

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### Selecting an Instrument



### **PURCHASING**

Before purchasing an instrument anywhere, including internet sites, I strongly recommend that you find out if the brand you are considering can be serviced locally. Local instrument repair shops will not service all brands. If the store/website that sells the instrument does not have an instrument repair shop, where will you have it serviced? Availability of parts can be an issue. Young players can be hard on instruments. It is likely the instrument will need to be serviced at some time.

### **RENTING**

Questions you might want to ask at the music store about renting:

- Is the entire rental fee applied toward eventual purchase or only part of each payment? Is a discount available if you pay off the entire instrument later? At what points during the rental period is this possible? Are there finance charges?
- Does the music store do repairs in the building or is it necessary to send the instrument out? Are “loaners” available if repairs take a long time? If repairs are sent out, where are they sent?
- Is the instrument covered by insurance during the rental period? If so, what is covered – loss, theft, damage? (If the instrument is not covered through a store, you may want to consider adding it to your homeowner’s policy.)
- Does the store carry accessories like reeds, oil, slide grease, rosin, books, etc.?
- Will they perform routine maintenance at no charge during the rental period?
- If your child should decide to switch instruments, is this permitted under the rental agreement without additional charges?

**TIP: If the brand you're looking at also comes in purple, blue, pink etc. it is probably not a quality instrument.**

### Method Books

Please purchase the method book for your child’s instrument

Stringed instruments: *Essential Elements* Book 1

Woodwind & Brass instruments: *Sound Innovations* Book 1

Percussion: *Alfred Drum Method* Book 1 & *A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion* by Mark Wessels

### Accessories

Everyone will need a **3-ring binder 1”**. Please purchase the following separately if it does not already come with your instrument. We will learn how to clean, oil, grease and maintain the instrument at one of the first lessons. Supplies for each instrument are different. Please check this list.

#### Flute

- cleaning rod
- handkerchief

#### Clarinet

- 5 #2 reeds & a box of 2 ½ reeds
- cleaning swab (silk)
- cork grease (in *Chap Stick* style tube)

#### Alto Saxophone

- 5 #2 reeds & a box of 2 ½ reeds
- cleaning swab (silk)
- cork grease
- neck strap (neoprene feels better)

#### Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone

- valve oil (trumpet and baritone)
- slide oil (trombone)
- cleaning snake
- mouthpiece brush
- slide grease

**\*Purchasing a music stand is highly recommended to facilitate proper posture and playing technique.**

#### Percussion

Percussion instruction will include both snare drum and bells. Students should rent a “Bell Kit” which includes a set of bells, a practice pad (for quiet practicing of snare drum assignments) and sticks (Vic Firth - Bolero, Standard or General). Students seem to like the model on wheels like a suitcase best. Please be certain that the bells have letter names of the notes on the bars. It is also recommended that percussionists practice with a metronome which can be purchased or can be found on-line or in free apps.

#### Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

**BRING YOUR CHILD WITH YOU TO THE MUSIC STORE SO THEY CAN MEASURE THEM**

- Rosin if your instrument didn’t have it already.
- A small cloth (washcloth size) for wiping fingerprints and rosin off the instrument.
- Violin and viola players need a shoulder pad (contoured foam pad)
- \*optional tuner (Snark)

### Common Quality Brands

Yamaha            Flute  
Bach                Gemeinhardt  
Selmer             Armstrong  
Bundy  
Conn               Percussion  
Olds                Pearl  
Jupiter             Ludwig  
                        Drum Workshop

### WEBSITES

(\*there are quality & inferior instruments on these sites. If you are purchasing feel free to ask my opinion about a specific instrument)

### Woodwinds, Brass, & Percussion

Woodwind Brasswind (wwbw.com)

Amazon.com

ChuckLevins.com

### Strings

SharMusic.com

SouthwestStrings.com

### USED INSTRUMENTS

Musicground.com

Ebay.com

## PURCHASE AND/OR RENTAL OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

### GENERAL INFORMATION

It is important that your child have a **good quality** student instrument in proper playing condition. In order to help you obtain a musical instrument for your child, we encourage your investigation and consideration of these areas before purchasing or renting an instrument.

1. Cost and length of the rental period, total cost of the instrument, and the availability of cash discounts that may vary slightly with dealers.
2. The dealers' repair and maintenance policies and procedures and the availability of a "loaner instrument" if extended repairs are necessary.

It is recommended that you compare rental/purchase plans from several stores. The Harford County Public School System does not endorse nor recommend any particular store. It is up to the parent/guardian to decide where to obtain an instrument. The following dealers have requested their name, address, and telephone number be distributed to interested parents:

**Music Land**  
200 Gateway Drive  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
Phone: 410-879-1079/  
410-838-2079

**Music and Arts**  
5 Bel Air South Parkway  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
Phone: 410-569-3500  
On-line Rental:  
[www.MusicArts.com/Rentals](http://www.MusicArts.com/Rentals)  
(pick up or direct shipping)

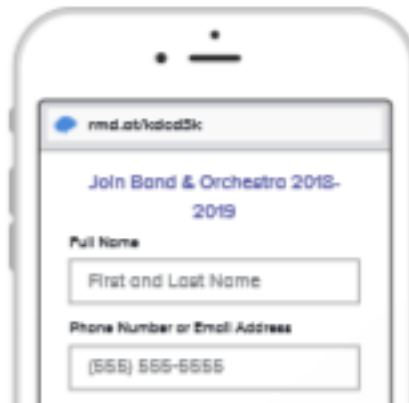
Pick a way to receive messages for Band & Orchestra 2018-2019:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/kdcd3k](http://rmd.at/kdcd3k)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @kdcd3k to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @kdcd3k to (410) 777-5922.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



**Perrin and Associates Fine Violins**  
1 East Lexington Street, Suite 405  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-539-0043

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/kdcd3k](http://rmd.at/kdcd3k) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.