

Subject	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade		
Ideas students are learning	Expectations; basic skills; instrument care / construction; notation & terms; rhythmic reading; pizzicato; bow holds	Expectations; basic skills; warm-up exercises for tone development; music of diverse styles and various musical form	Expectations; basic skills; shifting technique; vibrato; music of diverse styles and various musical forms		
Skills	Consistency & follow-through; music reading; body/instrument posture & position; bow position and speed	Consistency & follow-through; 1-octave D,G, C Major Scales; identify form / diversity in musical styles; shift to 3rd position	Consistency & follow-through; 2-octave D,G, C Major Scales; shift to 3rd position; vibrato on all but the fastest notes		
Work and assignments to look for	Repetition of classroom routine; practice each fundamental; exercise good posture, instrument position and bow hold	Practice scales - major / relative minor; develop good tone / bow control; exercise good fundamentals at home	Scales - major / minor; good tone / bow control; smooth 3rd position shifting; exercise good fundamentals @ home		
Questions Parents Can Ask	How do you hold the bow? How does the speed / position of the bow change your tone? Where do you pluck the string?	What is the difference between a major / minor scale? How do you know what type of form the music is written in?	How do you produce the vibrato technique? Why does the speed of the vibrato change when the pitch is higher or lower?		
Special Notes	A strong start is the key to success on any instru. Good daily practice will make a huge difference. Hear them play often!	Consistent, quality practice is of vital importance. Practice the what they can't play rather than what they can play.	Consistent, quality practice of technical studies at slow tempos & until played accurately prior to playing faster.		