

Financial Information

Lewisville ISD is committed to providing music education to all committed and desirous students. We think music is important regardless of financial ability; however, it would be naïve to ignore the fact that most things of quality cost money.

During the year the orchestra will participate in activities and competitions designed to make learning fun. There will be a cost to some activities. All students are expected to participate in fundraising or parents may contribute to the Orchestra Fund as a donation. With fundraising, the orchestra receives about 40% of most items. With donations, the orchestra receives 100% of the gift. This year the \$22 supply fee will cover the cost of the orchestra binders and pencil pouches and dividers, t-shirts, and some of the cost of bussing to various events. A detailed report of booster club expenses is available at every booster meeting.

Usual events: All-District Auditions (7th & 8th grades, Sept.) – about \$10
All-Region Auditions (7th & 8th grades, Sept.) – about \$10
Solo and Ensemble (all grades, about \$10 for entry, about \$25 if accompanist needed)
Sandy Lake or PEAK festivals (all grades, spring), cost will depend on fundraiser
Six Flags, optional, cost TBA (all other fees must be paid first)
The amount of money required from the students to go to the **festival** is directly tied to the amount of fundraising/donation money raised by this group of students.

School instruments are REQUIRED for cello and bass students. The maintenance fee for these instruments is **\$60 per year and is due on Thursday, October 1, check made out to Durham Middle School.** Parents can pay in monthly installments if necessary. Please write the director if you wish to pay monthly. Since the school cellos/basses are shared by all the classes, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you rent a cello/bass from a music vendor to have for practice at home.

Please submit a written note from the parent or guardian if your family needs more time to pay a particular orchestra fee. **We cannot determine true financial need without a written note or phone call or email from the parent or guardian.** Sometimes there is enough “slush” in the booster account to provide a loan for a few more days or even “scholarship” the student for a particular event. **If you get help with fees such as the bass/cello rental or the t-shirt/supply fee, you must pay that back to the booster account before paying for Six Flags.** The orchestra program can happen successfully without Six Flags, but not without supplies. Tax money pays for the building and the teachers, not the instruments, supplies and music festivals.

Whenever a student brings money to school, it is important that it is dealt with securely and in a way that will optimize teaching time. ALL MONEY SHOULD BE SENT IN AN ENVELOPE WITH THE STUDENT’S NAME, THE EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY, THE DATE, AND THE PURPOSE CLEARLY WRITTEN ON THE OUTSIDE AND COUNTED IN FRONT OF MRS. WALLS OR MR. SLUDER.

PLEASE NOTE: Directors cannot get refunds for you. This is a matter between you and the school bookkeeper or you and the booster club treasurer. In many cases if the student becomes ineligible between the time the Durham orchestra sends the check for the event and the time the event actually occurs then a refund will not be possible. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR STUDENT REMAINS ELIGIBLE WITH ALL PASSING GRADES IN EVERY CLASS SO THAT YOUR MONEY IS NOT LOST IN THIS WAY. ELIGIBILITY IS A STATE LAW.

Supplies for Orchestra

It is necessary for students to have the following equipment with them daily. A sales representative from a music store will come to the school every week. Items can be purchased through this representative. Currently, Music and Arts on Round Grove Road is the only LISD approved vendor who is allowed onto LISD campuses. A price list is given to the orchestra directors every year and posted in the orchestra office for items such as rosin and strings. Please come to orchestra with the following supplies:

1. **A suitable instrument** (in good playing condition)
Please consult with the director before purchasing an instrument! Middle school students must have fine tuners which work on violins, violas and cellos.
2. **Strings replaced and the bow rehairred at least once a year**
You should not owe any replacement cost for strings that break if you are renting through Music and Arts and have purchased repair insurance. Please let the director know and the string should be replaced for no charge. Yearly maintenance replacement is generally not covered by insurance. For those who own their instrument, Dominant, D'Addario (Prelude), and Sencore are adequate strings. Please do not buy the cheapest brand of strings you can find. The tone suffers, they don't stay as well in tune, and the strings do not last. A set of strings can be purchased very economically through several mail-order companies if you purchase as a full set (a few are listed below.) Strings bought one at a time are usually cheapest through the school approved vendor, since buying through the mail costs too much in shipping and handling for one string alone. See your repairman if the strings break repeatedly in the same place.
3. **The appropriate method book for your orchestra**
The method book for my class is _____.
4. **A "Kun" shoulder rest** for violin and viola students, OR **a rock stop or "Xeros" strap** for cello/bass students
5. **A sharpened pencil**
6. **Rosin** (used on the bow to condition the bow hair)
7. **A folding music stand.** Students will need this for practice at home and for some district events.
8. **A box of tissues.** Please help us stock the orchestra room with the tissues you will use this year.
9. **Your orchestra fee of \$22** covers the following supplies:
 - Orchestra t-shirt
 - Binder
 - Dividers
 - Pencil bag
 - Music paper
 - Part of the cost of bus trips

