

Considerations

- **Beware of big box store, brightly colored, Internet or “bargain” instruments!** Almost all are of very poor quality and set children up for failure. Many cannot be repaired because replacement parts cannot be found, and they have almost no resale value. If in doubt, consult a music teacher.
- Rent or purchase a brand name instrument. Local **full service** music stores handle **only** reputable brands. Renting or purchasing an instrument from a reputable dealer who has a qualified local technician/repairman ensures future service and dependability. **If the store’s main business is not musical instruments and supplies, be sure to check about the quality of instruments being sold.**
- If purchasing a used instrument or using an instrument that is in the family, be sure to have it checked by a competent repairman or teacher to ensure that it is in good playable condition. **As with poor quality instruments, a good instrument in poor condition sets a child up for failure.**
- The band instrument you purchase for a beginner will be satisfactory for most students for their entire middle school and early high school experience, however:
- Violins and violas need to “grow with the child.” Their beginning instruments will most likely not be a full-size instrument. Do business with a dealer that will make arrangements for this need to trade to a larger instrument later.

Students are responsible for purchasing their own instruction books. These are available at local music stores.

5th/6th Grade String Book=String Basics Book 1

5th/6th Grade Band Book=Traditions of Excellence Book 1



2024-25 Elementary Instrumental Music Program

Dear Parents:

If your child is not already enrolled in the Great Falls Public Schools instrumental program, now is the best time for him/her to start band or orchestra. Our schools have an instrumental program that is one of the finest in the nation, and we hope your child can be a part of it.

Students electing to participate receive instruction during the school day for 45 minutes twice a week from outstanding teachers. Time lines are as follows:

Week One –

Instrumental teachers visit each school, demonstrate instruments and give all fifth graders information concerning beginning groups.

Week Two –

New beginners will need instruments and instruction will begin. Fifth graders who started in the summer bring instruments and continue instruction.

If you have questions, please call one of the music teachers and discuss your concerns with them (numbers are below.)

Meadow Lark, Riverview, Sacajawea, Valley View, Giant Springs, Longfellow, West:

Band Quinton Schauer (541)556-9962 or Jenny Painter 781-9971
Orchestra Debra TenNapel (970) 985-5479

Mountain View, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Loy, Sunnyside, Morningside, Chief Joseph:

Band Sharman Tokerud 868-9176 or Lynn Ryan 249-3250
Orchestra Sarah Schaeffer (720) 254-9040

Whittier

Orchestra Joseph Dresen (406) 880-6600
Band Lynn Ryan (406) 249-3250

**We hope your child can be a part of this tremendous opportunity!
Dusty Molyneaux, Fine Arts Supervisor 268-6079**

THE SCHOOL **DOES NOT OWN** THESE INSTRUMENTS
(They can be rented or purchased from a music store.)



Cornet/Trumpet – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

These are basically the same instrument. Unlimited numbers are needed because they are so basic to the secondary bands. It is easy and sometimes expected for trumpet students to transfer to other brass instruments as they get older. Good, straight teeth help; braces can be a challenge.



Trombone – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

This is an essential instrument to all bands. Because the mouthpiece is larger, braces are not usually a problem. Students are usually very successful getting a good tone in a rather short period of time.



Violin – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

The smallest of the string family. Violins come in several sizes to fit small students. The number needed is unlimited. The violin is the “soprano” in the orchestra.



Flute – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

A small, very popular instrument. The flute is difficult to play and hard for small hands to handle. A limited number are needed.



Clarinet – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

A very basic woodwind instrument. There is no limit on the need for the clarinet because it is easy to transfer to other woodwind instruments from the clarinet.



Percussion – SCHOOL DOES NOT OWN.

Students that are interested in beginning on percussion must contact the music teacher. Beginning percussionists must purchase a complete percussion kit, including bells, snare drum with stand, sticks and mallets. Percussion kits are often not welcome on school buses.

NOTE: Instruments on **THIS** page must be rented from a music store or purchased.

INSTRUMENTS THAT **MAY BE RENTED FROM**
THE SCHOOL
(Limited Supply)

Contact your school's instrumental teacher to rent the instruments on this page.



Baritone – A large brass instrument that is relatively easy to achieve success on. The mouthpiece is exactly the same as a trombone mouthpiece and the sound is similar. Parents usually need to help the student transport the instrument; they are often not welcome on school buses.



Tuba – The largest of all brass instruments but we have some ½ and ¾ size tubas for elementary students. The student will need to have parental assistance when transporting the instrument. They cannot go on a school bus.

Viola – The “alto” in the orchestra. These come in several sizes so small students may begin on a smaller size and then graduate to larger sizes as they grow. Limited numbers are available.

These Instruments below require conference with
Instrumental music teacher



Cello – The “tenor” in the orchestra with a very mellow sound. These are large instruments that require assistance from the parents when transporting. Like the violin and viola, they come in sizes to fit the individual.

Bass – The largest of all string instruments and essential in orchestras to produce the “bass” or foundation for the group. Students will need assistance from parents when transporting the bass to and from school.

Oboe/Bassoon/French Horn—These are instruments available for students going into 6th grade. They are advanced instruments that require a committed student and high musicianship skills. *Very limited quantities available for rental.*



SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL FEE for
Instruments on **THIS** page

\$70.00 School year
\$20.00 If **reduced lunch**
\$15.00 Summer

For more information call your school's instrumental teacher:

Sarah Schaeffer	720-254-9040
Joseph Dresen	406-880-6600
Quinton Schauer	541-556-9962
Sharman Tokerud	406-868-9176
Jenny Painter	406-781-9971
Lynn Ryan	406-249-3250
Debra TenNapel	970-985-5479