

# *4th Grade Edison Orchestra*

Learning to play a stringed instrument and belonging to the school orchestra opens up a whole new world of learning, friendship, and FUN! Mesa Public Schools offers stringed instrument instruction to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at no cost. Orchestra is an elective program and we welcome your decision to participate!!

As we begin our school year with remote learning, there will be two orchestra classes each week for 30 minutes during the school day. One class will be a “synchronous” lesson where we will meet and practice together as a class. The other class will be an “asynchronous” lesson that students can complete on their own time. Orchestra will be held throughout the whole school year. Individual effort is essential, and we encourage each student to set aside time each week for home practice. For 4th grade students, I recommend practicing at home **10-15 minutes, 3 times a week**.

Instruments and music books are available from local music stores on a rental or purchase plan. You may choose any store you wish. PLEASE take your child with you when you go to the music store to rent an instrument! Your child has to be “measured” for the correct size instrument. The approximate price to rent a violin or viola is \$20-\$25, and cellos are approximately \$28-\$35 per month. If you wish to purchase an instrument online, **please consult me before purchasing**. Many instruments sold online are poor or unplayable in quality. The non-profit Desert Sounds offers affordable violins and violas to qualifying students. For more information, please visit: <https://www.desertsounds.org/our-programs/the-jeremy-project/>. We also have school owned instruments available for students to use in cases where the families cannot afford to rent, but there is a **very limited number**. School instrument distribution will be according to the following order: 6th grade returning, 5th grade returning, 4th grade beginners. If a school instrument is available for the student, I will schedule a time for you to pick up the instrument.

## **Additional materials:**

There are certain accessories that will greatly accelerate your child’s progress in orchestra. Some of these may come with the instrument upon rental/purchase, or they may be purchased at the same time.

- **Concert Tunes for Beginning Strings Book 1 (for the correct instrument)**
- **Rosin**
- **Shoulder rest or sponge (violin/viola ONLY); Rockstop (cello ONLY)**
- **Instrument cleaning clothing (you can use a cloth, rag, or even an old sock!!)**

Please fill out the online “Edison Orchestra Registration Form” and submit it by **Friday, August 28th**. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me, and I will be happy to help in any way I can!!

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