

STRINGS CAN!

Expand their minds: Why It's Important

a. Equip Them for Everything

- Musical Duty
- Better prepared for college music training
- Find own musical path
- Open doors to new opportunities, friendships
- Expands comfort zone, builds social and performance skills
- Musicians with diverse skills find jobs

b. Culturally Relevant

- Promotes understanding other cultures
- Promotes pride in own culture
- Family culture vs. teenage social culture

c. Provides a Context for creativity/improvisation

d. BETTER PLAYERS

- Ears not Eyes. Page-learning often lessens ears' responsibility.
Ear-learning allows focus on:
 - A. Expression, creativity
 - B. Physical cues and instrument geography
 - C. Vibration/feeling of intonation
 - D. New intervals and hand shapes
 - E. New and contemporary techniques
 - F. Increase hand-to-hand communication
 - G. Strengthens relationship with instrument
- Memorizing answers vs. Understanding Concepts
Playing a scale vs. using the scale in context
- Strengthens understanding of relationships within songs/pieces
- Increases Musical Bravery
- Refines Ensemble Skills
- Provides Context for Music Theory
Chord-thinking, Scale Patterns, Aural Skills, Key Signatures, etc.

e. IT'S FUN!

- Biggest motivator
- Bridges gap between iPod and orchestra

HERE'S HOW:

1. **LISTEN LISTEN LISTEN!**
2. **Show Videos of Strings**
3. **In-school Performance**
4. **Clinicians**
5. **Promote Evening concerts**
6. **Improvisation Games** (detailed instruction in part 2)
 - Step-by-step
 - Pizz accompaniment
 - Start using just rhythm, add notes
 - Eventually use scales and longer phrases
 - Group Games
 - Draw a card, create the scene (Thunderstorm, Playground, Zoo, Etc.)
 - Blindfold Quartet
 - Free Improv
 - Add guidelines (rhythms, moods, keys, notes)
7. **Composition Games**
 - Group games
 - Draw card, 10 minutes to create scene
 - Narrate a story. Sound effects on instrument
 - Write your own theme song
8. **New Scales**

Ex: Dorian, Blues Scale, etc.

 - Going further: improvisation, composition should eventually use these
9. **Daily Assignments**

Ex: Learn popular melody on instrument, find videos
10. **Teach by Ear *Often!***
11. **Purchase an Electric Instrument**
12. **Independent or Group Projects**
 - Research project/presentations
 - Learn a new tune, research the style, organize performance
 - Performance ensembles
13. **After school ensemble**
 - Start casual, not performance-based
 - Learn together
 - Encourage new/non-orchestral instruments