

School Year: 2019-2020

To: All parents of 5th grade students interested in strings

From: Ms. Prior, Orchestra Director at Cattell, Madison, Moulton, Oak Park, Samuelson, Monroe, Moore, Garton, Hillis, and Findley.

Subject: Beginning Strings

Your child has been given the opportunity to learn an orchestra instrument. Being in an orchestra offers an exciting challenge, and an opportunity for the student to grow both as a person and as a musician. This requires a great deal of practice time to work out problems of skill, coordination and theory. You, the parent, best know your child and you do have a good idea of how this situation will work out. Talk this over and decide together, for it is an important decision.

Being in an orchestra means that your student will choose a stringed instrument: **violin, viola, cello or bass**. Information on rental of the instruments is on the third page. The school does own a limited number of instruments for students to borrow. This year a fee of \$50 may be assessed to cover usage and repairs. This fee may be waived if your child qualifies for free or reduced fees. Please check with the office for eligibility. One time a week, your child will be given a lesson on the instrument chosen, most often in a group setting. Also, before concerts, all of the orchestra students get together and practice as a large orchestra group as time and space allow. **We will be having a mass elementary instrumental concert in May at a nearby middle school.**

✂The only purchases required, besides the rental of an instrument, are a lesson book for each instrument, **Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 (newest edition)**, (about \$9.99), a **sponge** shoulder rest for violin and viola students (\$4-\$6) and a **rock stop** for cello and bass students. (\$10.00 for cello, \$15.00 for bass.) (See attached store information for store location.) These prices do not include taxes. They are one-time costs and if a problem occurs in acquiring these items please contact me.

Please feel free to call me **at your school** if you have any questions. If I am not available, I will return your call promptly.

Cynthia Prior (cynthia.prior@dmschools.org)

String Instrument Rental & Purchasing List:

In Des Moines:

Rieman Music: 4400 E. Broadway (262-0365) and 6501 Douglas (278-4685)

Violins	\$20/month
violas	\$30/month
cellos	\$40/month

Becker Fine Stringed Instruments 6567 University Ave. Windsor Heights 274-9420 Violins: \$15/month, Violas: \$20/month, Cellos: \$30/month for first three months, then 20/25/40 per month.

Uptempo Music: 2714 Beaver Ave., DSM, 277-0145

Violins:	\$16/month
Violas:	\$18/month
Cellos:	\$24/month

Family Music Center: 4110 SW 9th (244-3711)

Catalog and Mail order:

Taylor Music (Aberdeen, SD) 1-800-872-2263

<http://www.1800usaband.com>

Offers violin, viola, cello rental, new and used instruments.

Used Violin/viola \$12-20 a month with free music stand and book. \$24 a month for new.

Cello: \$25-40 used/\$45 new per month.

Woodwind and Brasswind: 1-800-348-5003

<http://www.wwbw.com/strings>

offers all stringed instruments and others

Shar Music: 1-800-248-SHAR

<http://www.sharmusic.com>

offers all stringed instruments, fine instruments, accessories

Southwest Strings: 1-800-528-3430

<http://www.southweststrings.com>

Offers all string instruments, accessories

PLEASE CONSULT WITH ME BEFORE BUYING ANY INSTRUMENT FROM ANOTHER WEBSITE OR STORE. Inexpensive instruments are not worth the money, as they will not perform well and most stores in town will not repair them as they cannot guarantee their repairs. **Please do not buy painted instruments for your child.** They are usually of poor quality and stringed instruments should be stained, not painted to insure a quality sound.