***How do I get an Instrument? Who are the local dealers?***

There are several options for obtaining an instrument if you do not currently own:

1. **Purchasing an instrument**. I have included a list of local music dealers who you can contact about purchasing an instrument. I do not recommend purchasing an instrument on the internet.
2. **Renting an instrument**. Many of the music dealers in the area have great rental programs, or have great rent-to-own programs. There are several questions you will want to ask the music dealer before choosing which shop to rent from. Those can be found below.
3. **Obtaining an instrument through Fairfax County**. If your family qualifies for the free or reduced lunch program, your child is eligible to obtain and instrument for the school year at the rate of $20 per year. Parents can contact Mrs. Bond for more information on this program.

**Renting an Instrument:**

I am not permitted to recommend one music dealer over another to you. You may want to call the music dealers listed on the next page ahead of time, as there are a few questions you will want to ask the dealers. There ARE dealers who will answer ALL SIX of these correctly!

Questions to ask when renting an instrument:

1. *Does ALL of the money that you spend renting an instrument go towards the purchase or do you only get some of your money? (You should get it all)*
2. *When purchasing an instrument, do you get the list price or the lowest price? (You should get the lowest price that the instrument will sell at)*
3. *Do you have to purchase the instrument that you are renting or can the money you spend on the rental go towards the purchase of another instrument? (You should be able to purchase another instrument. Your child might grow out of it, or you may want to upgrade to a better model)*
4. *Will the rental rate change; is there an introductory rate and then after so many months, the rate goes up? (The rental rate should stay the same)*
5. *Are there insurance, maintenance fees or any other hidden fees? (You can insure the instrument on your homeowner’s policy. If you want to put money aside for maintenance, put it in your bank account. If you give them the money and don’t use the services, you will not get the money back)*
6. *Will the store take back the purchased instrument for the amount that you paid for it and use 100% of that towards an upgraded instrument? (They should)*

***Local Music Dealers:***

Potter’s Violin Shop\*

4706 Highland Avenue

Bethesda 301.652.7070

www.pottersviolins.com

Brobst Violin Shop\*

5584 General Washington Dr.

Alexandria 703.256.0566

www.brobstviolins.com

Day Violins\*

14221A Willard Road Suite 500

Chantilly 703.391.9444

www.dayviolins.com

Maley’s McLean Music

6224-A Old Dominion Drive

McLean 703.532.4009

Foxes Music Company

416 S. Washington Street

Falls Church 703.533.7393

Music and Arts, McLean

1388 Chain Bridge Road

McLean 703.356.9394

www.musicarts.com

*\*Specialize in stringed instruments*

**Helpful websites for purchasing strings and other equipment:**

www.sharmusic.com

www.swstrings.com