

Holy Cross Academy Orchestra Program ~ Materials List

Mr. Drew Robertson

The following is a listing of the essential materials we will be using in orchestra class at Holy Cross Academy. Please ensure your child brings every item to class each day they have strings class!

1. Instrument and bow

- a. PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE OR RENT AN INSTRUMENT WITHOUT A PROPER FITTING. This is vitally important, and a proper instrument fit will minimize frustration, provide a better sound, and reduce any chance of playing injuries.
- b. Renting an instrument is strongly preferred over purchasing. I highly recommend W.M. Mason Violins as an outstanding local violinmaker, repair shop, and strong supporter of HCA strings.
- c. Please avoid fiberglass bows! A wooden or carbon fibre/graphite bow will sound vastly better and reduce unintentional noises and frustration while practicing.

2. Setup

Violin/Viola

Shoulder rest, sponge, or cloth – At the beginning of the year, we will work to find an ideal setup for each student. There are countless options for violinists, and all work differently. Since everyone is shaped differently, setups will vary. As your child grows over the year, their setup may change.

'Cello

Endpin stop – Please choose **either** Dycem Black Hole endpin stop **or** Stoppin. Other varieties tend to slide across the floor or not hold instruments securely.

Endpin tip cover – Please ensure your cello endpin has a rubber cover over the tip. This will prevent damage to the floor and personal injury!

3. Two microfiber cleaning cloths

4. **Dampit or case humidifier** – This is especially important during the winter months to prevent instrument damage and reduce tuning time in class.
5. **Rosin** – Brands such as Bernadel, Salchow, Dominant, Hill, and Melos are all acceptable. Please avoid wood block rosin! It creates dust and cakes on the bow hairs.
6. **Fingernail clippers** – Short fingernails are essential for playing a string instrument. If your child cannot trim their own fingernails, please trim them before class!
7. **Spare strings** – Minimum of one E string for violinists in the size of your child's instrument. Having a full set of spare violin strings is ideal. 'Cello strings rarely break, but having a spare A is a good precaution.
8. **Case Decorations** – During the rush at the end of the day, it is easy to mistake one case for another. Since students often do not take the time to read nametags, please attach **BOTH** a completed nametag to the handle of your case **AND** add a colorful keychain, stickers, lanyard, or other piece of flair. Please do not attach any electronics, noisemakers, or items with sharp edges.
9. **FOR THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS ONLY** – Please bring a non-wire folding music stand to class. Peak stands are inexpensive and highly recommended.
- **Other essential items**
 - Please bring a **durable plastic folder** for handouts.
 - Please bring or purchase a copy of **Suzuki Book 1 for your instrument**.
 - Please purchase a copy of **First, Learn to Practice** by Tom Heany.
 - Pencils!!