



June 6, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a fifth grader, your child has the opportunity to be a member of the beginning orchestra program (5th Grade Strings) in the Coeur d'Alene School District. I have prepared this information to help you make the choice about whether or not to enroll your child in Strings next year.

Frequently Asked Questions:

When and where are classes held?

Strings classes are held at school twice a week. Our classes start on the 2nd week of school and go through the end of the school year..

Do classes cost anything?

Strings classes are taught at no charge as part of the regular school curriculum. ☺

What instruments can my child choose from?

Instruments taught in Strings are: violin, viola, cello and string bass. Guitar is not an option.

What does my child need for class?

- 1- An instrument,
- 2- A book: Sound Innovations for String Orchestra – Book 1 (for their instrument),
- 3- A music stand for practice at home.
- 4- The following accessories:
 - *Violin and viola students need a shoulder rest
 - *Cello and bass students need an endpin strap
 - Bass students also need a stool to keep at home(*These items should be available at the music store you rent from)

How and where do I get an instrument?

There are many ways you can lease or rent an instrument for an affordable price. Enclosed is a short list of places where I can recommend you rent an instrument.

Should I just buy an instrument for my child instead of renting?

I do ***not*** recommend purchasing an instrument for 5th grade Strings. Stringed instruments come in various sizes and most students aren't able to use a full-size instrument until Middle School. Purchasing a smaller instrument now means having to purchase another instrument in the near future.

******Please, please, PLEASE do not buy a “bargain” instrument online or at local NON-music stores or pawn shops. These instruments are usually very poor quality and can make it extremely difficult to play. If there is even a question, do NOT buy it!******

When does Strings start?

Classes begin in the second week of school. If students don't yet have their instrument (and are planning on participating in 5th Grade Strings) they should still attend.

I hope that you consider this opportunity for your child. I invite all parents to call or email me with questions or concerns at any time.



Sincerely,

Kristina Phillips

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Preferred locations for string instrument rentals:

**Most music stores have a policy in place where some of the rental monies apply towards purchase of the instrument. I recommend that you ask about that.*

**Also, check to see if instrument insurance is included in the rental price!! (it should be) ☺*

Burt's Music

www.burtsda.com/

1123 Sherman Ave, Cd'A

(208) 664-4957

***To save time (and a trip!), you can also rent online – see link at the top of their webpage**
(Most 5th graders will need/use a ¾ size instrument)*

Custom Strings

www.customstrings.net/

11511 E Trent, Spokane Valley, WA

(509) 891-1243

***If you have an instrument that needs to be fixed up, they do repairs in-house**
(this is where I take my own instruments to be worked on)*

Register online for Strings:

If you want to pre-register, go to my school website: cdaschools.org/kphillips. From my homepage, select the link from the menu bar on the left that says “2022-23 Strings Registration. Easy-peasy! ☺