1) **Do we need to buy or rent an instrument?**
Most families rent or lease instruments from local music stores. When renting, you can often build equity with the music store through a “lease to own” agreement. Repairs are covered by the store when you have insurance on your rental. Be wary of less expensive instruments; inferior instruments can make learning to play a frustrating experience. In addition, it’s important to make sure your string student is properly fitted for the correct size instrument.

2) **Can my child still participate if we can’t afford to provide an instrument?**
CUSD has a limited inventory of music instruments available for loan. **You must indicate “request for a District instrument” on the registration form to be considered for an instrument loan.** Eligibility is determined by a variety of factors including financial need. Please be sure to adhere to the application deadlines. Students who are approved to borrow a District-owned instrument are obligated to take proper care of the instrument, maintain a certain level of practice and performance, to act responsibility, and participate in music classes regularly throughout the school year.

3) **How will I know if my student has been enrolled in the music program and/or been approved for a District instrument?**
Music classes will begin the week of October 4 - October 8, 2021. Your student should log in to the music class selected on the registration form to confirm enrollment. You will receive an email from the music instructor with information about the class. If you have requested a loaner instrument, you will receive notification from the District regarding instrument loan approval. **It is also imperative that you have your correct email listed with the district office. We will be using the email that you have listed with the district.**

4) **How much does it cost to rent an instrument?**
Rental cost for an instrument ranges from $20 to $45 per month or more. **Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin, and Viola** rent for approximately $20 per month. Larger instruments, including **Saxophone, Baritone, Cello, and Bass**, will typically be more expensive. You can find rental information on the FOLLOW UP INFORMATION FOR STRING OR BAND PAGES on the EIMP website.

5) **Where can I rent an instrument?**
We have provided a list of local music vendors who have served our music program reliably in past years. The list is located on the Follow-Up Information Sheet. There are separate Follow-ups for Band and for Strings sheets located on the web district website.

6) **Is it better to buy an instrument instead of renting?**
This is a difficult question to answer since every student and situation is unique. We recommend renting for at least the first year of instruction. If your student is playing a string instrument, they will not be playing on a full size instrument until they have reached over five feet in height. This will require changing instrument sizes every year or two. If you do choose to buy an instrument, look for name brand instruments. The quality of the instrument is a very important factor in your child’s success. You will also be responsible for all repairs when you own an instrument. (Repairs are often covered by the music store if your rental plan includes Loss/Damage/Repair insurance.)

7) **I found a great buy on an instrument at a warehouse/department store/Internet. Should I buy it?**
Instruments purchased in this manner are often of lower quality. Students can struggle to produce a good sound and inferior instruments tend to have frequent problems. There are many high quality beginning level instruments on the market, which can be purchased for $250 to $400, or even less used. Your local music store can provide sales, ongoing customer service, and any future maintenance required.
8) **What brands of instruments are considered quality name brands?**

**Brass and Woodwinds:** Bach, Besson, Blessing, Buffet, Bundy, Conn, Eastman, Evette, Gemeinhardt, Getzen, Holton, Jupiter, King, Reynolds, Selmer, Vito, and Yamaha.

**Percussion:** Ludwig, Pearl, CB700, and Vic Firth.

**String instruments:** Eastman, Glaesel, Klaus-Mueller, Knilling, Meisel, Scherl and Roth, and Suzuki.

9) **My child wants to play flute, but we already have a trumpet. Can he/she just play the trumpet?**

Usually. The instrument choice is yours to make as a family, but keep in mind that beginners tend to be more successful on an instrument that they really want to play. It is also true that a student may not be as successful on one wind instrument as another due to individual physical characteristics. The Band Instructor will be able to help you make that determination.

10) **Are there any other materials or supplies that we will need to provide?**

There are a few other low-cost materials and supplies that will need to be purchased.

- **Band:** Book(s), cleaning cloth or swab, oil or grease, reeds for Clarinet and Saxophone, music stand, pencil.
- **Strings:** Book(s), rosin, shoulder pad (violin/viola; beginners should use the sponge type) or endpin stop (cello/bass), cleaning cloth, music stand (for home practice), pencil.

11) **Does my child need previous music experience to learn an instrument?**

Beginning Band and Strings are entry-level classes. No prior experience is necessary, but can be beneficial.

12) **Do Band and String classes meet during the school day or after school?**

All Band and Strings classes will meet after school one time per week.

13) **Are there any commitments outside of the school day?**

Students are expected to practice at home daily for approximately 15-20 minutes or more to be successful in the music program.

14) **My child didn’t play an instrument in 4th Grade, but would like to start in 5th or 6th Grade.**

There is no upper grade limit for Beginning Instrument classes. Older students usually progress very quickly and often enjoy helping the younger students in class.

15) **Are private lessons required?**

No. Private lessons outside of school are not required but recommended after one year of study. Occasionally, private lessons may be recommended in order for a student to make proper progress or advance to the next level.

Should you have any questions regarding the Elementary Instrumental Music Program, please visit: [www.cusd.claremont.edu](http://www.cusd.claremont.edu), look under “Departments” click on “Educational Services” and then click onto “Elementary Instrumental Music Program.”

You can also visit Be Part of the Music, a very helpful website for students to see the different instruments for band or strings and get a better understanding of each instrument, especially for beginning students. [https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpoto/index.html](https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpoto/index.html)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email: elementarymusic@cusd.claremont.edu (preferred) or leave a voice message at (909)398-0609, ext. 70272.