

Stringed Instrument Checklist

(The nicer the instrument, the easier it is to play!)

Recommended Beginning Brands...

Glaesel, Klaus Mueller, Engelhardt, Schiller, Eastman, Carlo Robelli, F.A. Strobel

Accessories Needed...

Shoulder pad (Violin/Viola)

Cleaning Cloth

Rosin

Pencil

Method Book

Sound Innovations for String Orchestra, Bk.1 (Grades 3 & 4)

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Bk. 2 (Grades 5 & 6)

Essential Technique for Strings Bk. 3 (Grades 7 & 8)

When purchasing or renting, use this checklist for asking questions and comparing vendors:

- What brands of instruments do you carry for: violin, viola, cello or bass?
- What options do I have for owning this instrument?
- What are the benefits of renting to own this instrument?
- Do you have “like new” instruments at a discount for rent?
- Do you offer rental insurance? If so, explain what is included please.
- Do you offer any trade-ups? If my child decides to continue playing in high school/college, can I put the money I have paid for the beginning instrument into an intermediate or professional instrument?
- Do you offer discounts on accessories?
- Is there any other information I should know?
- An instrument should have:
 - four fine tuners
 - a fully haired, functioning bow that is not warped

What to avoid ...

- Instruments that are any color other than natural wood. These may look cool, but they do not sound cool! These multicolored instruments are usually not made well. Tuning & maintenance are difficult.
- Instruments without a brand label. If nobody will claim the craftsmanship, it is not worth using.
- Instruments with a “left handed” set-up. Bowed stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello & bass) are ambidextrous instruments. They do not favor either left or right handers.