

Instrument Sizing Information

Please make sure you have an instrument by the week of
★ **September 9th**



BROBST VIOLIN SHOP
5584 General Washington Dr
Alexandria, VA
703-256-0566
www.brobstviolinshop.com

FAIRFAX FINE VIOLINS
10782 Fairfax Blvd suite b,
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 457-1101
www.ffviolins.com

MUSIC AND ARTS - Springfield
6418 Springfield Plaza
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 451-0875
<https://tinyurl.com/fy2n6d>

DAY VIOLINS
142221A Willard Rd
Suite 500, Chantilly, VA
703-391-9444
www.dayviolins.com

FOXES MUSIC COMPANY
416 S Washington St
Falls Church, VA
703-533-7393
www.foxesmusic.com

POTOMAC MUSIC
9020-G Lorton Station Blvd,
Lorton, VA 22079
(703) 600-9590
www.potomacmusic.com

****This list is not exhaustive but represents a sampling of instrument dealers - PLEASE CONSULT WITH MR. J BEFORE PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT ONLINE - ahjohnsonsta@fcps.edu**

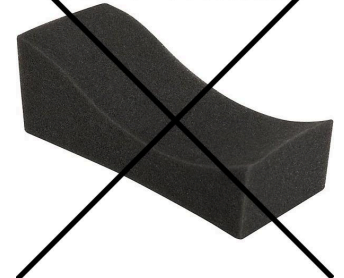
ALL students are required to have the following:

- 1. Instrument, bow, case with name tag**
- 2. Music stand for at home practice (does not need to come to school)**
- 3. Shoulder rest (violin/viola only) - VERY IMPORTANT** →
- 4. Rock stop (cello/bass only)**
- 5. Pencil – Place inside the case and bring it to every class!**
- 6. Cloth/rag to keep the instrument clean (a washcloth works too!)**
- 7. Rosin (included with most rental instruments)**
- 8. 1-1.5 inch Three Ring Binder - Larger binders not preferred**
- 9. Bass ONLY - Stool (suggestion in the list below, this does not need to come to school)**

Violin/Viola Only

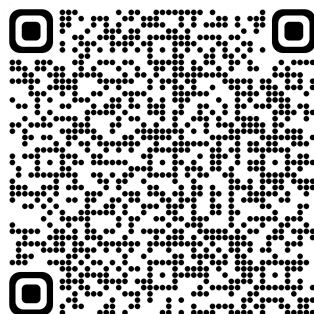


NOT THIS!!!



****The size of the shoulder rest should match the size of the instrument****

Link to suggested materials
on Amazon: tinyurl.com/y6kpyx7u



BUYING/RENTING A STRING INSTRUMENT

There are many places to buy a string instrument, including department stores, catalogs, Internet sites, private individuals and wholesale clubs. Often, these non-school music stores will offer what seem like very inexpensive instruments. With some of these instruments, there is no after-sale support and no repair service or direct working relationship with the manufacturer. These instruments are ALMOST ALWAYS low quality, which can be frustrating for students and result in higher long-term costs for parents. **Students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument from a store that specializes in string instrument service.**

When you are ready to rent or purchase an instrument, here are a few tips to help you choose a good quality instrument:

- **Musical instruments are NOT toys!** A usable instrument is a well-constructed work of art, combining both the latest technology and time-tested old-world craftsmanship.
- **Be careful of Internet auction sites!** Often, students/parents who purchase instruments from auction sites end up frustrated due to the poor quality of the instrument or because the instrument is in need of serious repair. Not all manufacturers build instruments according to specific standards with up to date technology. Most school music stores offer only quality brand name instruments.
- **Play the instrument before you buy it!** This will not be easy with internet/catalog companies. It will cost more in shipping and restocking fees than if you went to a local school music store.
- **Get a major, national brand-name instrument.** Non-brand name instrument manufacturers often do not make parts available to repair centers. Therefore, locate a good name brand from your teacher or local school music store.
- **An inexpensive instrument can be a waste of time and money.** If you are unsure of the value of the instrument you purchase, you may spend more money on repairs just to make it usable.
- **Don't be afraid of the music store salespeople.** These people can be a great resource. They are typically professionally trained and often work closely with music teachers. For the best advice on stringed instruments, find a local music store that specializes in string instruments.
- **Wear and tear is normal, and repair is an inevitable fact.** Most school music stores offer maintenance and replacement programs as part of their rental/purchase plans. Usually, the cost is nominal and is well worth the small expense. Alternative sources often do not offer maintenance or replacement programs. Remember, it is a matter of "WHEN" not "IF" an instrument will need repair.

****If you have any questions, concerns, or would like further advice on choosing an appropriate instrument, please contact Mr. J - ahjohnsonsta@fcps.edu

BUYING OTHER MATERIALS

SHOULDER RESTS – ALL STUDENTS that play violin or viola need either a Kun, Bonmusica, or Everest model shoulder rest. Students must purchase an appropriately sized shoulder rest for their instrument. Shoulder rests can be purchased at a school music store or from one of the Internet instrument supplies dealers listed below.

ENDPIN ANCHOR/ROCK STOP – if student rents/purchases a cello or bass from a school instrument dealer, they should be supplied with an endpin anchor/stop. Endpin anchors/stops can also be purchased at a school music store or from one of the Internet instrument supplies dealers listed below.

STRINGS – most students have success with the Prelude model of strings. Strings will break from normal wear and tear. Students can purchase individual strings (i.e. an A string) or a set of 4 strings. Students should ensure that they purchase a string made for their instrument and an appropriate sized string. Strings can be purchased at a school music store or from one of the Internet instrument supplies dealers listed below.

ROSIN – if students rent/purchase an instrument from a school instrument dealer, they should be supplied with rosin. Rosin should be stored in its case in a cool place to prevent it from melting or breaking. Rosin does occasionally break and can be purchased at a school music store or from one of the Internet instrument supplies dealers listed below. Students should ensure that they purchase rosin that is made for their instrument.

CLOTH RAG – students should have a soft cloth rag to wipe the rosin off their strings and instrument. Soft washcloths or old t-shirts work fine.

MUSIC STAND – students should have a music stand for home practice. Music stands can be purchased at a local music store or from one of the Internet instrument supplies dealers listed below.

ONLINE INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES DEALERS

Shar Music: www.sharmusic.com

Johnson String Instrument: <http://www.johnsonstring.com>

Southwest Strings: <http://www.swstrings.com>

****If you have any questions, concerns, or would like further advice on choosing an appropriate instrument, please contact Mr. J - ahjohnsonsta@fcps.edu