

**THEORY REQUIREMENTS FOR STRINGS – OCTOBER 2000-2005**  
**The theory in the AMTA Student Activities Handbook is incorrect.**

*Webster is: [almta.org](http://almta.org)*

*Download the Theory Evaluation Sheets by instrument and age & attach to student forms*

**VIOLIN**

Age 6-7

Scales: One octave: G,D,A

Arpeggios: One octave: G,D,A

Bowings: Play in quarter notes, one per bow

Age 8

Scales: One octave: D,A,E,B

Arpeggios: One octave major: D,A,E,B

Bowings: Play in quarter notes: one per bow

Age 9

Scales: two octaves: G,A,Bb,g,a

Arpeggios: Two octaves: G,A,Bb,g,a

Bowings: Scales: separate quarter notes or two slurred quarter notes

Arpeggios: separate quarter notes

Age 10

Scales: Two octaves: Ab,A,Bb,B,C,D,a,b,c,d

Arpeggios: Two octaves: same as scales above.

Bowings: Same as previous year

Age 11

Scales: Two octaves: D,Eb,E,F,b,c,d,e

Arpeggios: Two octaves: D,Eb,E,F,b,c,d,e

Bowings: Scales: same as previous year; add all separate quarter notes  
martele. Arpeggios: slow triplets, three notes per bow.

Age 12

Scales: Two octaves: Db,D,Eb,E,F,bb,d,e,f

Three octaves: G,g

Arpeggios: same two and three octave keys as scales above.

Bowings: Scales: same as previous year, add eight eighth notes slurred  
per bow. Arpeggios: separate bows and with one slurred triplet  
per bow in moderate tempo.

Age 13

Scales: Two octaves: E,F,F#,c#,e,f,f#

Three octaves: G,Ab,A,B,g,a

Arpeggios: Same two and three octave keys as scales above.

Bowings: Scales: in sixteenth notes with separate bows, detache,  
and slurring eight notes per bow.

Arpeggios: Continue slurring one triplet per bow.

## **Violin –continued**

### Age 14

Scales: For the remaining years of study, all scales are to be performed in three octaves; G,Ab,A,Bb,C,g,a,b,bb,c

Arpeggios: Same keys as scales, three octaves.

Bowings: Scales: same as previous year. Arpeggios: three or six notes slurred per bow.

### Age 15

Scales: Ab,Bb,B,C,Db,D,a,bb,b,c,d

Arpeggios: Same keys as scales, three octaves.

Bowings: Scales: slur eight sixteenth notes per bow; also, play in sixteenth notes with two slurred notes followed by two separate notes. Arpeggios: slur three, six, or nine notes per bow.

### Age 16

Scales: B,C,Db,D,Eb,E,F,G,b.c#,c,d,eb,e,f,f#

Arpeggios: Same keys as scales, three octaves.

Bowings: Scales: same as previous year plus separate sixteenth notes played spiccato. Arpeggios: play nine notes per bow slurred and separate bows at moderate tempo.

### Age 17-18

Scales: All major and minor keys

Arpeggios: same as scales, three octaves

Bowings: Scales: play in thirty-second notes slurring all ascending notes in one bow and all descending notes in one bow. Continue spiccato sixteenth notes, add thirty-second notes played detache.

Arpeggios: play in separate bows and slurring nine notes per bow in rapid tempo.

## **All minor scales are to be played in the melodic form.**

## **VIOLA**

### Age 6-7

Scales and arpeggios: One octave: C,G,D

Bowings: Play in quarter notes, one per bow

### Age 8

Scales: One octave: G,D,A,E.

Arpeggios: One octave: G,D,A,E

Bowings: Same as previous year

### Age 9

Scales: Two octaves:C,D,Eb,c,d

Arpeggios: Two octaves: C,D,Eb,c,d

Bowings: Scales in separate quarter notes or two slurred quarter notes.

Arpeggios in separate quarter notes.

**Viola continued:**

Age 10

Scales: Two octaves: Db,D,Eb,E,F,G,d,e,f,g  
Arpeggios: Two octaves, same keys as above  
Bowings: Same as previous year.

