

String Instrument Sizing

Self-Measuring

Measuring String Instruments: The measurements below are a good starting point but think of string instruments like bicycles. It is much better to be on one that is slightly too small than one that is too big. **If you are on the edge, ALWAYS go DOWN to the next size lower.**

Size Exceptions

Beginning 6th grade students will be limited to the size of certain instruments (Viola and Double Bass) when first starting. This is based on personal teaching experience, the challenges due to the size of specific instruments for beginning players, and the level of consistent success from students.

Violin- fractional sizes from ¼ to 4/4 (full)

Size	Left Hand Span	Left Arm Length	Height
Full Size	Over 5 inches	Over 24 inches	Not important
¾ Size	4-1/2 to 5 inches	21 to 24 inches	Not important
½ Size	4 to 4-½ inches	18 to 21 inches	Not important
¼ Size	3-½ to 4 inches	Under 18 inches	Not important

Viola - measured in inches

**Regardless of measurements, beginning 6th grade viola students will not be allowed to start on a 15-inch or larger instrument*

Size	Left Hand Span	Left Arm Length	Height
15-½ inch	6 inches	26 inches	Not important
15 inch	5-½ inches	25 inches	Not important
14 inch	5 inches	24 inches	Not important
13-inch	4-½ inches	21 inches	Not important
12 inch	Less than 4-½ inches	20 - inches	Not important

Cello - fractional sizes from ¼ to 4/4 (full)

Size	Left Hand Span	Left Arm Length	Height
Full Size	6 inches	24 inches	60 inches
¾ Size	5 inches	22 inches	56 inches
½ Size	4 inches	20 inches	52 inches
¼ Size	3 inches	18 inches	48 inches

Double Bass- fractional sizes from ¼ to 4/4 (full)

**Regardless of measurements, beginning 6th Grade Double Bass players will start on ¼ or ½ size double bass*

Size	Left Hand Span	Left Arm Length	Height
¾ Size	6-½ inches	24 inches	60 inches
½ Size	5-¾ inches	22 inches	56 inches
¼ Size	5 inches	20 inches	52 inches