

## Instruments & Supplies

**Violins/Violas** will be able to put their instruments on their assigned shelves in the orchestra room during the school day. Violins/violas will take their instruments home after school every day. The orchestra room will open with the 7:23am bell.

**Cellos/Basses** will be assigned a school instrument to use during class and an instrument to take home. Home instruments will be brought to school no later than the Monday morning of a concert week and taken home immediately after the concert. Personally owned instruments are only brought to school during concert weeks.

**School Instrument Rentals** are available for a \$50 per year rental fee to families. This rental fee is included in the class fee. All school instrument rentals will include case, instrument, bow, and other required materials as listed below.

**Required Supplies:** Students who are providing their own instruments, will need the following supplies:

<b>Violin</b>	<b>Viola</b>	<b>Cello</b>	<b>Bass</b>
D'Addario NS Micro Tuner	D'Addario NS Micro Tuner	D'Addario Eclipse Tuner	D'Addario Eclipse Tuner
Rosin	Rosin	Rosin	Pops or Carlsson Rosin
<i>Everest EZ Shoulder Rest</i> – make sure to get the correct size for the instrument size	<i>Everest EZ Shoulder Rest</i> – make sure to get the correct size for the instrument size	Endpin Anchor (a.k.a. rockstop)	

Cleaning cloth: Ms. Karl provides these to all students for all instruments.

**Purchasing or Renting** can be done at multiple reputable music stores both online and in town. Purchasing a quality student instrument can run between \$400-\$900 for violin/viola, \$600-\$1500 for cello, and \$1200-\$3000 for bass. A quality instrument will prepare the student for success. Cheap instruments are substandard, need expensive repairs, and are often simply unplayable even when brand new. Cheap instruments set up students for frustration and failure. Beware of buying an instrument online, especially if it seems like a bargain.

DO NOT purchase an instrument online unless from a reputable store that has a good reputation for selling string instruments (see below). Online prices may seem tempting but often the purchased instrument will need costly repairs or upgrades for it to be put in adequate playing condition for students.

**Internet Music Stores:** Ms. Karl can help if there are issues with instruments purchased from the online vendors below. If purchased from any other online store, the student will have to take the instrument to a local string repair person to make sure it is in proper playing condition.

Shar Music	<a href="http://www.sharmusic.com">www.sharmusic.com</a>
Music and Arts	<a href="http://www.musicarts.com">www.musicarts.com</a>
Johnson's Violins	<a href="http://www.johnsonstring.com">www.johnsonstring.com</a>
Southwest Strings	<a href="http://www.swstrings.com">www.swstrings.com</a>
*The Washoe County School District or the Board of Trustees neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity [music stores] represented in this document. The distribution of this material is provided as a community service.	

**Music Stores in Reno/Sparks:** If students have issues with instruments from these local vendors, simply take it to them for repair or adjustments. If students have problems dealing with any of these vendors, let Ms. Karl know. Families are giving them hard-earned money in return for instruments. Ms. Karl will call to let them know she is unhappy with the services they are providing her students and ask how they are going to fix the issue.

<b>Blue Note B's</b> 1525 Oddie Blvd, 89431	775-453-9219 <a href="http://www.bnbinstruments.com">www.bnbinstruments.com</a>
<b>Muzic Fuze</b> 475 Hill Street, suite 2, 89501	775-432-2422 <a href="http://www.muzicfuze.com">www.muzicfuze.com</a>
<b>Terry Scott Strings</b> 4725 N. Virginia, 89506	775-379-0322
<b>Absolute Music</b> 8175 S Virginia St. #600, 89511	775-852-2637 <a href="https://absolutemusiconline.com">https://absolutemusiconline.com</a>
<b>JamPro Music Factory</b> 9300 Prototype Dr., 89521	775-800-1772 <a href="http://www.jampromusicfactory.com">www.jampromusicfactory.com</a>
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## When purchasing an instrument

### DOs:

- Insist the instrument is set up to proper specifications. Instruments that meet or exceed proper set-up specifications stay in tune and have a set-up (string height, fingerboard curvature, nut height, neck angle) that allows the student to be successful.
- Insist on a bow made of fiberglass or carbon fiber, not wood (it warps in the Nevada desert), with real horsehair, not synthetic.
- ALWAYS ask Ms. Karl what size instrument you need BEFORE you purchase/rent. If the music store doesn't have the correct size in stock, ask for an exact date when they will have it in stock. If they don't know, tell them you need to go somewhere else. Some stores may try to keep your business by talking you into the wrong size instrument.
- Ask the vendor the following:
  - What is the return policy in case the teacher doesn't approve of the instrument?
  - How many months do we have to pay before we own the instrument?
  - How much of our rental payment goes toward the purchase?
  - Does our equity transfer to the next size instrument or another instrument?
  - What does the rental fee cover?
  - Who does the repairs to the instrument (in store or shipped out) and what are their qualifications?
  - Where was the instrument made? (European instruments are the best choice and have the highest resale value.)
  - Can someone in the store tune the instrument or do minor repairs while we wait?
  - Can someone in the store play the instrument for us?

### DON'Ts:

- NEVER purchase an instrument from Amazon, ebay, Craig's List, Walmart or an online store that has not been vetted by the teacher. You will have to visit the repair shop. If you are lucky, they will be able to get it in playing condition. If not, you'll have to get a different instrument
- If the price seems too good to be true, IT IS. More money will be spent on repairs than if a better quality more expensive instrument was purchased in the first place.
- Electronic instruments, instruments that are painted (pink, purple, black, green, etc.) or any color other than a wood stain, or instruments with a plastic neck are not acceptable for orchestra class.
- Do not purchase Cecelio or Mendini instruments. You will need to spend a minimum of \$50-\$100 to get the instrument playable.
- Do not purchase an instrument that does not have a label visible inside the sound holes.
- Do not let a music store talk you into renting/purchasing an instrument that is a different size than Ms. Karl told you. Music stores are not string teachers and usually not even string players. You can tell them your teacher will be very upset with THEM if you come back with the wrong size instrument.