

River Trail Middle School

Welcome to Orchestra!

Violin and Viola

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. Violin and Viola students will be measured for the correct instrument size during class and 6th Grade will have a form they will fill out to take home with their instrument size written down.

**Due Dates listed are for 6th Grade. 7th and 8th Grade students will need to have all materials by the end of the 2nd week of school*

Classroom Materials (*Due in class August 12, 2024)

- 1-inch or ½ inch, 3-ring “hardcover” binder (any color)
- Several sheets of Notebook paper
- Mechanical Pencil

Instrument Materials (*Due in class, August 26, 2024)

- Shoulder Rest for the correct size instrument (not shoulder pad or sponge)
- Soft Cleaning Cloth-any piece of soft cloth about 8x10inches or larger (old T-shirt material)
- Rosin (avoid purchasing rosin that comes in a metal tin as they are very difficult to open)

Instruments (*Due in class, August 26, 2024) *earlier the better*

- Instrument and Bow in good, working condition
- Correct Instrument Size for the student
- 4-fine tuners on the tailpiece, which the student can rotate with ease

Music Stores

- There are three ways students are able to get a violin/viola for orchestra class. Click here for an explanation of the pros and cons: <http://rtmsorchestra.com/gettinginstrument>
- Parents may find the names and locations of violin makers and music stores in the North Atlanta area on the RTMS Orchestra website at: <http://rtmsorchestra.com/musicstores/>

**some materials may be purchased online through vendors like Amazon, please be aware of Shipping and Arrival dates, and shipping upcharges (even if Prime)*

Instrument

When getting an instrument, all instrument “outfits” for student level instruments comes with the following items

- Instrument with chinrest, four strings, and four fine tuners
- Bow
- Case

Orchestra Materials

The items below are often purchased separately from the instrument. These items are essential for the student to play on their instrument.

• Rosin

Rosin is used on the bow to provide friction between the bow hairs and string for the instrument to make a sound. This is an item students will use daily in class. A basic, block type rosin (rosin encased in a block of wood, usually \$4-8) is sufficient for student model instrument. Higher quality rosin, usually \$15 or more, will make no difference in the sound on a student model instrument.

• Cleaning Cloth

Cleaning Cloth is used for students to wipe down the instrument and bow after use in class every day. This is needed for wiping down rosin dust and oils from student hands off the wood. Avoid using hand towels as the string will pull the fibers off the towel.

• Shoulder Rest

This piece of equipment is essential for the student to play the instrument on the shoulder. Shoulder rests are not the same as the sponge material often found sold next to shoulder rests in stores. Although some teachers might use the sponge instead of a shoulder rest, we have found using a shoulder rest allows students to be successful.

General Orchestra Instrument Procedures

• Instrument and Equipment Labeling

Students will spend class time labeling their instrument cases and materials using Mr. Liu’s labeling guidelines.

• Student Instrument Storage

Violin and viola students are assigned a locker in the orchestra room during the first week of school. Students will use their orchestra lockers to store their instrument during school. Students are required to bring their violin/viola and materials to class daily. Students should keep items such as rosin and shoulder rests with them if the items do not fit inside the instrument case.

Please do not leave shoulder rests outside of the instrument case in the instrument locker

• Instrument Drop-off and Pick-up

Students will drop-off their instruments at the orchestra locker room before going to homeroom in the mornings. Students will have time to stop by the orchestra locker room to pick-up their instrument during school dismissal.