



DR. MARVIN CONNELLY, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Membership in the school orchestra program is an exciting adventure for your child. It is our desire to do all that we can do to make this a gratifying and worthwhile experience. It is important that the following steps are followed when deciding to participate in the Cumberland County School Orchestra Program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD?

1. The quality of the instrument is directly related to the success a child will have playing that instrument. The correct size is indicated below:

VIOLIN _____ CELLO _____ VIOLA _____

Your child will also need **ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR STRINGS BOOK I** for his or her instrument and a **FOLDING MUSIC STAND**. We also suggest that a **SHOULDER REST** be purchased for violin and viola. For cello, you will need a **ROCK STOP** or **STRAP** to prevent the instrument from slipping or damaging the floor.

2. Provide a safe place to keep the instrument.
3. Arrange a regular time for practice and see that your child consistently practices. Daily practice time is important for progress on his/her instrument. Fifteen minutes of concentrated effort every day is adequate in the very beginning. As your child progresses we suggest increasing his/her practice to a minimum of thirty minutes. Practice is homework for the string student. As with other homework most students need to be reminded.
4. Find a quiet place for practice with good light and a music stand. Having a music stand will help to develop good posture.
5. Show an interest in your child's music study. You may hear strange sounds at first but with encouragement they will improve.
6. Require that your child faithfully attend all lessons, rehearsals, meetings, and performances in which he/she will participate. Each member is an important part of the group.
7. Help your child to remember his/her book, stand, and instrument on lesson days:
_____ and _____ from _____ to _____

First Class Day: _____

8. We recommend the rental/purchase plan offered by most local music dealers. We also suggest getting insurance offered with these plans to cover major as well as minor repairs. *Although price is important when looking for an instrument, quality and service will directly affect the success a child may have on that instrument.*

Our Commitment: Every Student
Collaborative ★ Competitive ★ Successful

P.O. Box 2357 | FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28302 | 910-678-2300

Fully Accredited School System

Dear Parents,

We have found that an instrument of good quality is important to the success of our students. The instrument should be well constructed and of quality material. The following instruments meet these standards:

Glaesel
Schroetter
Strobel

Lidl
Scherl & Roth
Strunal

Bruchner
Lewis
Yamaha

Knilling
Eastman
Hoffman

We recommend the rental/purchase plans offered by most local music dealers, especially for the students who need an instrument less than full size. **Instruments purchased from sources other than local music stores may not be suitable. Many instruments from department stores, or instruments found on the internet are not acceptable due to the poor quality of construction and materials.** Please consult with your child's orchestra director if you have a question concerning the quality and/or size of an instrument. The quality of the instrument will determine your child's success. If your child is measured for an instrument less than a full size, it will be necessary to obtain a bigger instrument as your child grows. We recommend the purchase of insurance in case of damage/loss of an instrument. If you have any questions about your child's instrument, please contact the orchestra teacher at his/her school.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR MUSIC DEALER

- Do you have a rental/purchase plan?
- Do you have both new and rental instruments?
- Do all payments apply to the purchase price?
- Can the insurance be continued after the instrument is paid for?
- Do you have the instrument in stock?
- Are you an authorized dealer for this brand of instrument?
- Do you have an onsite repair shop?
- What is the average repair time?
- Do you provide loaner instruments when my instrument is in the shop for repair?
- Do you have the method book and music stand? (*Essential Elements for Strings Book 1*)

The Cumberland County Orchestra Faculty