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)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR CLASSROOM OR MUSIC TEACHER

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Music Department Kelly Schnackenberg, Curriculum Coordinator

Dear Parent.

Instrumental Music Lessons are available in your school for all interested pupils. Band and string lessons are available for students in grade 5.

The **Free Group Lessons** are on the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, string bass. Brass, woodwind and percussion instruments are taught in Band. Pupils in class lessons are grouped by families of instruments and by levels of achievement. The lessons are about 1/2 hour in length and are held once a week during the school day.

A minimum of 30 minutes daily practice is suggested at home in order to succeed on the instrument.

If you feel you need additional information, call your school principal, classroom music teacher or the instrumental music teacher at your school: Strings: **Cynthia Prior**, (call your school for contact). Please turn in the form below as soon as possible.

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE GROUP LESSON FORM

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Student:	Address:	Zip:
	(first and last)	
Parent Name:		Phone:
School:	Homeroom # & Teacher:	
Parent email:		
I want to play	the (1) or (2)	
I will	rent an instrument from a music store Use an instrument in the family Need a School instrument (limited available)	
	Signa	ture of Parent or Guardian

String Instrument Rental & Purchasing List:

In Des Moines:

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

\$20/month Violins 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: \$25-40used/\$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.