



August 2015

Dear Orchestra Parents:

Congratulations on supporting your child's interest in learning to play a string instrument. Joining the beginning strings classes in your child's school is the first step in what we hope will be a long and rewarding experience with music. Recent and continuing research has shown that the benefits to students who participate in music programs are numerous and expansive.

In order to do all we can to optimize your child's potential for success, the Blue Valley music staff has developed instrument specifications. The purpose of the specifications is to insure that the instrument you rent or purchase for your student will be of an acceptable quality. All the music merchants in Johnson County have been provided a copy of these specifications. Because the Blue Valley specifications differ in some ways from how instruments are shipped from the factory, these music merchants have made the necessary adjustments and incurred the additional expense to meet our specifications. A copy of those specifications is attached.

The music staff equates learning to play on a poor quality instrument that doesn't work well to trying to learn to ride a bicycle when the chain keeps coming off or has flat tires. Learning the mechanics of playing an instrument, developing the necessary eye-hand coordination, tonal concepts, learning a new symbol system, etc., is difficult enough without adding to the challenge unnecessarily. The Blue Valley orchestra teachers have discovered that instruments purchased in a box from a discount store, warehouse or on the internet, may be cheaper than instruments rented or purchased from a reputable music merchant. However, these instruments are not of acceptable quality and put your son or daughter's potential for success at risk.

Again, congratulations on your decision to expand your child's educational experience in Blue Valley to include orchestra. The Blue Valley music staff shares your desire to provide the finest educational experience for your child.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janelle Brower".

Janelle Brower
Performing Arts Coordinator
Blue Valley School District