

St. Mary School
Choir and Orchestra Program

School Policy for Student Use of String Instruments
Implementation September, 2007

History

The St. Peter/St. Mary Choir and Orchestra Program was established in 1967 and is one of the longest standing elementary arts programs in the province of Ontario and in Canada. The goals of the program were and continue to be that:

- Students from Grades 5-8 grow in the knowledge, skill and understanding of vocal and string music
- Students gain an understanding and appreciation for liturgical music and its importance in the life of our Catholic schools and our parishes
- Students become engaged and active members in their home parishes now and/or in the future as readers, choristers, musicians, liturgical dancers, conductors
- Students gain knowledge and skills in all subject areas in an art-based learning environment from Grades 5-8
- Students grow in their knowledge and skills as artists in vocal and string music, meeting the criteria of the Choir and Orchestra Program Grades 5-8.
- Students become life-long learners in the arts with an understanding of the artist's work and appreciation for the journey of the artist in today's world
- Students become engaged and supportive audience members for concerts, plays, dance and art shows in their communities throughout their lives

Ownership of the String Instruments

The entire collection of the St. Mary School violins, violas, cellos and basses has been purchased over the years with St. Mary Catholic School Council (formerly "Parent Group") funds and all instruments are maintained annually as well. The London district Catholic School Board does not purchase any of our musical instruments for the Choir and Orchestra Program.

Value of the String Collection

Our instruments range in value from \$250.00 for a violin, case and bow to as much as \$1200.00 for a bass, case and bow. There are over 300 instruments in the collection. It is imperative that students and parents have an appreciation for the value of the instruments and a sense of their fragile nature and need for care.

Policy for The Care and Maintenance of the String Instruments at St. Mary School

In order to ensure that each instrument is handled by our students with the utmost care and respect and to guard against unnecessary misuse or damage, the following policy for **The Care and Maintenance of the String Instruments at St. Mary School** has been developed by the principal, music staff and with the support of the St. Mary Catholic School Council.

- An annual Music Program Fee will continue to be charged to each student (\$100.00/student for 2007-2008), the amount to be reviewed annually by the St. Mary Catholic School Council
- Each student will be assigned an instrument, case and bow at the beginning of each school year and expected to
 - Treat it with care and respect throughout the year
 - Follow the directions of the String Teacher and String Assistant in the appropriate care of an instrument
 - Transport it safely and with care to and from school for home practice and to various concert functions throughout the year
 - Store it in safe and appropriate places both at school and at home where it will not be touched or damaged
 - Storage at home should be in a safe, dry location (avoiding extreme temperatures and humidity)
 - Be the sole user of that instrument (with its assigned serial number) unless directed by the teacher to lend it to another student
- Each parent will assume the responsibility of payment for damages to the instrument based on a “shared cost” formula established by St. Mary School (see sample table below). Parents will pay the full amount for repairs under \$25.00 (e.g. string replacement, bridge repair). Parents are asked to notify the school if repair costs are a financial hardship.

Cost-sharing Formula = The St. Mary School portion of the repair to a given instrument will be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the repair cost up to but not exceeding \$200.00 of the total repair cost. Parents will assume the remainder of the repair cost.

Examples of some repair cost sharing.

Cost of Repair	St. Mary School will pay...	Parents will pay...
\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
\$450.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
\$500.00	\$200.00	\$300.00

Payment will be made to the St. Mary Catholic School Council.