



Sebastian Middle School Guitar and String Orchestra Update

11-3-17

Parents and Guardians,

Frequently, parents and guardians ask me about choices in purchasing musical instruments and music related items. The rule of thumb is to get the best instrument your budget will allow. It is equally important to make informed decisions so that you pick a quality instrument. The following are a few suggestions to consider before you make a purchase:

GUITARS

I highly recommend purchasing a full size classical guitar with a solid top. If you are able, purchase a hard shell case as this will protect your instrument.

Some good instruments to consider are:

Cordoba C3M	\$200 range
Cordoba C5	\$300 range
Cordoba C7	\$500 range
Karl Hofner HZ-23	\$500 range

BOWED STRING INSTRUMENTS (violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Stay away from a painted instrument unless you know that it is a high quality string instrument. I strongly recommend purchasing a good student level instrument. In most cases, a quality instrument will sound better and will be easier for a student to play.

Some good instruments to consider are:

Strobel

Franz Hoffmann

Carlo Lamberti
Scherl and Roth
Bellafina

MUSIC ITEMS

The following items are helpful to students as they learn to play their instrument:

Guitar footstool for guitar students
Snark ST-2 tuner (or similar chromatic tuner)
Music stand for practicing at home
Hard shell case for your child's instrument. (The only exception would be the double bass. A good gig bag with wheels is fine.)

STORES

There are many options when looking for a store to purchase an instrument. Many of the music stores provide online shopping where you can make a purchase, or at least compare prices. The following are music stores to consider:

Music and Arts
Guitar Center
George's Music
Musician's Friend
Shar Products
5th Century Guitar

Please remember that within each instrument brand there are a variety of quality levels. Again, purchase the best you can afford. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I would like to thank the parents and guardians who have sent the music fee to school with your child. Your support of the music program is greatly appreciated. Just as reminder, the music department is requesting that each student pay a music fee of \$50.00. The fee can be paid all at once or students can pay \$25.00 at this time and \$25.00 in the spring. I understand that some families, especially after the recent hurricane, may find that this is a financial hardship. If that is the case, please let me know and we will make other arrangements for your child.

Please make checks out to Sebastian Middle School PTO. Please include your child's name and music class on the check or envelope if you send cash.

Please consider joining the **Eagle Music Boosters Organization**. This organization will give parents and guardians an opportunity to assist with future events, as well as help raise money for the music program. For more information, please contact Amanda Southerland at eaglesmusicboosters@gmail.com

Thank you,
Chuck Rogers
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Important performance dates and information for the guitar and string orchestra classes. Please check for new dates that may have been added since the last Update was sent.

**11/10/17 Jorge Pena, violist with JSO, SAMF
Period 3, String Orchestra II**

12/14/17 Holiday Concert.

6:00 PM

SMS Auditorium

All guitar and string orchestra students will perform various musical selections for the holiday concert. Students will need to be in the auditorium at 5:30 PM to tune and set up for the program.

**12/7/17 Jorge Pena, JSO String Ensemble
Periods 3, 4**

12/19/17 Nights of Lights Performance

6:45 PM

Students in Guitar III and Orchestra II will perform next to the Visitors Center in downtown St Augustine. Students will meet at the Visitors Center at 6:00 PM.

We need parents with trucks or vans to help move and set up/break down

chairs, instruments, and equipment. Please consider assisting us with this important task. Contact me for details.

3/13/18 School Board Performance

TBA

SJCSD School Board Building

String Orchestra II and Guitar III will perform at the SJCSD board meeting.

5/17/18 Spring Concert

6:00 PM

SMS Auditorium

All guitar and string orchestra students will perform various musical selections for the spring concert. Students will need to be in the auditorium at 5:30 PM to tune and set up for the program.