

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

1. ***My child cannot play an instrument or read music; can he still join the orchestra?***
Yes! This class is designed for beginning string students. All students in this class will be taught the basics.
2. ***My child already plays an instrument; can he still join the orchestra?***
Yes! While this class is for beginners we also welcome veterans.
3. ***My child is not 100% positive about his instrument choice, what should we do?***
The students should choose the instrument they are most interested in at this time.
4. ***Does the band class meet during school or after school?***
Orchestra meets during school.
5. ***If my child is in orchestra, can he be in band or choir?***
No. Due to scheduling conflicts students can only be in one performance group.
6. ***If my child is in orchestra, will he be able to participate in extra-curricular activities at FMS?***
Yes. Students are free to participate in any after-school activity they like!
7. ***May a student join in 7th or 8th grade?***
No. Students wishing to join orchestra must begin in the 1st semester of their 6th grade year.
8. ***Are there any after-school attendance requirements for 6th grade orchestra?***
Yes. There is a winter concert and a spring concert.
9. ***What instrument can my child play in 6th grade orchestra?***
Students can play the violin, viola, cello or bass!
10. ***Are the parents responsible for providing their child with an instrument? How do I do this? How much will this cost?***
Yes, parents are responsible for providing their child with an instrument. Many students work with a “rent to own” program with our chosen instrument dealer for approximately \$30-\$50/month. There will be an “instrument rental night” at FMS before the close of the current school year. Information will be mailed to you.
11. ***May I rent from another company, use an instrument I already own, or purchase an instrument outright? Can my students share an instrument?***
You may rent from another company. You may also use an instrument that you already own so long as that instrument is in good condition. **Take it to Andy Owings Music Center or Star Music and have the instrument checked out; don’t wait until the end of the summer as these companies are usually very busy at this time.** As far as purchasing an instrument right away, it may be best to wait. Children grow quickly and often change their minds. Most rental programs offer a chance to purchase the instrument at a reduced cash price within a certain time period.

A music instrument is a true investment and can last the child for years. You should provide your child with a reputable, high-quality instrument that will hold up over time and will give him a good start and a better chance at being successful. A faulty or poor-quality instrument may help your wallet initially, but it won’t help your child in the long run and will often times cost you more in expensive repair or replacement costs. If you find a cheap instrument, it’s cheap for a reason. All instruments are *not* created equal!