in the opposite hand*, as to not cause damage to the instrument. *
5. **Loosen the bow** at the end of each class period, to ensure longevity of the bow hair and camber of the stick.*
6. **NEVER** whack, tap or bounce bows on hard surfaces, including the music stand or floor.*
7. **NOT ALLOW** other classmates to utilize their assigned instrument.
8. **Wipe clean** (of fingerprints and excess rosin) the instrument at the conclusion of each class period.

*Students who directly violate these expectations will have repair fees (equaling the cost of repair at The Loft Violin Shop) placed on their school accounts. Grades can be withheld until payment is rectified.

These instruments are expensive to purchase and repair and we consider them a long-term investment. They must be cared for in such a manner as to last many years. Your student will be unable to use a school-assigned instrument until this document, agreeing to and understanding the above expectations, is signed and returned.

Print Student's Name

Print Name of Parent or Guardian

Student Signature

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date