



Palmer Middle School Orchestra: Material List and Instrument Assignment Sheet

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Materials due: Friday, August 21st, 2026

Welcome to 6th grade Orchestra! I am so excited to teach you how to play a stringed instrument. If you are playing violin or viola, you may rent your instrument from the music store of your choice (refer to flyers). If you are playing cello or bass, you will use a school instrument during the day. It is encouraged to rent an instrument to keep at home for convenient practice (refer to flyers). The best way to get a high-quality instrument for your child is to rent from the string shop of your choice. The rental fee you pay each month will apply toward the eventual purchase of an instrument. We do not recommend purchasing an instrument outright as your child will change sizes as they grow, and as they advance, they will want a “step-up” (higher quality) instrument. Also, please do not order an instrument online, as they come disassembled and need to be set up by a professional luthier before use, potentially costing hundreds of dollars. The best quality instrument will set your child up for success! If you have any questions or concerns about obtaining the required materials for this class, please contact Mrs. Whittle (zoe.whittle@cobbk12.org).

***Please bring all materials to school on Friday, August 21st for our first day with instruments!

Important: Please take your child to the music store with you when you go to choose an instrument. The stringed instrument experts who work at the shops will make sure you rent the correct size and that you have all the necessary accessories. They will even make sure the instrument is in tune!

****REMEMBER- only LOOK at your beautiful new instrument- don't try to adjust it in any way- you can easily damage the instrument****

SUPPLY LIST

1) Instrument: Violin Viola Cello Bass

Size: $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ full

Size: 13 inch 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch 14 inch 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch 15 inch 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch

**Your local music store will include a case, bow and rosin with the instrument.

2) Method Book- Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1-***Make sure you buy the book written for your instrument! (violin, viola, etc.)***

3) **Violins & Violas** - Shoulder rest (REQUIRED)

4) **Cello & Bass** - Rock stop (for at home practice and concerts only)

5) PENCIL, Black (must be black) 1” binder, and sheet protectors (20-ish)

- 6) Soft cloth to clean off instrument (This can be purchased at the store or an old t-shirt from home can be used)
- 7) Clip-on Tuner! (For all instruments, should be brought to class every day)
- 8) Rosin (if does not come with your instrument already, “bass” rosin will be provided)
- 9) Folding metal music stand (optional, but encouraged to keep at home for practice)
- 10) Extra strings (optional for violins and violas only; helpful for quick repairs and prevents an extra trip to the store)

****Cello/Bass Students:** Due to the large nature of your instrument, you will use a school provided cello or bass in class at school. If possible, it is recommended to have an instrument at home for students who wish to practice and to use for concerts/field trips (however, not required). Bus transportation is not allowed for larger instruments such as cellos and basses. School-owned instruments can only be taken home on the weekends via car riders.

Eight Important Questions to Use as a Guide When Renting a String Instrument

1. WHERE WAS THE INSTRUMENT MADE?

European-made instruments are the best choice. You want your student to have the best quality instrument possible to ensure their musical success. Students will enjoy performing and practicing if the instrument is easy to play and will become frustrated when equipment fails.

2. WHAT KIND OF BOW COMES WITH THE INSTRUMENT?

Most students use a fiberglass bow as opposed to a wood bow for the first year of study. Choose a fiberglass bow with real horsehair – not synthetic hair – and no bow has a mixture of horsehair and synthetic.

3. CAN SOMEONE IN THE STORE TUNE THE INSTRUMENT OR DO MINOR REPAIRS WHILE I WAIT?

4. WHO DOES THE REPAIRS TO INSTRUMENTS? WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? ARE THE REPAIRS MADE IN-STORE? (or do you have to wait a week for the instrument to be repaired and lose practice time...)

5. HOW MUCH OF MY RENT APPLIES TO PURCHASE? DO YOU CHARGE INTEREST OR ANY “EXTRA” FEES?

6. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD NEEDS A LARGER INSTRUMENT? DOES MY EQUITY TRANSFER TO THE NEXT SIZE INSTRUMENT?

7. IS THERE A TIME LIMIT TO RENT AN INSTRUMENT BEFORE YOU HAVE TO BUY IT?

8. CAN SOMEONE IN THE STORE PLAY THE INSTRUMENT FOR YOU?