

**Upper Perkiomen School District  
Elementary Instrumental Program  
Common Questions About Instrument Lessons**

**How much do instrument lessons cost?**

This is the opportunity of a lifetime for your child! In the “real world,” there is a fee for instrument lessons. The lessons provided during the school day are FREE! All you need to pay for is the instrument, book, and music stand. [Click here for rental prices at Zeswitz Music.](#)

**Will my child be pulled out of a major class (like math or ELA) for lessons?**

Possibly. Students are pulled out of their regular classroom for instrument lessons. We use a rotating lesson schedule so that children are not pulled from the same subject each week. A 30-minute group lesson will occur once in each 5-day cycle.

**Why should I rent an instrument when I can get one on the internet for cheap?**

Let’s give the child a fighting chance to learn the instrument. Instruments offered on the internet are often so cheaply made that they break easily, are not repairable, and kids have trouble producing a consistent tone. Also, remember that stringed instruments come in different sizes. A student may grow out of their initial size in a few months. By renting a quality instrument, you are giving your child a chance to produce a strong sound with a fully functional instrument. As you rent your instrument, you establish credit with the music store for a future purchase, and their repair experts will manage necessary repairs in accordance with your agreement. In addition, you have the opportunity to change sizing on stringed instruments for free as the child grows. Before you click that mouse, ask yourself “Am I buying a toy or a real instrument for my child?”

**Does the instrumental teacher work for the music store?**

Mr. Bennett is a teacher and employee of the Upper Perkiomen School District and receives no compensation for recommending instrument rentals. Giving the children the right tools to help them succeed in their instrumental endeavor is the motivation behind all decisions.

**Will music really make my child smarter?**

This is another question that speaks of opportunity. If you and your child set a consistent practice routine from the beginning and stick to it, then “yes,” he/she should expect growth in academic areas as the brain is being “rewired” for higher-level thinking. Be aware that this change is very gradual and may not be immediately noticeable. A child must play for two years to permanently, biologically improve their brain. On the other hand, if the instrument never leaves the case and no home practice occurs, then the answer is “no,” carrying the instrument to and from school will not make your child smarter.

**Do instrument lessons continue after the May concerts?**

Yes, yes, yes! The spring concert should be a highlight and not the end of your child’s musical career. Elementary students average about 28 lessons per year (about 14 hours of instruction) – including May and June lessons. Instrument lessons should be thought of as a potential life long venture – not just a subject to fill time during the school year. To advance, students should play the instrument during the summer too! (Private lessons are a terrific supplement to group lessons in school).