

DODGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Mrs. Ashley Culley and Mrs. Evelyn Champion, Directors

VIOLIN OR VIOLA

Welcome to the sixth grade Orchestra! We are so excited to teach you how to play a stringed instrument. This page should answer your questions about securing an instrument for class.

Violin and viola are the smaller stringed instruments. All students beginning violin or viola need an instrument to play in class every day. Students will be given a storage locker in the orchestra room, and should take their instrument home regularly, but always remember to bring it back to school for orchestra class. Students will drop their instruments off in their lockers before going to homeroom each morning.

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!

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!

Please do not get an instrument with a huge case that will be difficult for your child to carry each day. Make sure the case is lightweight and easy to carry. A shoulder strap or backpack style carrying straps are a must for violinists and violists. Check the case carefully.

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

REQUIRED SUPPLIES FOR VIOLIN OR VIOLA



- **Shoulder rest**
(REQUIRED-please do not leave the music store without this item, make sure it fits the instrument as they come in different sizes)
- **Rosin** (should be in the case)
- **Soft cloth** to clean off instrument
- **Music stand-** folding, metal
- **Essential Elements,**

Book 1- keep at home for practice- *Make sure you buy the book for your instrument!*

- **Extra strings** (helpful for quick repairs and prevents an extra trip to the store)

Please contact the directors if you have questions about securing an instrument.

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