NOTE: THE ORCHESTRA FEE OF \$22 IS DUE BY Friday, SEPT. 11, 2009.
Checks should be made to Durham Orchestra Boosters.

Suggested Sources for Instruments, Supplies and Music

Music and Arts
500 E Round Grove Rd
Lewisville, TX 75067
(972)315-8400
www.musicandarts.com

Shar Music
1-800-247-7427
www.sharmusic.com

Southwest Strings
1-800-528-3430
www.swstrings.com

Williamson Music
701 E. Plano Pky. Suite 100
972-516-1331
www.williamsonmusicco.com

There are different ways to acquire an instrument:

-**RENT** from a music store. Monthly payments are about \$20-\$40 and apply toward the future purchase of an instrument.

-**BUY** from a music store. We recommend you wait to do this until your child has grown big enough for a full size instrument. (He or she might already be big enough, but please check first!)

-**BUY** from an individual. (Please have us check to see that it is the right size, and in good condition.)

-**BUY** from a pawn shop (not recommended – use this option only if you are given permission to bring the instrument to the directors to test).

-**BUY** off of the internet- We **do not** recommend this unless it is a reputable STRING shop such as those listed above with a free trial period. Check with us first.

-**DO NOT** purchase an instrument from a chain discount or department store. These instruments are inferior products, and are not playable or repairable.

-**SCHOOL OWNED CELLOS AND BASSES** are available for use in school. You should also rent one from a music company of the same size for practice at home. The school usage fee is \$60 per year (check made to Durham Middle School due Oct. 1) and covers string replacement and bow rehairing. **Other repairs are the responsibility of the family involved.**

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a wonderful way to increase your playing ability. In class you receive mostly group instruction, except for preparing and taking playing tests. In a private lesson a teacher can really help you focus on your own individual technique and playing position to help you be able to improve faster than you would if you were only in orchestra class. Private lessons are NOT required, but the students who take them generally progress at a faster pace. You may, of course, take lessons outside of the school building and make your own arrangements with the private teacher. If you choose to take your private lessons at Durham, you will need to use a teacher who has gone through the LISD background check and fingerprinting process. Please contact Mrs. Walls or Mr. Sluder to let us know you are interested in lessons as soon as possible. We will pass on contact information for these approved teachers as soon as we know of their district approval status. 2008-2009 rates for the teachers who were approved and allowed to teach on the LISD campuses were as follows. Rates are subject to change every year and will be known by the first week of school.

Degreed teacher, 30 minute lesson -- \$17

Degreed teacher, 22 minute lesson -- \$14

Non-degreed teacher, 30 minute lesson -- \$14.50

Non-degreed teacher, 22 minute lesson -- \$11

Private lessons happen every week and are to be paid one month in advance. Since these teachers are depending on this income, please consider this an agreement for the entire year. If you fall on very difficult economic times later in the year, please be honest with the private teacher and explain your need to put the lessons on hold. Do not ever leave a private teacher “hanging” wondering whether you are in or out. These individuals spend an enormous amount of money in gas running from one school to the next and cannot always quickly find a replacement for your slot. It is always your responsibility to contact your private teacher as early as possible before the lesson if you are sick. Private teachers who are not contacted ahead of time if a student misses due to illness or a field trip, or some other changed school schedule will charge you for the missed lesson. If you cannot afford private lessons this year, please keep it in mind as a possibility for years to come. All outstanding string players eventually end up taking private lessons in addition to their school playing if they want to stay competitive as they grow older.