**Helpful Hints for**

**Purchasing Orchestra Instruments**

We are so excited to hear that you are interested in investing in your child’s music education. Here are some helpful hints to help you in this process.

First, and most importantly, please communicate with your **orchestra teacher** if you are considering buying an instrument. We know that purchasing an instrument can be overwhelming at times. However, we are **experts in the field of music and we are here to help**. Always contact your orchestra teacher prior to buying an instrument.

Second, we strongly recommend your family **rents at least for the first few months** until you are sure that your child and the instrument are a good match. Many music companies offer introductory pricing for the first few months so families have more time to find a quality instrument to purchase. Also, most music companies offer discounts if you purchase the instrument you are already renting. When you are ready to buy, please consider this option.

 Third, it is very important to **invest in a quality** **musical instrument.** The so- called “bargain” instruments may seem tempting, but experience has proven that these instruments are no bargain at all.

* Low prices are a result of lower quality materials and poor workmanship. These instruments tend to break more easily and can be costly or impossible to repair.
* Low quality instruments are often harder to play well, putting your child at a disadvantage to reach their fullest musical potential.
* The sound quality of these instruments is very poor and can negatively impact the sound of the entire band.

Fourth, beware of “deals” advertised online. You can never fully know what you are getting online and we do not recommend this option. If possible, seek local sellers who often allow the instrument to be play-tested prior to purchase. Just think: Would you buy a car without test driving it first?

We want to see your child’s enthusiasm for music continue to grow and one of the best ways you can do this is through quality instruments. For this reason, we have provided you with a list of recommended instrument brands and models. We have found these instruments to be reliable, easy to repair, and will give your child the best opportunity to succeed as a young musician. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child’s orchestra teacher.

**Recommended Beginner Orchestra Instruments**

**for Doral Academy**

*These brands and models are proven to be high quality, yet affordable. All brands are listed in order of preference and include case, bow, and rosin. Check with your orchestra teacher to make sure the instrument is the correct size before ordering!*

*There are two websites that I would recommend searching, and often have great options.*

*SHAR Music:* [*https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments*](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments)

*Southwest Strings:* [*https://www.swstrings.com/*](https://www.swstrings.com/)

**Violin**

[Beginner Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violins/beginning-violins)

[Intermediate Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violins/intermediate-violins)

[Advanced Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violins/advanced-violins)

**Viola**

[Beginner Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violas/beginning-violas)

[Intermediate Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violas/intermediate-violas)

[Advanced Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/violas/advanced-violas)

**Cello**

[Beginner Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/cellos/beginning-cellos)

[Intermediate Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/cellos/intermediate-cellos)

[Advanced Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/cellos/advanced-cellos)

**Bass**

[Beginner Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/double-bass/beginning-basses)

[Intermediate Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/double-bass/Intermediate-basses)

[Advanced Instruments](https://www.sharmusic.com/instruments/double-bass/advanced-basses)