

APS Elementary Strings - Instrument Rental (with Accessories) and Purchasing a Lesson Book and Folding Music Stand 2025-2026

Renting an Instrument:

There are several instrument rental options for students who have registered for APS Elementary Strings for the 2025-2026 school year. Below is a partial list of vendors. Families are welcome to explore other rental options, but please be aware that as with anything, you get what you pay for. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is:

Johnson String Instruments of Newton, MA - <http://www.johnsonstring.com>

Leonards Music of Bedford, MA - <http://www.leonardsmusic.com>

Spencer Brook Strings of Maynard, MA - <http://www.spencerbrookstrings.com>

Rowen Strings of Boxford, MA - <https://www.rowenstrings.com>

Renting a good-quality, appropriately-sized string instrument has many benefits. Rental companies provide security in terms of repair and size upgrades as your child grows. Instrument pricing, sizing, and rental information for these companies can be found on their websites. **We strongly discourage parents from buying an instrument at this time.** Elementary strings students will need a smaller instrument fitted to their specific size in order to learn successfully and will only need a size upgrade every year or so (free through a rental service). Students don't typically require a 4/4 (full-size) instrument until late middle school or even high school.

PLEASE NOTE: Instruments purchased online may be of poor quality. A poor quality instrument will greatly hinder your child's progress and will not be easily repaired. While buying online may seem like an attractive option, it may cause many unnecessary challenges that will discourage your student from playing.

Accessories (should be included with your rental):

- **Violin and Viola:**
 - Shoulder rest or sponge with rubber bands
 - Violin/Viola rosin
- **Cello:**
 - Xeros cello strap
 - Cello rosin
- **Bass:**
 - Rock stop
 - Bass rosin

All APS Elementary Strings students will use **Orchestra Expressions, Book 1** (Brungard, Alexander, Dackow, and Anderson - Warner Bros. Pub.) and should have a **folding music stand** to use for their home practice. Below are links to purchase these items:

Lesson Book (can be purchased from your rental company or online from www.Amazon.com):

- **Violin:**
[Orchestra Expressions, Book 1 - Violin](#)
- **Viola:**

[Orchestra Expressions, Book 1 - Viola](#)

- **Cello:**

[Orchestra Expressions, Book 1 - Cello](#)

- **Bass:**

[Orchestra Expressions, Book 1 - Bass](#)

Folding Music Stand (can be purchased from your rental company or online from www.Amazon.com):

[Folding Music Stand](#)

Heavy Duty Practice Mute (for quiet home practice - can be purchased from your rental company or online from www.Amazon.com):

[Violin or Viola Mute](#)

[Cello Mute](#)

[Bass Mute](#)