

1. View each student's teeth, chin, and lips.
2. Based on the student's physical features, assign three numbers using the examples below.
3. Use the corresponding numbers below to recommend an instrument.

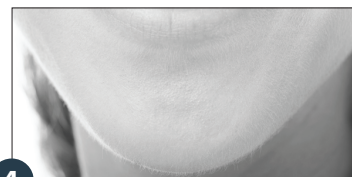
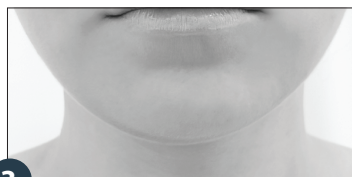
Teeth

- 1 = Even
2 = Uneven



Chin

- 3 = Round or square
4 = Pointed



Lips

- 5 = Full or large
6 = Medium
7 = Thin



1, 3, 5: trombone

1, 3, 6: trumpet, trombone

1, 3, 7: trumpet, French horn, flute

1, 4, 5: clarinet, saxophone, flute

1, 4, 6: clarinet, flute

1, 4, 7: trumpet, French horn, flute

2, 3, 5: clarinet, saxophone

2, 3, 6: clarinet, saxophone, oboe

2, 3, 7: clarinet, saxophone, oboe

2, 4, 5: clarinet, saxophone

2, 4, 6: clarinet, saxophone, oboe

2, 4, 7: clarinet, saxophone, oboe

Other Things to Consider

Wind & Percussion Instruments

FLUTE

- Straight/even teeth (no overbites!)
- Medium to full lips (bottom lip "cushion")
- NO tear drop shape in the middle of the top lip
- Adequate arm size to hold the instrument
- No double-jointed fingers (longer = good)
- Finger dexterity is a plus

CLARINET

- Better for orthodontics
- No protruding top teeth or sharp /jagged bottom teeth
- No double-jointed fingers
- Finger dexterity is a plus

OBOE

- Straight teeth - No overbite or underbite
- Advanced finger coordination
- High academic achievement
- Finger dexterity is a plus
- