

May 4, 2017

Student Name: _____

Dear Orchestra Parent,

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child in orchestra! The purpose of this note is to give you the summer to obtain the needed equipment and supplies for next school year. Music stores will often have used rental instruments returning to their inventories in the spring. By shopping early you can often purchase a nice used instrument for less than a brand new one. Each student must obtain an instrument and all required equipment to participate in the Orchestra Program.

An instrument may be obtained from the following local (Salina) music store that has agreed to stock the proper sizes and specifications for our school. This store has reasonable lease, rental, and purchase plans available. This is certainly not the only store with these items available, so please do business with any store you prefer. **Please use caution when purchasing instruments from places such as mail order catalogs, department stores, pawnshops, or on-line. Often, less expensive instruments are of such poor quality they are MUCH more difficult to play and discourage students from practicing.** Black, pink, and blue (etc.) instruments are neat to look at, but likely very poor quality, very difficult to play and keep tuned, and still sound terrible even when a student does everything correctly. *Do not purchase these instruments for your child to use in orchestra.* If you have any doubt about an instrument, please contact me and I will gladly help you determine the quality of the instrument.

Midwest Music Inc.

210 S. Santa Fe Ave.
Salina, KS 67401
1-800-262-1376

Recommended On-line Resources

Shar Music (www.sharmusic.com)
Southwest Strings (www.swstrings.com)
Johnson Strings (www.johnsonstring.com)

Your student will need the following:

1. **Instrument** _____ **Size** _____
2. Violin and viola players will need a **shoulder rest**. The music store should be able to assist you in choosing one to fit your student.
3. Cello and Bass players will need an **endpin stop**. Xeros brand is best for cello; any brand is acceptable for bass.
4. **"Essential Elements For Strings Book 1"**
5. **Rosin**. Any brand or color for violins, violas, and cellos. Bass players must have rosin specifically made for the bass. Inexpensive rosin is preferred for beginners.
6. **Music stand**. A folding wire stand is needed for practicing at home. A carrying case for the stand is also helpful, but not required.
7. A **soft cloth for cleaning**. These can be purchased, or an old T-shirt or cloth baby diaper will also work.
8. A pencil.

I would like all students to have the necessary equipment by August 28, 2017. I understand the sizeable investment you are making in your child's future and it is not my intent to exclude any child from orchestra for financial reasons. If obtaining these items creates an insurmountable financial burden on your family, please contact me at Smoky Valley High School at 227-2909 or at home at 212-6025. The school district has a limited number of instruments available on a first come first served basis for those in need of assistance.

Thank You,
Henry O. Littich
Director of Orchestras
Smoky Valley USD 400
hlittich@smokyvalley.org