

# INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL INFORMATION

## GRADES 5 – 8

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### STRINGS:

If your child is a beginner, please acquire an instrument by the first week of school (and violins and violas before Strings Camp if you are attending). We recommend a rent or rent-to-own arrangement since 5<sup>th</sup> grade students should not begin on full-sized instruments. With a rental program, you are able to exchange the instrument as your child grows.

Antonio Violins is the rental program that services CHCA. They are quite helpful and have two convenient locations—Mason and Kenwood. Their instrument rental includes a bow, storage case, rosin, a shoulder rest (violins and violas)/an endpin rest (cellos), our class textbook (*Learning Together*), and a music stand for home practice. As our main source for rental instruments, they also pick up/drop off items at school if an instrument needs repair, a part needs to be replaced or a student needs a larger instrument. Take your child with you for sizing when starting a rental agreement.

Another shop that I can recommend is [Baroque Violin Shop](#). Two other shops that I know of, but have no experience with, are Mehas Music and Strings N Things. If you do not rent from Antonio Violins please be sure you have the following before the beginning of the school year: your instrument, a shoulder rest (violins and violas)/endpin rest (cellos and bass), rosin, a music stand and an instrument specific textbook – *Learning Together* published by Summy-Birchard.

**Violin and viola players:** CHCA has some loaners when their own instrument needs repair (though Antonio Violins often supplies a loaner if you are renting from them). However, the school cannot provide students with a violin or viola for regular use.

**Cello and bass players:** If you would like, your rental can stay at home during the school year and you may use a school bass or cello so that you do not have to carry it to and from school every day. If you use a school instrument, there is a yearly rental fee of \$50 for repairs and maintenance. If your transportation allows, it is helpful to use your own cello at least occasionally so that I can tune it regularly. All cellists and bass students must bring their instruments at least once at the beginning for tuning and finger tapes.

All students must bring their own instruments for concerts.

During the school day, instruments can be stored in the strings room. Students will get procedures at the beginning of school. There is also designated space for the class textbook, sheet music I hand out, and the required pencil. Students should also keep a small, cotton cloth in their cases to wipe the rosin off the instrument (a piece of an old t-shirt works well).

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### BAND:

**INSTRUMENTS:** Everyone should have their instrument by the first week of school. We recommend a rent or rent-to-own.

We work closely with [Wert Music](#). They are quite helpful, and will even arrange to deliver the instrument to CHCA for your child in time for the start of the school year. You can also purchase our class text and other supplies (see below) and have those delivered as well.

**Percussion students:** Please rent or purchase a SCHOOL BELL KIT. This contains a small mallet percussion instrument (orchestra bells, for learning pitched percussion) and also a practice pad (for learning drum techniques).

CHCA does have some instruments available to students when their own instrument is in need of repair, lost, etc. However, the school cannot provide students with an instrument for regular use unless it is a specialty or secondary instrument.

Instruments can be stored during the school day in the band storage room. Each student will be assigned an instrument locker for his/her instrument, as well as a place for the class text/sheet music.

1. **CLASS TEXTBOOK:** Standard of Excellence Enhanced Comprehensive Method for Band. Please make sure that you get Book 1 (red cover) and get the book specific to your instrument. We will also use Scale and Rhythm Chunks by Rick Canter; this book is also instrument-specific. These books are available through Wert Music, as well as other local music stores or online.
2. **SUPPLIES:** Each instrument requires specific supplies. I will instruct the students as to how to use these items, but please make sure that your student has the following:
  - a. Trumpets & baritones: 1 bottle of valve oil, 1 tube of tuning slide grease
  - b. Trombones: 1 tube of slide cream or 1 bottle of slide oil, 1 tube of tuning slide grease
  - c. Clarinets: At least 20 B-flat Clarinet reeds (often purchased in boxes of 10). Reeds come in various strengths, usually indicated by numbers. I recommend 2-1/2 strength for beginners
  - d. Saxophones: At least 20 Alto Saxophone reeds (often purchased in boxes of 10). Reeds come in various strengths, usually indicated by numbers. I recommend 2-1/2 strength for beginners
  - e. Flutes: 1 soft cloth or handkerchief to use with a flute cleaning rod (rods usually included with the instrument)
  - f. Percussion: 1 extra pair of drumsticks (I recommend Vic Firth American Custom SD1 and a digital metronome (such as a Korg MA30, or an app for phones/tablets such as Metronome Plus)

**Recommended but optional:** a combination tuner/metronome for wind instruments (such as a Korg TM40 or an app like Cleartune), music stand for practice at home

**Required for all students:** a pencil in class every day. I recommend a mechanical pencil that can be kept in the instrument case.

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**PRIVATE LESSONS** are not required but are always recommended. Class time is limited and learning an instrument is a very personal experience. Having some one-on-one help from an expert can be extremely helpful. Keep an eye out for after-school group lessons. Also, see the [Private Music Lessons \(Gr 5-12\)](#) webpage for many private lesson instructors options.