

What to do with your child's **string** instrument over the summer.

If your child plans to continue playing the violin, viola, cello or bass:

Please consider keeping the instrument through the summer. All students received a summer music packet as encouragement to play through over the break. This is the best option to maintain the excellent progress they've made this year. You may also consider a few private lessons to help keep the momentum going. There are several private teachers in the Howe area from which to choose. In addition, many of the vendors offer the benefit of accruing credit in your account towards the eventual purchase of a new instrument. You may lose that credit by canceling the contract and returning the instrument. Please contact your vendor to determine what makes the most sense for your family.

If your child does not wish to continue playing the violin, viola, cello or bass:

Please contact the vendor to close the account as soon as possible and make arrangements for the instrument return. You will be charged rental fees even though school lessons have ended. Instruments that are to be returned to the vendor can be left at Howe in the instrumental music room before the last student day.

Johnstonbaugh's: 412-221-2290

Resonance Violins: 412-344-7605

Volkwein's: 412-788-5900

Your child is undecided on playing strings or band:

Consider holding on to the instrument until a final decision has been made, since returning the instrument can lead to unnecessary complication if they decide to continue. *It is best to conclude with a decision as early as possible to avoid unnecessary rental fees before returning the instrument in order to reserve a new instrument.*

Your child wants to play strings and band next year:

Some students were told they can play two instruments next year. The school board only approves one instrumental music lesson during school each week. The only way to play two is to take one instrument lesson in school and the other instrument as a private lesson. Bear in mind this means practicing twice as much each week (75-100 minutes per each instrument weekly) and preparing twice the amount of concert music. Coupled with an increase in the academic workload in 4th grade, this is very challenging and can create burn-out very quickly. I would recommend you consider this very carefully. It is best to focus on one instrument and to give it their best effort.

Additionally, if they decide to try a band instrument but decide they want to switch back to strings, they must do so by the first week of October or re-entry into the program must wait until 5th grade.

Any further questions that pertain to the rental contract should be addressed to the vendor. Mt. Lebanon School District does not assume responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged instruments.

Thank you and have a pleasant summer!

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