

My Child would like an instrument. What do I do?

Step 1: Which instrument does he/she want to play?



Violin: The highest and brightest sounding string instrument. Usually plays the melody. Is sometimes called a fiddle.

Most popular choice, because it is familiar to NM 3rd Graders after our 2nd Grade Violin Class. *Look up: Itzak Perlman*



Viola: It looks like a violin, but it sounds lower and richer. Has a deep, warm tone. A good choice for students who love the lower sound, but don't want the extra expense (and heavy instrument to carry). *Look up: Paul Silverthorne*



Cello: Large string instrument. Has a deep voice and rich sound. A bit heavy to carry. Slightly more expensive to rent. But a very beautiful instrument. *Look up: Yo Yo Ma*



Bass: (Because of its size, it is an option for 4th and 5th students only) The largest of the four string instruments. Very large and heavy and expensive to rent. Very deep sound. Played in orchestras, but is also frequently played in Jazz, folk, and bluegrass, and even rock styles. *Look up: Esperanza Spalding*

Step 2: What size instrument does he/she need?

Mrs. Corbin can determine your child's size, OR you can go to Meyer Music to get an instrument...and they can size your child in the store.

Step 3: Rent an instrument from SHAR or MEYER Music.

Meyer Music 231-865-7000 1-800-692-3210

Shar Music 1-866-742-7261

Both companies offer excellent service and quality instruments. Both companies send weekly representatives to our school to make deliveries and take instruments for repair. Both companies have rental insurance (just in case anything breaks), and both companies provide a complete rental package: Instrument, case, music stand, Shoulder Rest or Rock stop, and Essential Elements for Strings Book I.

Step 4: Practice!! Use available resources for help. And ask for help.

If your child is starting a little 'late' (a little ways into the school year, or in 4th or 5th Grade...students start Strings Class in 2nd and 3rd Grade at NM), they will have to work VERY hard to catch up. Mrs. Corbin is available and willing to provide a few one on one lessons to help them 'jump in', but a weekly private instructor is HIGHLY recommend. Please ask Mrs. Corbin about private teachers to recommend. They will need to practice consistently (4-6 days per week for at least 15 minutes a day) to build their new skills. Sometimes peers can provide encouragement and help for new string players too. Schedule sleep-overs and after-school sessions for playing together with friends that play well!

The NM Elementary Strings Website has TONS of helpful tips and videos and information to get you started. Please check it out.

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