Some Orchestra Instrument Options

The information below is accurate as of 8/19/15. These companies are in no way tied to WCPS and you should ask about the specifics of their rental agreements. WCPS does not recommend any particular company and is in no way responsible for any rentals done outside of the WCPS system.

**Why Rent?**

Many of the rental instruments are of a higher quality than the instruments provided by the school. It is also cheaper initially to rent until you sure you child will play long enough to put the money toward a purchase. Also, most students are not ready for a full size instrument until they are in middle school. Rentals usually have a program where you can turn in the instrument for the next size up as long as you are still renting. Not all rentals are created equal! Be sure to find the company that has pricing and terms that work for you. If they aren’t pleasant to deal with for the rental you may want to consider how they will be in your future interactions.

**Can I get a school instrument?**

School instruments are provided for families who are unable to rent. There is not a specific income requirement, however supplies are limited so we ask families seriously consider whether or not they do need an instrument from the school. We do our best to provide the first choice instrument for each student, but we may have to offer a different choice depending on the number of requests.

**Where can I rent an instrument?** (All are per month pricing, contact the company for specific information including any specials, or additional inclusions)

* Music and Arts: Garland Groh Boulevard, Hagerstown [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)
  + Violin $19.99
  + Viola $19.99
  + Cello $39.99
* Guitar Room: Cleveland Ave, Hagerstown 301-797-8464
  + Violin $
  + Viola $
  + Cello: unavailable for rental
* Duet With Music: FSK Mall Frederick [www.duetwithmusic.com](http://www.duetwithmusic.com) 301-695-3838
  + Violin $42.09 (new) $35.67 (like new)
  + Viola $42.03 (new) $35.67 (like new)
  + Cello $56.87 (new) $50.51 (like new)
* Shar Music [www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com) 800-248-7427
  + Violin $15.99+
  + Viola $21.99+
  + Cello $42.99+
* Southwest Strings [www.swstrings.com](http://www.swstrings.com) 800-528-3430
  + Violin $15.99+
  + Viola $17.99+
  + Cello $ 34.99+

More information on the reverse side of this page.

* Lashof Violins in Gaithersburg [www.lashofviolins.com](http://www.lashofviolins.com) 301-330-2606
  + Violin $15+
  + Viola $15+
  + Cello $30+
* Potters Violins in Bethesda [www.pottersviolins.com](http://www.pottersviolins.com) 800-317-9452
  + Violin $11.99+
  + Viola $11.99+
  + Cello $19.99+

+ This company offers different levels of rental. The listed price is for the lowest available level.

**Should I buy an instrument online?**

I do not recommend buying from non-music retailers (Amazon, Ebay, etc.). Yes, they are cheaper but I have had many families end up with much lower quality instruments that break easily and need to be professionally repaired. If you choose to buy online, please carefully read the warranty and return policies. Most trouble occurs beyond the 90 day mark that most companies use, but is still a result of cheap parts. You can order safely from any of the companies listed above. If you are not sure if it is a good buy it probably isn’t. Your child needs to be sized for the right fit. Ordering an instrument that is too large will make playing painful or even impossible. I can size a child in class, please let me know if you would like to do this.