

Orchestra Instrument Purchase Guidelines

Purchase Timetable

Child's Instrument	School Will Provide	Time to Purchase/Rent to Own
Violin/Viola	5 th and 6 th grade	By May of 6 th grade
Cello	5 th – 8 th grade	By May of 8 th grade
Bass	5 th – 12 th grade	Some purchase in High School
Electric Bass	One in School	Before fall of 6 th grade*

* Bassist wishing to play electric bass on concerts in 6th grade must have their own electric at home for practice purposes and be taking private lessons.

How to Get Your Own Instrument

1. Wait until it is your time to get an instrument (see above table).
2. Purchase or rent from a reputable string instrument shop.
3. There are no specific makes or models we can recommend. Buying an instrument is like buying a car you should try them out first.
4. Renting to own is a great option and is a little different than buying. Your rental instrument will probably not be your last instrument so there is not a need to test those.
5. We try to do the comparison shopping for you. We have checked local shops and others around the state to see who has the best rental plans and upgrade policies. When those conditions are met we then look at their instruments to be sure they are of good quality. At this time, our recommendations are:

For Violin / Viola / Cello
The Loft Violin Shop
4604 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43214
800-728-9440
www.theloftviolinshop.com

For Bass
The Bass Cellar
3016 Harrison Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
513-661-6224
www.basscellar.com

Important Questions to Have Answered

1. Does every dollar you pay go towards ownership?
 - a. Many shops will take part of your monthly payment as insurance or charge other fees that cause you to pay longer before ownership.
2. What are the upgrade instruments like?
 - a. Many shops have good “intermediate” instruments, but fail to have better instrument to grow with your musical needs. Also, most shops do not allow all of your trade in to apply to a new instrument.

3. Why are these instruments better than those I can find on Ebay / internet or flea markets?
 - a. Internet purchases can come with many problems. You should always get to see or try the instrument before you purchase. The internet purchases we have seen usually need repairs when you get them just to function properly. There is much truth to “you get what you pay for” in the instrument world.

The Loft’s Plan The current “benchmark”

Violin and small viola package is:	\$600
Payment terms:	30 months
Cost per month:	\$20 / month

At the end of the 30 months you will own that instrument, case and bow. No money is taken for insurance or fees. Under rental, The Loft will take care of normal maintenance.

Their upgrade policy is the best around:

Example:

You rented a violin for two years accumulating \$480 of credit. You are purchasing a \$800 violin for high school with a new case and bow.

Total cost of new instrument, case & bow:	\$1,000
The Loft usually discounts purchases when they come to Boardman by 10%:	-\$100
Your Rental Credit;	<u>-\$480</u>
Total out of pocket:	\$420

They will continue this trade in, trade up policy as many times as you want with their instruments.

Example:

Total cost of new instrument, case & bow:	\$3,000
The Loft usually discounts purchases when they come to Boardman by 10%:	-\$300
Your Rental Credit;	<u>-\$900</u>
Total out of pocket:	\$1,800

Questions? Please e-mail Mr. Amendol: bill.amendol@boardmanschools.org