

## ***Brown-Barge Middle School***

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Supply List***

***Orchestra students must have ALL of their supplies by Monday, August 26th.***

Some students who sign up for orchestra are undecided about which instrument they want to play. That's okay! During the first week of school we will explore each orchestra instrument, and I will make sure that each student is on the instrument that is best suited for him/her. I encourage students that have played the violin in 5<sup>th</sup> grade to explore the viola, cello, or double bass this year. Every instrument in the orchestra is wonderful and a lot of fun to learn! By the above date, each student will need their instrument and supplies.

Please wait to purchase/rent an instrument until the start of school. **Your child must be sized before you choose an instrument!**

**Required supplies not listed below: One 3-ring, 2-inch binder for sheet music and classwork; 3-prong pencil bag/pouch for binder; 5 pencils (pre-sharpened); 2 highlighters (two colors of your choice)**

The supplies below can be found at a local music store. Because I value the best quality for your child, the store I prefer is Schmidt's Music in downtown Pensacola. Bring this form with you to the store and an associate will help you. They offer FREE DELIVERY to the school if you cannot shop in person. Call the store at (850) 434-0317. I also recommend Shar Music at [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com), but it isn't local (see the Orchestra Handbook). If you are shopping at different stores, make sure you use my checklist on the back.

**Violin** This instrument should be rented/purchased from a local music store. Supplies: Tuner, Rosin, microfiber cloth or polish cloth, extra set of strings, (folding) music stand, and Expressive Techniques for Orchestra Violin Book (8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Orchestra 3). *Please consider giving \$20 optional donation for the cost of music and supplies for the year.*

**Viola** This instrument should be rented/purchased from a local music store. Supplies: Tuner, Rosin, microfiber cloth or polish cloth, extra set of strings, (folding) music stand, and Expressive Techniques for Orchestra Viola Book (8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Orchestra 3). *Please consider giving \$20 optional donation for the cost of music and supplies for the year.*

**Cello** This instrument is available for your child to use while at school. **You must rent/purchase one for home use and transport to concerts.** Supplies: Tuner, Rosin, Rock Stop *with strap*, microfiber cloth or polish cloth, (folding) music stand, and Expressive Techniques for Orchestra Cello Book (8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Orchestra 3). *Please consider giving \$20 optional donation for the cost of music and supplies for the year.*

**Bass** This instrument is available for your child to use while at school. **You must rent/purchase one for home use and transport to concerts.** Supplies: German style Bass bow, tuner, rosin, microfiber cloth or polish cloth, (folding) music stand, and Expressive Techniques for Orchestra Bass Book (8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Orchestra 3). *Please consider giving \$20 optional donation for the cost of music and supplies for the year.*

**By signing this form, you acknowledge that you have read and provided the above materials for your child to participate successfully in Orchestra. This form is DUE BY MONDAY, August 26.**

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your child will not be happy or sound good on a poor-quality instrument... please remember this while you are shopping for an instrument. Think about how much your child will struggle every day on an instrument with parts that do not work or are not made correctly. **I play the violin for a living**, so I know what will make your child succeed easily! I am more experienced and knowledgeable than any retail personnel you will speak to, so make sure the instrument follows the standards below, which is the **bare minimum** for student-level quality. These may be different than what your 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings teacher accepted. All of Schmidt's instruments already meet or exceed these guidelines.

**Quality Instrument Checklist:** Check off each item as you inspect the instrument the associate is attempting to sell to you.

- Instrument is a wood tone/color (not painted)
- Instrument comes with a ***bow*** and a ***case***
- If getting a used instrument, the bow ***stick is straight*** after hair is tightened by the end screw. To check follow these steps:
  - Tighten the screw until hair is ½ inch away from the stick.
  - Set the bow on a flat surface, hair down on top of a table/counter.
  - When you look down the length of the stick, it should not twist or have a bend (warp) in the middle.
  - Loosen the screw until there is no tension on the hair and put it away.
- Comes with a clean, **unused** cake of ***rosin***.
- Case is in working order with ***no damage*** to zippers, closures, clasps, or handle.
- Pegs*** are made of ebony, a black wood. Basses do not have pegs, so skip this step if your child is getting a bass. To check, **have the store associate** loosen and slightly remove the peg from the peg box located at the top of the instrument. At inspection, **the wood of the peg should be smooth and not painted with black paint**. The associate will put the peg back into the peg box. PLEASE DO NOT MANIPULATE INSTRUMENT PEGS BY YOURSELF. **If you are shopping online**, check the description box. If it doesn't say ebony, **it isn't ebony**.
- Instrument ***fingerboard*** is ebony, not just painted black. If you can't tell, ask the store associate. If the store associate doesn't know text me ASAP (850) 490-3259. I will call you back and talk you through the process. **If you are shopping online**, check the description box. If it doesn't say ebony, **it isn't ebony**.
- Fine tuners*** (tuning gears for Bass) are in working order. This can be a difficult thing to check for. Your child will know what fine tuners/tuning gears are. There is one for each string. The screws/gears should not be stripped - that will make tuning IMPOSSIBLE. Cellos not purchased from Schmidt's usually have problems with the A and D string fine tuners. They are often stripped and inoperable. **If you are shopping online**, call or message an associate about instrument repair and insurance options. **It is not right for you to pay for an instrument that does not work properly**.
- A ***label*** with the manufacturer/maker name is inside the instrument. An instrument without a label cannot be fixed at local stores – which is standard protocol. To check for a label, look inside of the instrument through the cut-outs on the face of the instrument. You may need a light if the room lighting is poor. **If you are shopping online**, make sure a brand is listed. If you are unsure, call or email the company.

If you checked all of the above boxes, **you did it!** You have acquired a good-quality instrument for your child to have the best start to a successful year in Orchestra. ☺

***If you are struggling or need help, I will meet with you and help you pick one out. My cell is (850)490-3259.***