

UNL/LPS STRING PROJECT

Care of Stringed Instruments

Thanks for taking part in the UNL/LPS String Project. We are all looking forward to having a good time. The instrument you are playing is valuable.

Here are some helpful suggestions for you to follow regarding instrument care:

1. **Tuning the instrument:** Please do not loosen the strings or attempt to tune your instrument. This will be taken care of by one of the instructors.
2. **Cleaning your instrument:** Wipe your instrument off each day with a soft cloth to keep it clean. Keep the cloth in your instrument case. (Never use furniture polish on your instrument. Only polish especially for stringed instruments should be used. Keeping it wiped off with the soft cloth is all that is necessary.)
3. **Violins/Violas:** Be sure your case is securely closed and latched before you start to carry it. Always remove the shoulder rest/sponge before closing the case. Always open your case on the floor—never on your lap.
4. **Cellos/Basses:** Always take the bow out of the cover before taking the cover off the instrument.
5. **The Bow:** Always loosen the bow hair before putting the bow away and re-tighten it before playing. Never touch the bow hairs with your fingers. Do not lay your bow on a chair or the floor where it can be stepped on or sat on. Rosin the bow lightly once each day before you play. The bow is not a sword! Use it only for playing your instrument. And remember, it is fragile!!
6. **Carrying your instrument:** Always carry your cello or bass in front of you with the bridge side next to your body. This protects the bridge from getting bumped. Cellos, if you have backpack straps on your case, please be very careful when going through doorways. Always carry your violin or viola in rest position.
7. Always rest a cello or bass on its side—never on the neck or the back.
8. Never leave an instrument in a hot or cold car or in the sun.
9. Your instrument is in your care! Never allow anyone else (except qualified instructors) to play your instrument. If anything does happen to your instrument, please do not try to fix it yourself and do not ask your parent to fix it. Instead, bring it to your instructor or take it to the string shop. If a string breaks, we have extra strings and a qualified teacher can change it for you.

Thanks, and happy String Project-ing!