

Welcome to the Worthington School Orchestra!

Your Next Step: String Instrument Rental

We have an outstanding school orchestra in the Worthington School District. Both the TWHS and WKHS orchestras are award-winning orchestras and have consistently earned “Superior” ratings at the state level. Through our program, your child will learn how to play a string instrument and build teamwork, self-discipline, listening skills, fine motor skills and coordination.

The orchestra classes provided by the district are free. You will need to provide a rental instrument and accessories. All string instruments are available on a rent to own basis at many music stores in the Columbus area. The string staff recommends:

- ♪ The Loft Violin Shop (Clintonville)
- ♪ Music & Arts (Clintonville/Graceland)
- ♪ The Baroque Violin Shop (Cincinnati with a store rep in Columbus)

As you visit a music store, please keep in mind:

1. Instruments should be of the **proper size**, as they come in several different sizes, and only one will be the correct size for your child. Instrument size can and needs to be determined at the program meetings or at qualified music stores. You should be able to rent the smaller size instrument for as long as necessary.

2. The music store’s rental fee should later apply toward the purchase of a full size instrument. The store should have repair facilities to service your instrument. **The store should have an ample inventory of good quality instruments from which to choose when you are ready to purchase a full size instrument. (This is not always the case from music stores whose main business comes from guitars, drum sets and pianos.)**

3. The instrument should have the following included with the rental package: Horsehair bow, soft cloth, rosin and fine tuners for all 4 strings. Violins & Violas should have a shoulder pad and cellos and basses should come with a rock stop.

4. **Beware** of Internet deals, department store and inexpensive export instruments! You get what you pay for! Poor quality instruments are poorly set up and very difficult, if not impossible, for your child to play. We cannot over emphasize this point!

5. The Loft Violin Shop, Baroque Violin Shop, and Music & Arts carry our teaching method book for class. The book is: **Essential Elements for Strings Book 1** by Gillespie, Allen and Hayes. Be sure to purchase the book that corresponds with your child’s instrument. (Violinists’ will need a Violin Book, etc.)

6. Worthington Schools owns quite a few **cellos and basses**. The school program will provide one for your child at each school so the instrument does not have to be transported back and forth from home. You still need to rent one for home. Once all the schools have instruments, the extras will be made available for rent from the school system for \$45.00 a year. Selection is done by lottery.

For additional FAQs, visit www.worthingtonorchestra.com

Worthington 5th Grade Orchestra Materials Checklist

You may purchase the items below at any string instrument shop. We recommend The Loft Violin Shop, Music & Arts, or The Baroque Violin Shop. Rosin, cleaning cloth, rock stop, and a shoulder sponge should come as part of your rental outfit. The sooner you have your supplies, the sooner you can participate with your orchestra.

_____ Essential Elements for Strings, Book ONE (Violin, Viola, Cello OR Double Bass)

_____ A cake of **Rosin (will come with rental)**
Make sure to get the correct rosin for your instrument.
approx. \$2.00 - 5.00

_____ A soft cleaning **cloth** such as a clean soft rag or handkerchief (will come with rental)

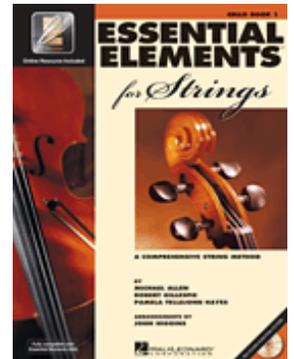
_____ A **Rock Stop** for cellos and double basses (will come with rental)
This is a rubber donut to keep the instrument from sliding around.
approx. \$5.00 to 10.00

_____ A **Shoulder Rest** for violins or violas (will come with rental)
The store clerk will be able to help fit the shoulder rest to the instrument and the player.
Approx. \$3.00 for a sponge, to \$25.00 for a plastic molded shoulder pad (various brands).

_____ A **Pencil**
Student must have a pencil in class every day.

_____ A **Wire Music Stand** for home practice
There are several kinds.
approx. \$10.00 to 20.00

_____ A **One-Inch Binder** for music, worksheets, and handouts (Wilson Hill & Evening Street)



Survivor: The Orchestra Parent Handbook

Welcome to the Worthington Schools Orchestra Program! Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical experience is an investment in their future. You are providing the opportunity for learning self expression, creativity and pride in achievement.

Parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. The following guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

Benefits for your child:

- Learning a new instrument that they can play for their entire life
- Learning to read music
- Learning to listen, hear, sing, and play music
- Problem solving
- Goal-setting
- Physical coordination
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Poise
- And much, much more!
- Teamwork
- Self-expression
- Memory skills
- Concentration
- Positive communication with peers

Benefits for your family:

- Musical event attendance
- Family music making
- Performing for and with family and friends
- Learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of many civilizations
- A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family

How you can help:

- Provide a quiet practice place that is free of distractions.
 - Remind your child to always bring their instrument and materials to school for orchestra.
 - Listen to your child practice, and acknowledge improvement.
 - Create a consistent daily time for practice.
 - Praise your child's efforts and achievements.
 - Encourage your child to make a commitment to his or her music studies.
 - Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
 - Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including live concerts and recitals.
 - Remind your child to bring instrument and music to orchestra class
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What to Avoid:

- Using practice as a punishment
- Insisting your child play for others when he/she doesn't want to
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes of less-than-perfect playing
- Apologizing to others for your child's weak performance

To Maintain Your Child's Interest:

- Talk with your child if his/her interest begins to decline
- Discuss with the orchestra instructor ways to maintain your child's enthusiasm for playing
- Increase your enthusiasm and involvement in your child's playing
- Set up a goal and reward system for practice and playing
- Take your child to concerts such as the Columbus Symphony and ProMusica.

Instrument Care:

- Keep the instrument away from extreme temperature changes. Being outside during extreme hot or cold temperatures, in direct sunlight, or near furnace registers are not good for string instruments.
- Store your instrument in a room that is also room temperature.
- Keep strings wiped clean of rosin and dust build-up.
- Make sure the bow is loosened every time it is put away.
- If a string breaks, please either bring it in to school or to your repair shop to replace it. You may get replacement strings from your rental/repair shop. They are usually included in the rental cost.
- If your string instrument is in need of a repair, please let your orchestra teacher know as soon as possible. Please do not repair the instrument on your own (ex. Gluing the bridge onto the front of the instrument, etc.).

Additional odds and ends:

- String players must keep their fingernails short at all times. Long fingernails interfere with correct hand position and finger placement.
- If you have an older instrument at home, it should be evaluated as to condition and appropriate size so that necessary adjustments and repairs can be made as soon as possible. In order to assure the students' success, instruments must be kept in good repair. This includes replacing broken strings immediately and attending quickly to any other minor repairs.
- We always welcome you to observe our orchestra rehearsals! Feel free to sit in and play or observe. We may also need volunteers to help with bussing, chaperoning and performances from time to time. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.

