

# Renting versus Buying an Instrument

This is an issue that faces everyone starting a stringed instrument. Here is Hudson Orchestra's take on the issue.

- 1) Your child most likely is not in a full sized instrument yet. It makes more sense to rent until they reach full size so that you only have to buy once.
- 2) At some point, your student may wish to switch to a different instrument.

Ok, so you know your child is going to stick with their chosen instrument and they need a full size instrument. Now what?

- 1) Music stores usually offer some sort of rent-to-own option where you can apply a certain percentage of your rental dues into the purchase of an instrument. This is a good option because as your child improves, they may want a better quality instrument. This might help make the upgrade more affordable.
- 2) There are many inexpensive instruments on Ebay and other auction websites that you can find for less than 50 dollars. We do NOT recommend that you purchase one of these instruments. Why?
  - a. The quality of these instruments is generally poor and can cause difficulties with playing.
  - b. These instruments rarely stay "in tune".
  - c. Some local music stores will not repair these cheaper instruments.
  - d. If they do need repair, it usually costs more than the instrument is worth.

For the time being, we would highly recommend renting your instrument. Not only are you assured that you have a quality instrument, but the store you rent from offers repair services at little to no cost and you can trust that they will look out for your best interests.

If you do decide to purchase, please be sure to contact Mrs. Peterson or Ms. Lacey first so that we can take a look at what you are buying and let you know if it is worth the purchase or not. If you have a family instrument, those usually work pretty well. You can arrange a time with us so that we can check on the condition of the instrument and make sure it is the correct size for your student.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Britt Peterson, EP Rock, Houlton, North Hudson, River Crest, Willow River

[petersbri@hudson.k12.wi.us](mailto:petersbri@hudson.k12.wi.us)

715-377-3890 ext. 2759

Lori Lacey, Hudson Prairie

[laceylm@hudson.k12.wi.us](mailto:laceyln@hudson.k12.wi.us)

715-377-3700 ext. 2480