

## **In order to play, your child must have an instrument. We suggest that you NOT buy now.**

Though we hope they do, there is no guarantee your child will continue past their first year.  
Most 6<sup>th</sup> graders aren't ready for full size instruments yet. Small instruments are hard to resell.  
If you buy and they don't continue, you are stuck with the instrument.

- **You get what you pay for! Inexpensive instruments at stores/on the Internet are not good quality instruments.**
- These instruments don't stay in tune. The fingerboards aren't set properly, and they are made with poor quality wood that warps. Bows and bridges warp. They sound bad and are hard to play. Within a year, the students need a better instrument.
- Wait to see if your child really wants to do this, and then buy an instrument that is worth their playing ability.
- **If you really want to buy an instrument, PLEASE call your teacher first – we can let you know where the good ones are, and can evaluate instruments you are considering.**

## **Most of our students rent instruments the first year or two.**

- Rental is inexpensive.
- Rental is lucrative. Most companies give you "equity" back on rental cost. This can be a savings from \$270-\$450! The difference between a \$150 violin and a \$600 violin becomes very obvious to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level player.
- Some representatives come to our school every week to see if we need anything. They will upgrade you to the next size (no extra charge), take instruments to be fixed, bring strings, etc. so you don't have to go to the shop.
- Maintenance on rentals is often free. Strings cost between \$5-\$45 per string, depending on the instrument – and beginners DO break strings. Repairs on accidents aren't cheap. (A broken bridge can cost \$10-\$50).

## **What should you do next?**

- Decide what instrument to play (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) and what size you need (see your teacher for that info)
- Contact your rental business of choice as soon as possible. See list below for suggested vendors.
- They need to know what school your child will attend, what instrument they wish to play, and what size instrument you need.
- They will fill out a contract and do a credit check.
- Most companies ask for 2 months rental up front – this gets you through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the school year.
- You will need a method book – most know which one for my schools/grades. If not, see Orchestra Guidelines.
- Violin/Viola players need shoulder rests. Cello/Bass players need rock stops.
- See Orchestra Guidelines for a list of *optional* equipment.
- If all goes well, you should have an instrument the first FULL week of school.

## **H&H Music in Evansville <https://handhmusic.net> 1-800-442-1313**

- Rental includes free replacement strings and repairs on accidental damage.
- Earn back 75% of your money toward the purchase of a NEW instrument.
- Their rep comes to our school every week to see if we need anything. No need to drive there.

## **Baroque Violin Shop in Cincinnati <http://www.baroqueviolinshop.com/> (513) 541-2000**

- They allow you to pay for a year up front, and their instruments are very good quality
- Music Stand and method book, shoulder rest/rock stop included in rental.
- You will earn 50% back on your rental if you buy from them.
- They will do repairs, but you must send the instrument to Cincinnati.

## **Royal Music in Bowling Green [www.royalmusic.biz](http://www.royalmusic.biz) (270) 842-9435**

- Their rep comes to school each week.
- Smaller instruments are rented. Once you reach full size, you rent to own that instrument.
- Maintenance/Repair contract available.

## **Wetzel Violins in Evansville [wetzelveiolins.com](http://wetzelveiolins.com) 812-477-7107 or 800-358-5323**

- 40% of rental fees, up to 3 years, applied to the purchase of your rental or a better instrument.
- Rental includes maintenance, (string replacement, pegs slipping or sticking, gluing of seams, & broken fine tuners). Any damage, (broken pegs, bridges, chinrests, cracks, etc.) that occurs will be charged to you and repairs must be done in their shop.

**If there is a problem, please let me know – we have ways to help you! Have a great year!**

**Contact me at [Karen.higdon@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:Karen.higdon@daviess.kyschools.us) or call/text me at 270-321-1855**

Leave a message with your name, student name, school, phone number and the best time to call you back.