Age 11

Scales: Two octaves: G,Ab,A,Bb,e,f,g,a  
Arpeggios: Two octaves: G,Ab,A,Bb,e,f,g,a  
Bowings: Scales: same as previous year plus separate quarter notes  
martele. Arpeggios: slow triplets, three notes per bow.

Age 12

Scales: Two octaves: Gb,G,Ab,A,Bb,eb,g,a,bb Three octaves: C,c  
Arpeggios: Same as two and three octave scales above.  
Bowings: Scales: same as previous year plus eight eighth notes slurred  
per bow. Arpeggios: separate bows and with one slurred triplet  
per bow in moderate tempo.

Age 13

Scales: Two octaves: A,Bb,B,a,bb,b Three octaves: C,Db,D,E,c,d  
Arpeggios: Same as two and three octave scales above.  
Bowings: Scales: sixteenth notes with separate bows, detache, and  
slurring eight notes per bow. Arpeggios: Same as previous year.

Age 14

Scales: For the remaining years of study, all scales are to be performed  
in three octaves: C,Db,D,Eb,E,F,eb,e,f.  
Arpeggios: same as scales, three octaves,  
Bowings: Scales: same as previous year. Arpeggios: three or six notes  
slurred per bow.

Age 15

Scales: Db,Eb,E,F,Gb,G,d,eb,e,f,g  
Arpeggios: same as scales, three octaves,  
Bowings: Scales: slur eight sixteenth notes per bow; also play in  
sixteenth notes with two slurred notes followed by two separate  
notes. Arpeggios: slur three, six, or nine notes per bow.

Age 16

Scales: E,F,Gb,G,Ab,A,Bb,C,e,f,f#,g,ab,a,bb,b  
Arpeggios: Same keys as scales, three octaves.  
Bowings: Scales: same as previous year, plus separate sixteenth notes  
played spiccato. Arpeggios: play nine notes per bow slurred and  
separate bows at moderate tempo.

**Viola continued:**

Age 17-18

Scales: All major and minor keys.

Arpeggios: Same keys as scales, three octaves.

Bowings: Scales: play in thirty-second notes slurring all ascending notes in one bow and all descending notes in one bow. Continue spiccato sixteenth notes and add thirty-second notes played detache. Arpeggios: play in separate bows and slurring nine notes per bow in rapid tempo.

**All minor scales are to be played in melodic form.**

**CELLO**

Age 6-7

Scales: G,D,A One octave in quarter notes, one per bow.

Age 8-9

Scales: C,G,D,F, Two octaves in quarter notes, one per bow.

Age 10-

Scales: C,G,F,D,Bb,a,e,(melodic minor form) 2 octaves.

Bowings: Detache' quarter notes, 8<sup>th</sup> notes, slur 2.

Age 11-12

Scales: C,G,F,D,Bb,a,e,b,d,g (all 3 minor forms) 2 octaves.

Bowings: Detache' quarter notes, slur 2, separate 2, 8<sup>th</sup> notes, slur 2.

Arpeggios: Two octaves: C,G,D,F,Bb,a,e,b,d,g.

Age 13-14

Scales: Three octaves: C,G,D,A,F,Bb,Eb,a,e,d,g,c,b,f# (3 forms of minor)

Bowings: Detache' martele quarter notes. 8<sup>th</sup> notes, Slur 2, Slur 3, Slur 4 (at teacher's discretion).

Arpeggios: Three octaves: C,G,D,A,F,Bb,Eb,Ab,a,e,d,g,c,b,f,f#.

Age 15-16

Scales: Three octaves: C,G,D,A,E,F,Bb,Eb,Ab,a,e,d,g,c,b,f,f#,c#.

Thumb position scales C, D, crossing strings 4 octaves.

Bowings: Detache', martele. 8<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>ths</sup> slur 2, slur 3, slur 4.

Arpeggios: Three octaves: C,G,D,A,E,F,Bb,Eb,Ab,a,e,d,g,c,b,f,f#.c#.

Age 17-18

Scales: ALL MAJOR AND MINOR KEYS 3 or 4 octaves depending upon the key. Thumb scales, 4 octaves.

Minor keys -- all three forms of the minor.

Bowings: All

Arpeggios: All major & minor keys 3 or 4 octaves, depending on the key.

**Ages 11-18 – All 3 forms of the minor scale are required for cello.**