

Staley Orchestra

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a uniform for orchestra performances?

Yes, the beginner orchestra students will wear a uniform for all performances. The uniform consists of the Staley Orchestra Polo (\$15 and will be used all 3 years of Middle School) with black slacks/skirt and black shoes. We will also wear our orchestra t-shirt (included in your orchestra fee) with jeans and close-toed shoes for informal performances and activities.

2. Should I rent or purchase an instrument for my child's first year of orchestra?

We **HIGHLY** recommend renting for the first year. Until you know that your child is going to commit to playing their instrument and while they are learning to care and handle the instrument, the rental process is very helpful and efficient. Your rental agreement will cover accidental damages and repairs of the instrument and replacement of strings should you need it.

Please, **PLEASE DO NOT buy an instrument without first letting one of the orchestra directors inspect it-ESPECIALLY ONLINE!** If it seems too good to be true, IT IS! A proper beginner instrument outfit (instrument, bow and case) should be in the \$400-600 range for violin/viola and starting around \$850 for cellos. We don't recommend purchasing basses in middle school. We have had families purchase instruments that were of very poor quality and were not playable. This causes frustration for both the student and the teachers. An inferior instrument can severely limit your students' progress in class and be quite discouraging for them.

3. Where do I go to rent an instrument and purchase supplies?

Visit "Staleystrings.com/vendors" for information on local instrument rental stores. Please setup your instrument rental ASAP! Most stores give discounts for "early bird" rentals and most you can do completely online! All the stores will deliver the instrument and supplies directly to Staley so everything is here waiting for you on the first day of school!

We recommend having INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES delivered so the directors have time to inspect them to make sure everything is in working order before school starts. This gives us time to fix any problems we may find so your student won't miss out on any instruction!

4. When will students need to have instruments and supplies?

We will begin using instruments and supplies on the first day of school! It is imperative that students have instruments and supplies as soon as possible. Any student who has not obtained an instrument and/or supplies within the first two weeks of school will be dropped from orchestra and will have to choose another elective.

5. How much will it cost to participate in orchestra as a 6th grader?

The cost will vary depending on the instrument your student chooses to play. All students will have to purchase supplies for their instrument which will range from \$25-\$35. Cello/Bass students will have a one-time maintenance fee of \$100.00 for the use of the school instrument they are assigned to use during class. There are scholarship opportunities for students to waive the school instrument maintenance fee -please contact Mr. Geller for more information.

Monthly instrument rental costs range as follows:

Violin and Viola: \$15-\$25

Cello: \$29-\$35

Bass: \$40-\$60

Additionally, there is a \$50 registration fee for orchestra. This fee includes:

- orchestra t-shirt
- concert/event refreshments
- social activities (some activities will have an additional admission charge)
- transportation for performance and social events
- clinicians
- and other items as needed throughout the year

6. How much time will students be required to commit to orchestra?

Students are required to practice 20 minutes a day for orchestra class. Additionally, students will give performances during the year. On the day of each concert we will have a combined rehearsal with all beginner orchestra classes after school. Students will stay at school until the performance is over.

7. Are there any social events or activities for orchestra?

Yes! We have a social activity every month in a normal year. All events are optional and most take place outside the school day. More information about social events will be included on the orchestra calendar we send out in August.

Do you have additional questions not addressed above? Contact us and we will be happy to answer them! Email is preferred.

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