

INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL INFORMATION

Grades 5 – 8

Page 1 of 3

Revised: 4/27/18

We are super excited to work with your child next year as they begin or continue their journey of learning to play an instrument. This TED talk on [how playing an instrument benefits the brain](#) will help you see one reason that we are so excited. We also look forward to working with our parents since experience has shown that an interested parent can have a huge impact on the success of a student embarking on a musical journey.

STRINGS:

SUMMER STRINGS CAMP: (07/23/18-07/27/18) is a fun way for your child to experience string playing in a relaxed atmosphere. Find information at www/chca-oh.org/summer. For the first time, there will be two different sessions of the camp if enough students register. The afternoon camp is a great opportunity for beginners to get started before school begins. Each afternoon we will work on basics, as well as play music games, which will prepare the students for success. For students who already play their instrument, the morning strings camp is a great way to make progress and build friendships during the summer. We will develop skills, learn new music and have time for music games as a large group. There are minimums for both camps so please register soon. Early bird discount until 06/29/18.

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION: 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 5th grade students should not begin on full-sized instruments. With a rental program, you are able to exchange the instrument as your child grows. Your child's name should be on the instrument tag – preferably in dark sharpie.

[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.

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 \$50 yearly rental fee 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.

INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL INFORMATION

Grades 5 – 8

Page 2 of 3

Revised: 4/27/18

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.

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).

FINAL NOTES: Our book includes a CD. (1) Can you burn a copy onto a computer in case your CD gets misplaced? (2) The more your child listens to the pieces we will learn, the faster they will progress. (3) Your child's name should be marked in the book (preferably on the front cover in dark sharpie, but inside is also okay) before school begins.

Amy Macy

Upper Elementary Strings and Upper School Orchestra amy.macy@chca-oh.org

BAND:

BEGINNING SUMMER WORKSHOPS: are a fun way to get a head start on your instrument! The beginning band camp is on 08/06/18-08/10/18 from 1:00-3:00. Find information at www.chca-oh.org/summer.

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 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.

INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL INFORMATION

Grades 5 – 8

Page 3 of 3

Revised: 4/27/18

CLASS TEXTBOOK: Standard of Excellence Enhanced Comprehensive Method for Band. Make sure 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.

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. Also a binder with sheet protectors for organizing sheet music the students receive in class.

LOCAL MUSIC STORES:

Mehas Music: <http://www.mehasmusic.com>

Sam Ash: www.samashmusic.com

Moeller Music: www.moellermusiconline.com

Willis Music: www.willismusic.com

Andrew Hartman Andrew.Hartman@chca-oh.org

PRIVATE LESSONS:

PRIVATE LESSONS are not required but are always a good idea. Class time is limited, playing an instrument is challenging and everyone learns slightly differently. Having some one-on-one help from an expert can be extremely helpful. Registration for next year's private lessons will open in May. See the [ARTS Links and Info](#) webpage for more information and many private lesson instructor options.