



# ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



## Viola

### MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

For Viola Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>

**Weekly Focus:** Different Types of Bow Stroke Styles (Staccato and Slurs)

#### **Explanation of Lesson Focus:**

This week we are going to review the bow hold as well as learn about Staccatos and Slurs.

#### **Warm Up:**

I practice my bow hold every time I open my case! Your bow is the most important part of your playing – it's like your breath when you sing. Practice a good, balanced bow hold and you will have a beautiful singing voice! So now let's pick up our instruments and make them sing! We are going to start with the D major scale! Remember this means starting with our open D string and playing D, E, F# and G on that string, then move to the A string to play your A, B, C#, and D. Then try playing it in reverse, from high D down to open D.

#### **Staccato**

Now we are going to learn what Staccato means. Definition of Staccato: short notes in which the bow stays stuck to the string. Try playing a few short notes like this on just your open D string

Next, let's apply this to the D scale. Play the entire D scale like you did above but this time with short staccato bowed notes.

#### **Slurs**

Now we are going to learn about the opposite of staccato, notes that sound Smooth and Connected. On string instruments, we can make the smoothest and most connected notes by putting them together in one bow.

When we play more than one note on the same bow, we call it a Slur. Practice the D major scale with 2 note slurs and 4 note slurs (this means playing 2 notes in a row without lifting the bow and then 4 notes in a row without lifting the bow.)

Definition of a Slur: two or more different notes played on the same bow so that they are completely smooth and connected, with no space between them.

## Musical Excerpt

And now let's have some fun! Remember what a staccato is? And do you remember playing Twinkle? Let's try Twinkle using staccato. Make sure the bow strokes are short and feel "stuck" to the stings. Next, let's try a variation where we play twinkle using our normal bow strokes (you could also call these normal, separated strokes Detache bow strokes.)

Try playing Twinkle and the Variations alternating Detache and Staccato.

Wonder: why doesn't slurring work? (you can't slur when you play the same note twice in a row which we do often in Twinkle!)

Below are the note names of Twinkle written out as well as the notated music.

## TWINKLE THEME

D D A A B B A –

G G F# F# E E D –

A A G G F# F# E –

A A G G F# F# E –

D D A A B B A –

G G F# F# E E D –

### 43. A MOZART MELODY

*pizz.* Adapted by W. A. Mozart

0 0 1 0 3 2 1 0

5 0

9 0 0 1 0

## Rhythmic Excerpt:

Now let's explore different rhythms while practicing staccato and normal, or Detache bow strokes on your D string and on your A string. For variation one, say Pep-per-o-ni Piz-za out loud and listen to the natural rhythm of the words you're saying, then look down at the top left box in Twinkle Bow Variations below to see what that rhythm looks like in notation. Play this

rhythm first on the D string using a staccato bow stroke, and then on the A string using a Detache bow stroke. Then follow this process for each of the remaining four rhythm variations but this time you decide which of the two bow strokes to use on your D and A strings.

Variation 1 – Pepperoni Pizza







Variation 2 – Down Puppy Up Puppy

Variation 3 – Little Tiny Motorcycle

Variation 4 – 1 2 shh 4

Variation 5 – Trip-el-let Trip-el-let

### Twinkle Bow Variations

1. 	4. 
2. 	5. 
3. 	Theme 

*Viola lesson developed by Liz Harris Scruggs at Bryant, Concord International, Highland Park, Laurelhurst, Roxhill & Bryan Kolk at Washington Middle School, Garfield High School*

