

ORCHESTRA INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2019-20 Ramay Jr. High Beginning Orchestra!



Dear Ramay Orchestra Students & Parents,

We are very excited and looking forward to classes starting this Tuesday Aug. 13th. During the first few days of class we will spend some time getting to know everyone, playing some fun team building and music games, resizing for instrument sizes (if needed). As we move towards the end of the first and into the second week we will be learning the orchestra beginning basics including the instrument parts, care and maintenance of the instrument (instrument survival guide), correct set-up and playing posture, and some simple music theory skills that will be essential in playing the instrument. From there we will begin learning some fun & easy tunes to practice and perform both in class and at home.

****You will not need to bring an instrument the first few days of classes and we will let you know when you we can start bringing them to class (likely not till the second week of classes).***

Do not worry if you don't have your instrument yet. There will be an opportunity to get your instrument at the "Instrument Night" on August 19th 5 - 7:00pm.

You are welcome to get your instrument before the Instrument Night from a strings instrument shop if you are able to in order to help make sure they have it in stock and ready for you to play on. Having a good quality instrument is very important for a beginning student! It makes the challenge of learning a new string instrument as easy as possible. A good quality instrument also makes it easier for students to progress quickly and practice the skills that will help them to be successful and enjoy playing. It can be a lease-to-own instrument or an instrument purchased from a reputable orchestra instrument dealer. Please don't get an instrument on EBay, Amazon, Pawn Shop, or Guitar Shop. They are often not set up or are completely unusable for beginning strings students. There are several local dealers and a few online reputable orchestra instrument dealers.

Palmer Violin Shop, Saied Music, Palen Music, KC Strings, Robertsons, & Shar Music.

There are links and info on the next page and on the [FPS Orchestra Resources Tab](#)

They often have very reasonably priced and quality instruments that you can purchase or rent-to-own for as little as \$20 a month (depending on the store and instrument type).

We also have a limited number of school instruments that can be checked out if you are unable to get one from an instrument shop. ***We want to make sure that all students who are motivated to learn the violin, viola, cello, or bass can participate in orchestra.*** Please let us know if you need any help in finding an instrument shop or if you need help to check out a school instrument!

Have a great rest of your summer and see you soon!

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A list of some reputable dealers of strings, music, and instruments:

Local Shops: (Rogers): [Palmer Violin Shop](#) 479.621.0777
(Fayetteville) [Saied Music.com](#) 479.571.2400
(Springdale) [Palen Music](#) 479.464.8877

Online Shops: [sharmusic.com](#) [robertsonviolins.com](#) [swstrings.com](#)

Sheet music: [Jwpepper.com](#) [Lucksmusic.com](#) [Sheetmusic.com](#)

7th grade beginning orchestra supplies needed

Check List:

- _____ **SEVENTH GRADE-** [Essential Elements Book I](#) for chosen instrument (**Required for All**)
- _____ Violins and violas need a shoulder rest (Kun or Everest) (**Required for Violin/Viola**)
- _____ Rock Stop (all cellos and basses) (**Required for Cello/Bass**)
- _____ Folding music stand (for home) (**Highly Recommended**)
- _____ Metronome/tuner (**Highly Recommended**) – may use free phone app or computer.
- _____ Rosin (CHECK IN YOUR CASE BEFORE PURCHASING) included with some instruments.

**Please let us know if you need help with something from the supplies list.*

Orchestra Info & Teacher Contact:

Please sign into Google Classroom Orchestra and accept the invitation to join the class or enter the class code **mg7fa3x** to receive class info, announcements, & helpful reminders.

Also, check the orchestra website regularly for upcoming events & info
<http://fpsorch.weebly.com/>

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