

# My Child would like an instrument. What do I do?

## Step 1: Which instrument does he/she want to play?

**Violin:** The highest and brightest sounding string instrument. Usually plays the melody. Is sometimes called a fiddle. Most popular choice, because it is familiar to NM 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders after our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Violin Class. *Look up: Nicola Benedetti or Itzak Perlman*

**Viola:** It looks like a violin, but it sounds lower and richer. Has a deep, warm tone. A good choice for students who love the lower sound, but don't want the extra expense (and heavy instrument to carry). *Look up: Paul Silverthorne*

**Cello:** Large string instrument. Has a deep voice and rich sound. A bit heavy to carry. Slightly more expensive to rent. But a very beautiful instrument. *Look up: Yo Yo Ma*

**Bass:** (Because of its size, it is an option for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> students only) The largest of the four string instruments. Very large and heavy and expensive to rent. Very deep sound. Played in orchestras, but is also frequently played in Jazz, folk, and bluegrass, and even rock styles. *Look up: Esperanza Spalding*



## Step 2: What size instrument does he/she need?

Mrs. Corbin can determine your child's size, OR your child may already know their size! If they play violin in class, ask them what "color" violin they use. Green = 1/8 violin, yellow = 1/4 violin, blue = 1/2 violin

## Step 3: Order a rental instrument from MEYER Music.

Scan to order online



**Meyer Music** Grand Rapids: (616) 975-1122 Meyer Music offers excellent service and quality instruments. They send a weekly representative to our school to make deliveries and take instruments for repair. All instruments include rental insurance (just in case anything breaks). All instruments come with a complete rental package: Instrument, case, music stand, rosin, tuner, Shoulder Rest or Rock stop, and Essential Elements for Strings Book I. Size up at no extra charge as your child grows. All of your monthly payments are kept in your account towards owning a full size instrument when your child is ready! It's really a great investment!

## Step 4: Practice!! Use available resources for help. And ask for help.

If your child is starting a little 'late' (a little ways into the school year, or in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Grade...students start Strings Class in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at NM), they will have to work VERY hard to catch up. Mrs. Corbin is available and willing to provide a few one on one lessons to help them 'jump in', but a weekly private instructor is HIGHLY recommend. Please ask Mrs. Corbin about private teachers to recommend. They will need to practice consistently (4-6 days per week for at least 15 minutes a day) to build their new skills. Sometimes peers can provide encouragement and help for new string players too. Schedule sleep-overs and after-school sessions for playing together with friends that play well!

The NM Elementary Strings Website has TONS of helpful tips and videos and information to get you started. Please check it out. **Angela Corbin** [corbinan@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:corbinan@nmps.k12.mi.us) 231-719-4149 Strings Website: [www.nmelementarystrings.weebly.com](http://www.nmelementarystrings.weebly.com)