

Stringed Instrument Checklist

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

Recommended Beginning Brands...

Glaesel, Klaus Mueller, Engelhardt, Schiller, Eastman, 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.
- Brands to avoid: Palatino, Mendini, Eastar, Benjamin Adams