

Care of Bows and Instruments

Bows

1. *Never touch the hair of the bow with your hands or other parts of the body.* Grease from your hair or perspiration from your hands or face will spoil the hair on the bow. This will result in a cost of time or money to remedy.
2. *Tighten your bow to the proper tension before playing.* A pencil should fit between the hair and the middle of the bow. (Righty-tighty!)
3. *Rosin your bow two or three times a week until the hair is white.* Use good quality rosin.
4. *Be sure to loosen the hair in your bow **each time** you put it away.* (Lefty Loosey!)
5. *Never hang the bow from a music stand, as they are easily broken when dropped.*

Instruments

1. Always carry a clean, soft cloth in your case to wipe of rosin and finger marks from your instrument and strings after playing.
2. Keep your instrument in a place with moderate temperature; it should not be too hot or too cold. Extreme changes in temperature may cause strings to break or lead to cracks in the instrument.
3. Do not let others play your instrument. Far too many instruments have been damaged this way.
4. Be sure your case is securely latched or zipped before picking it up.
5. No instrument is safe if left unattended on a chair. It is a good idea to keep it in its case when you are not playing.
6. You may occasionally polish your instrument with an accepted string instrument polish. Please do not use furniture polish with oil. Some wax polishes are good for this purpose.

Accessories

1. Some spare strings are available at school as needed and their prices depend upon which string needs to be replaced.
2. Violinists and Violists should possess a properly fitting shoulder rest. Be sure to remove the rest before returning the instrument to its case.
3. All string players should have good quality rosin.

4. PLEASE DO NOT TUNE YOUR INSTRUMENT YOURSELF! Your teacher will tune it for you. If you believe that your instrument needs tuning in between lessons, bring it to school and Mrs. Deminski or other music teacher will tune it for you.
5. A soft, clean cloth, which measures 12x24 inches, is necessary for cleaning your instrument.
6. Cellists will need a chair. It should be tall enough so that the child's thighs are parallel to the ground while seated.

Sometimes strings break for no apparent reason. Causes may include sudden temperature changes, defective strings, string wear or an inexperienced person tuning the instrument. Strings do wear out over time and occasional breakage is to be expected.



If your bridge (pictured above) falls down, please bring your instrument to Mrs. Deminski and she will fix it. The bridge is most fragile as it is thin and only held in place by the tension of the strings. If you bump or drop your instrument, it may knock it out of place.

If a bridge should break or a crack should appear on any instrument, please **do not attempt to repair the problem at home**. Such damage should be reported to the teacher and completed by a *reliable* string repair person.

A good rule of thumb, when in doubt - ask your child's string teacher!