

River Trail Middle School

Welcome to Orchestra!

Cello and Bass

I would like to welcome the families of students to the River Trail MS Orchestra program! This information sheet is a list of daily class items students will need, and information about renting/purchasing instruments.

Getting an Instrument

School Cello/Bass Instruments

Cello and bass instruments are available from school students may rent for home. Students will be notified by the end of the first week of school if a school instrument is available to rent based on their instrument size. A yearly \$50 usage fee is required for student rental of a school instrument.

Music Store Instrument Rental

Students are welcome to rent an instrument from a “luthier” (bowed-string specialist). Many stores offer different insurance policies for damages (often called *Liability and Damage Waiver-LDW*). Most stores allow students to exchange their current instrument for a larger size as part of the rental agreement. In addition, some stores will even apply some portion of the rental fee towards the purchase of a new instrument!

Instrument Purchase

Buying an instrument is not the same as buying a computer or television. A person will need to know what to look for and be able to play the instrument to determine the quality. Online purchase of instruments is incredibly tricky as some instruments sold online are misleading regarding to the quality and price of an instrument. Students may end up with an instrument that makes it harder to play, stay in tune, or develop an adequate quality of sound regardless of the student’s or even a professional musician’s skill level. Parents planning to purchase an instrument either in person or online should purchase through a vendor that allows for the return and full refund of the instrument if the instrument is assessed to have problems or the quality will make it difficult for the student to use.

Instrument Materials

In addition of getting a violin or viola for use, students will also need to get the following items and materials for Digital Online Learning in Orchestra. These items may be found at the local area music stores or even ordered online.

- **Method Book: Essential Elements for Strings**
 - 6th Grade: Book 1 and 2
 - 7th Grade: Book 2
- **Rock Stop** -any color
- **Soft Cleaning Cloth**-any piece of soft cloth larger than 5x7inches
- **Rosin**
 - Dark Rosin-Cello players
 - “Pops” Brand Rosin for Double Bass Players
- **Mechanical Pencil**
- **Folding music stand**
- **A solid place to sit** on a seat that does not rotate
 - Cello Players: a sturdy seat where a student’s feet are flat on the ground and the knees bent at a 90-degree angle
 - Bass Players: a sturdy stool where the student’s right foot is flat on the ground

Music Stores

>List of **Local Area Music Stores** and Stores that specialize in Violins (viola/cello/bass): <http://rtmsorchestra.com/music-stores/>

>**Online Stores** that Specialize in String Instruments: <http://rtmsorchestra.com/online-orchestra-stores/>