

# MATERIALS FOR BEGINNING STRINGS

## *The Gahanna String Orchestra Program*

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.

**AN INSTRUMENT** - We suggest The Loft Violin Shop, located at 4604 N. High St., near the intersection of N. High & Morse Rd. Their phone number is 267-7221. Be sure to call for hours. They deal with stringed instruments only, but have very reasonable rates for the high quality of instruments that they offer.

You will need to take your child with you when going to rent an instrument. Since stringed instruments come in various sizes, your child must be present to be properly sized for the instrument. You are welcome to work with other reputable dealers, (though not dealing specifically with stringed instruments) one of which might be Colonial Music who also might carry the needed method book. **Do not buy an instrument either at a pawn shop, through a catalog, a department store, a used instrument shop, or a music store (at this point in time).** A good rental program should include repair of the instrument with all rental monies going towards the purchase of an instrument.

**A METHOD BOOK** - Your child will need only one book for the year:

*ORCHESTRA EXPRESSIONS* – BOOK 1 published by Warner Brothers

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! *Don't borrow previously used book*

The Loft Violin Shop

Stanton's Sheet Music (Downtown – just off I-70)  
330 S. Fourth St.

224-4257

**FOLDING METAL MUSIC STAND** - This is not required for school use, but will be extremely helpful during practice times at home. The Loft Violin Shop, Colonial Music, or many other locations carry these items.

**PLEASE** be sure to call or e-mail us if you should need any further assistance!

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# BEGINNING STRING PARENTS GUIDE

## *The Gahanna String Orchestra Program*

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 your 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** – 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.

Your child will receive a weekly practice planner for the first nine weeks as a mean for us to monitor student progress. Further planners will be distributed periodically throughout the year.

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. More information is included later in this packet. Please feel free to ask us about a list of private teachers.

**Our web site** is available to keep you informed with calendars and concert information. Be sure to keep this site address bookmarked on your computer:

*[www.geocities.com/gahannastrings](http://www.geocities.com/gahannastrings)*

Questions are always welcome! Please feel free to contact us:

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# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## *The Gahanna String Orchestra Program*

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.
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 awhile 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!

***PRIDE + PRACTICE + ENTHUSIASM = SUCCESS***

## 2008 – 2009 Schedule of Events

### *The Gahanna String Orchestra Program*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Oct.	14	High School Orchestra & Freshman Band	7:30 pm
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings First Concert</b> (this is an informal concert – jeans and tennis shoes!)	<b>7:30 pm</b>
Nov.	20	Fall Middle & High School Orchestra Concert	7:30 pm
<b>Feb.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Middle School Strings Rehearsal</b>	<b>TBA</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>Winter Middle School Concert</b> (this is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	<b>7:30 pm</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Concert Rehearsal</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Concert Rehearsal</b>	<b>TBA</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>Spring Middle &amp; High School Orchestra Concert</b> (this is a formal concert – plan to dress nicely)	<b>7:30 pm</b>

All events in **bold faced print** are required activities that you will participate in. We have simply provided you with information about other activities that middle and high school String Orchestra Students will be participating in.

Be sure to check our web site for updates:  
[www.geocities.com/gahannastrings](http://www.geocities.com/gahannastrings)

# THOUGHTS TOWARDS THE FUTURE

## *The Gahanna String Orchestra Program*

**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. Training in positions, shifting, vibrato and other skills are concepts that are beneficial to the student and best taught in a one-on-one setting. In addition, private instruction offers students the opportunity to explore the extensive wealth of solo literature for their instrument. All of the world's greatest composers have written masterpieces for each of the string instruments, and private lessons give students the opportunity to explore and experience them. Private lessons also provide special performing opportunities that bring recognition for your child through solo recitals.

Giving students private lessons is one very effective way to enrich a child's string experience. Many of the most outstanding players in our orchestra program study privately and have become our leaders. Please seriously consider offering this special opportunity to your child. Feel free to contact us about such valuable opportunities.

**A high school mentoring program** will be offered sometime during the year. Students who would like extra assistance from experienced, qualified high school students may take advantage of this free opportunity. Be sure to look for information to be sent home soon.

**Our web site** keeps you informed with calendars and concert information. Be sure to keep this site address bookmarked on your computers:

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**If you have any questions**, please be sure to call:

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# 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							
9:00 AM							
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