

Supplies for Summit Strings Students

Updated August 31, 2011

You will need:

- An **Instrument** in good working order

Just like clothes, string instruments come in various sizes. For instance, there are four sizes of violin, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or full-size. The smaller sizes are designed for young students who don't have the hand size needed to play a full-sized instrument.

We here at the Summit have had very good experiences with Hoover Music. Their staff is knowledgeable, will measure your student, and will assist you in selecting the appropriately sized instrument. Most rentals can be turned in for larger sizes as your child grows, and Hoover representatives will be happy to discuss this with you.

The Summit has Scrip available for both Hoover and Springfield Music!

Hoover Music Company	417 862 3573
440 S. Jefferson Ave	1 800 829 3573
Springfield MO 65806	hoovermusic@sbcglobal.net
	http://www.hoovermusic.com/contactus

Please remember that your instrument is your responsibility. Although every effort will be made to provide for the safety of your instrument, The Summit cannot be responsible for lost, stolen, or broken instruments. Insurance can be provided for rentals and many purchased instruments.

- Violins and Violas will need a **shoulder rest** (Wolf Forte-Primo by Willy Wolf) or firm purple/blue sponge sold at music stores
- Cellos and Bases will need a Xeros brand **rock stop**
- Folding **Music Stand**. For the moment, this is for home rehearsal as the Summit owns a limited number of stands. If we have larger, combined rehearsals, your student may occasionally need to bring their own.
- Case or Bag to carry music stand
- Students will need a bag to carry supplies, stands and music to keep it organized. Cello and Bass students may have room in their case.
- **Rosin** (may be already provided in the instrument case)
- A **pencil** should always be in your case.
- A **soft cotton cloth** to clean the instrument
- An electronic clip-on tuner is immensely helpful, but not required
- String Students will be using **Essential Elements 2000 book 1**, as well as pieces to be provided. Additional books may be considered at a later time. Chamber Strings will have a few additional books TBA.

Please label all of your items with your child's name so we can return lost items quickly. The addition of an e-mail address and phone number would help greatly.

Contact Shawn Keech at SKeech@TheSummitPrep.Org with any questions

Instrument Storage During the School Day

String instruments will be stored in Mr. Keech's room at the beginning of each Summit Strings day. All instruments must be taken home at the end of each strings class. Students should not leave their instrument overnight at the Summit unless prior arrangements are made.

String Instrument Care

- Do not expose your instrument to any extremes in temperature. The question to ask is, "Would I leave a baby here?" If the answer is "yes," your string instrument should be fine. Moderate temperatures of 50-80 degrees are best. Avoid leaving your instrument in direct sunlight.
- Keep the instrument stored in a place that is not too dry or hot. Be cautious not to leave your instrument near a heat vent during the winter months. Extremes could cause cracks in the wood. This can be prevented with a humidifier (such as a dampit).
- Rosin the bow before you play. A lack of rosin will cause your bow hairs to break and the sound will suffer as well.
- When you finishing playing each day, wipe the rosin dust from the strings, instrument, and back of the bow. Letting the rosin sit on your instrument will allow it to eat through the violin varnish making it look bad in appearance and affecting the sound.
- Check the bridge lean. Tuning with the pegs will pull the bridge forward a little which could cause a serious accident. Make sure the bridge is always leaning backward or at least in a vertical position.
- Make sure the strings aren't frayed or falling apart. Strings typically need to be replaced once a year for the best sound, unless a string breaks.
- Do not allow beginners to tighten the strings with the pegs as it is very easy to break a string. They can adjust the fine tuners: "righty-tighty" raises the pitch and "lefty-loosey" lowers the pitch. Strings are least expensive purchased in sets.
- Loosen the bow before returning it to the case or the stick will become warped. It is natural for bows to need to be re-haired with horse hair every 2-3 years.

Please leave any repairs to a qualified strings repair person. If unsure about the extent of any damage, Hoover Music would be glad to answer your questions.

What are the Parent's Responsibilities?

Always keep in mind that your support is vital to your child's success with music. The following guidelines will offer you some assistance.

Schedule Practice Times

Skill on an instrument requires continued effort over a period of time. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- Remaining nearby during practice as often as possible
- Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice. The length of time is not important in the beginning.
- Praise your child's efforts and achievements.

What Parents Can Do To Help

To give your child the best possible support, you should:

- Occasionally we are invited to perform at events that are not on the calendar at the beginning of the year. I will send invitations via e-mail for these events. Please RSVP promptly; event organizers are often waiting for my response based on available student musicians.
- Encourage your child to practice their assignment
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their music
- Make sure their instrument is always in good working order
- Allow your child to play many types of music
- Listen to your child practice, and acknowledge improvement
- Help your child build a personal music library (both print and recorded music)

What Should Parents Avoid

Your child's progress will be greatly enhanced if you:

- Don't start your child on an instrument that is in poor working condition
- Don't use practice as a punishment
- Don't insist your child play for others when they do not want to
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the beginning.