

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Instrumental Music Programs

THE IMPORTANCE OF A QUALITY MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

To the Parents of Beginning Band and Orchestra Students:

The Washington Township Instrumental Music program is comprised of many active musical organizations. Every member makes a daily contribution to the overall music-making process. Our rehearsals and performances allow these student musicians to experience the world of music through their active participation.

As a performing member of the band or orchestra, an important tool in the improvement of your child's playing ability is his/her instrument. The instrument is the vehicle that brings the total musical experience to life. Though they may all look alike, rest assured that a good musical instrument can go a long way toward making the musical experience a positive one. As teachers, we have experienced how an inferior instrument can inhibit the progress of a student and potentially lead to a student dropping out of the instrumental music program.

We find that students who play a better quality instrument often find playing to be easier, their sound to be better and band or orchestra class to be more enjoyable.

There are many quality instruments from which to choose. If you are interested in making an investment in your child's music education, please consider the rental or purchase of a quality musical instrument. Some brands that we recommend for band include, Bach, Selmer, Gemeinhardt and Yamaha. If you find other brands you like, please get in touch with someone you trust for advice. String students have a variety of makes and models to choose from as well. In addition, string students must use an appropriately sized instrument. Your school's string specialist will measure your child to ensure that they use an appropriately sized instrument. As he/she grows, larger sizes will be necessary. Rental programs typically allow you to trade up to larger sizes as your child grows, without additional cost.

If you choose to purchase an instrument from an individual or non-traditional music store, be sure to inquire about warranty, support and availability of loaner instruments in the event a repair is needed. For various reasons, including the availability of parts, some traditional music stores may not repair instruments purchased in non-traditional music stores. Purchasing an auction-type instrument whether new or used, can also be problematic. Some instruments may be in good shape however most instruments, especially older ones, require a visual and playing inspection to accurately ascertain their quality and playability. A used instrument frequently requires repair and set-up to make it playable. This can add significantly to the overall cost.

For more information, please contact your child's school band or string specialist, consult your child's private music instructor or visit one of the local music stores that provide quality instruments.

Thanks again for supporting your child's participation in band and orchestra. Music makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Elementary Band Specialists

Mary Bushong - Bells, Birches, Thomas Jefferson, Wedgwood, Whitman

Lisa Sebastiani – Hurffville

Elementary String Specialists

Lisa Sebastiani – Birches

Evan Smith – Bells, Hurffville, Thomas Jefferson, Wedgwood, Whitman