Hello, families! Welcome to the 2026-27 season of the Umpqua Valley Youth Orchestra. It is our pleasure to have you and your children be a part of the youth orchestra. Due to the delicacy and expense of our instruments and our desire to keep rental fees low, we are asking parents or guardians to please note the following instructions on care of the instruments.

First, the instruments need the same considerations as a baby. They are expensive and delicate; rental fees for the entire season would barely cover the cost of a new bow, let alone the instrument itself.

Second, every time the instrument is played, it needs quick maintenance by the musician to avoid unintentional wear.

1. Stringed instruments cannot be left in the car for long periods of time (more than a few hours) regardless of weather conditions. In weather colder than 50 degrees or warmer than 65 degrees, please do not leave the instrument in your car. Please take it with you instead! It may be inconvenient, but it is necessary to prevent glues from melting or becoming too brittle.
2. If your stringed instrument is dropped, please take it as soon as possible to a trained person involved in UVYO (orchestra helpers, teachers, or Kristin Parks). Do not take the instrument to anyone else in Roseburg without Kristin Parks' permission.
3. If damage is visible, DO NOT attempt to fix it unless you are a trained string instrument repairman. Stringed instruments cannot be glued, taped, etc. Accidents happen, and you may have to pay to repair or replace the instrument. If you attempt to do it yourself, you could render the instrument unable to be repaired and simply have to pay for a full instrument replacement for your child to use. Take it to the above mentioned list of people for repair and guidance.
4. The instrument and bow need to be properly stowed in the safety of the **zipped** case when not in use.
5. The bow has to be tightened to play, and it has to be loosened to store properly in the instrument case. Students have been shown how to do so properly; if you or your student doesn't remember how to do this, any UVYO teacher or helper will show you so you and your student can do this properly. In addition, if the bow has been whacked on the ground, hit another object, or has been part of a "sword fight", it may break. Bows are expensive. The damage caused from hitting them against something is fairly easy to spot. You will be billed for this damage.

6. The rosin needs to be applied to the bow before playing the instrument. After playing, the rosin residue on the bow and instrument need to be carefully wiped off with a soft cloth. Do not touch the horsehair or put too much pressure on the strings.
7. When walking with the instrument, it needs to be carried as instructed by the teacher. Please ask for a demonstration if you would like to be shown for your reference.