



Welcome to BSMS Orchestra!

As you prepare for the upcoming school year, be sure to get the supplies you need for orchestra! If you have any questions or need any assistance, please reach out. The best way to get in touch with me over the summer is email, but I'll check my voicemail as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Mr. Hennessy (406) 281-6011
hennessyr@billingssschools.org

Orchestra students are required to have the following:

An instrument that you own or rent from a music store or the school district

*I recommend that you rent an instrument from a music store (**Eckroth, Kirk's, Hansen's**) for the long-term benefits. If you purchase an instrument, please discuss the instrument with me first so we can assess the quality of the instrument. Please do not purchase instruments online from eBay or Amazon, and please do not purchase an instrument that comes in a color other than wood.

*School district rentals cost \$100/year, or \$50/year for students in the Free and Reduced Lunch program. There is a limited supply of these instruments, and they typically aren't as good of quality as a store rental. Please rent an instrument elsewhere if it is possible for your family.

Violins and violas: shoulder rest or sponge

*A shoulder rest is preferred. If you purchase a shoulder sponge, test it out before purchasing to make sure it's comfortable on you and your instrument. Sponges come in several different sizes.

Cellos and basses: endpin anchor or rock stop

*Endpin anchors are preferred. The strap is much more secure than a rubber puck.

Rosin

*Rosin may break throughout the year; take care to not drop it. If your rosin does break, it needs to be replaced promptly.

Cleaning cloth

*This can be a purchased microfiber cloth from a music store, a wash cloth, or a cut up t-shirt.

A folding wire music stand

*for practicing at home

***Sixth graders:** Essential Elements Book 1 for Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass

***Seventh graders:** Essential Elements Book 2 for Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass

***Eighth graders:** Essential Techniques for Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass

All supplies are available for purchase at Eckroth, Kirk, and Hansen music stores