

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

Dear Families of Violin, Viola, Cello and Upright Bass Students,

Here below you will find the following important information for obtaining an instrument and related materials for your child - **please read it carefully**. For those who require needs-based financial assistance for an instrument rental, you will also find that information below. **You can have your instrument delivered to your child's school for the start of the school year, however, it's important that you follow the steps in this letter to ensure that your child will have their instrument in time.**

While you can obtain your child's instrument from anywhere you wish, most of our families of string students rent from Johnson String Instruments. **To rent an instrument from Johnson String Instruments, please follow the rental steps on the flier specifically for Public Schools of Brookline students [at this link](#)** - PSB students are given special pricing, so please refer to all details on the flier. Note that if you require financial assistance, do not rent directly with the company - more details below.

String instruments come in different sizes based on the size of each individual musician, and it is extremely important that you use [this sizing chart](#) (<https://www.johnsonstring.com/rental/sizing-brookline.htm>) before renting. One benefit of renting a string instrument is that as your child grows, you can exchange your rental for a larger size instrument.

In addition to the instrument, you will need the following (all of which is on the flier):

1. **For fourth graders only:** The book *Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1* for your particular instrument (violin, viola, cello or upright bass). You will find steps to purchase this when you rent the instrument.
2. **For cellist only:** a Xeros End-Pin Anchor for Cello
3. We highly recommend you purchase a music stand for all students if you don't already have one, which you can purchase when ordering your instrument rental. This greatly helps with practicing and posture.

Should you have any questions about rental from Johnson String Instruments, please contact them directly at info@johnsonstring.com or via the phone number listed on their flier, and

make sure to let them know that you are renting for a student in the Public Schools of Brookline.

NEEDS BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Needs-based financial assistance from the Public Schools of Brookline applies to instrument rental costs, the instrument book and all needed accessories for students who receive needs-based financial assistance through the Public Schools of Brookline. **If you are applying for needs-based financial assistance, please do not do the above rental process**, instead please fill out the form [at this link](#). If you do not receive financial assistance through the Public Schools of Brookline but still have a financial hardship making it difficult for you to obtain an instrument, please fill out the form, and please also see the PSB Financial Assistance information at this link: <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/FinancialAssistance>.

Learning an instrument is an exciting opportunity and we look forward to working with your children next school year!

Sincerely,

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