

## Helpful Hints for Purchasing Beginner Orchestra Instruments

We are so excited to hear that you are interested in investing in your child's music education! Here are some helpful hints to help you in this process. First, and most importantly, please communicate with your **orchestra teacher** if you are considering buying. We know that purchasing an instrument can be overwhelming at times. However, we are experts in the field of music and we are here to help. **Always** contact your orchestra teacher prior to buying an instrument.

Chris Griffith – BBES and GRES      [cgriffith@y115.org](mailto:cgriffith@y115.org)

Elizabeth Darin – ACES and YIS      [edarin@y115.org](mailto:edarin@y115.org)

Second, we strongly recommend your family **rents at first**. This rental period will help your child learn how to properly care for the delicate instrument, and repairs (in case of accident) are usually covered as part of the rental agreement. Additionally, string instruments come in various sizes for different sized musicians, so many times, it makes more sense to rent a fractional instrument and purchase an instrument when your child has grown into a full size instrument. Many music companies offer introductory pricing for the first few months so families have more time to find a quality instrument to purchase. Additionally, it is very important to **invest in a quality musical instrument**. The so-called "bargain" instruments may seem tempting, but experience has proven that these instruments are no bargain at all. Low prices are a result of lower quality materials and poor workmanship. These instruments tend to break more easily and can be costly or impossible to repair. Low quality instruments are often harder to play well, putting your child at a disadvantage to reach their fullest musical potential. The sound quality of these instruments is very poor and can negatively impact the sounds a young musician makes, making them think they are not doing well, and frustrating them in to giving up.

**Beware of “deals” advertised online.** You can never fully know what you are getting online and we do not recommend this option. If possible, seek local sellers who often allow the instrument to be play-tested prior to purchase. Just think: Would you buy a car without test driving it first? We want to see your child’s enthusiasm for music continue to grow and one of the best ways you can do this is through quality instruments. There are some reputable and trusted online vendors of string instruments, so we have provided you with the following list of recommended vendors. We have found these vendors to be reliable, the instruments play well and are easy to repair, and will give your child the best opportunity to succeed as a young musician. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child’s orchestra teacher.

### **Reputable Local String Vendors:**

Austin’s Violin Shop  
630-466-7562  
[austinsviolinshop.com](http://austinsviolinshop.com)

Ellman’s Music Center  
630-355-5880  
[ellmansmusic.com](http://ellmansmusic.com)

Quinlan and Fabish  
630-906-6595  
[qandf.com](http://qandf.com)

### **Reputable Online String Vendors:**

Shar Music  
[sharmusic.com](http://sharmusic.com)

Southwest Strings  
[swstrings.com](http://swstrings.com)

Both these vendors do long distance rentals and purchasing. If you are planning to purchase, you need to purchase the correct size instrument, and you need to be sure to purchase the instrument OUTFIT which includes a bow, case, and rosin.