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Welcome, New Orchestra Students!

Lisle Violin Shop is excited to welcome new orchestra students for the 2020-2021 school year. The first thing that most students will need to do is to find out what size instrument they will be playing next year. Most sizing is done in the springtime so that parents can reserve their instrument for the next school year and have it delivered by the first day of school. Since schools are not in session currently, we would like to give parents a guide on how to size their incoming students. Below, we have listed the measurements to take and the corresponding sizes. Some students may be in between sizes. If that is the case, pick the smaller size. It never hurts to start on a slightly small instrument. Playing a too-large instrument can be detrimental for beginners, so we do not recommend upsizing. Keep in mind that students often grow over the summer, so there is a chance that this size may change by the time school begins. If at the start of school the teachers determine the size is incorrect just let us know and we will exchange it for the correct size.

Violins and Small Violas

Violins and small violas are sized according to a student's arm length. First, the student needs to extend his or her arm out to the side of the body (not in front). The arm will need to be straight, and parallel to the ground. Next, using a tape measure, measure the length of the arm from the neck to the end of the wrist. This length corresponds to the length of the instrument and sizes listed below.



Violin

- 4/4 Violin - 23" Neck to Wrist Length
- 3/4 Violin - 21.5" Neck to Wrist Length
- 1/2 Violin - 20.5" Neck to Wrist Length
- 1/4 Violin - 18" Neck to Wrist Length

Viola

- 15" Viola - 24.5" Neck to Wrist Length
- 14" Viola - 23" Neck to Wrist Length
- 13" Viola - 21.5" Neck to Wrist Length
- 12" Viola - 20.5" Neck to Wrist Length
- 11" Viola - 18" Neck to Wrist Length

Cellos

Cellos are sized differently than violins due to the seated position of the player. First have the student sit upright in a chair so the legs and body form a 90-degree angle. (Be sure the student is sitting up straight as this affects the measurement.) Measure a straight line from the left ear to the top of the left thigh. This length corresponds to the distance between the cello C peg and the top of the c-bout where the knees are positioned.

Cello Measurements C peg to Top C bout:

- 4/4 Cello - 22.5"
- 3/4 Cello - 20.5"
- 1/2 Cello - 19.5"
- 1/4 Cello - 17.5"





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Basses

You can measure two ways:

1st way:

Measure the child's arm length from the shoulder socket to the tip of the index finger.

3/4- over 31" 1/4- 27-29"
1/2- 29.5- 30" 1/8- less then 25"

2nd way:

Place the left hand down on a flat surface with the fingers spread out naturally. Measure the distance from the pinky to the index finger.

3/4- Over 5.5" 1/4- 3.5-4"
1/2- 4-5" 1/8- Under 3"

1st Way



2nd Way

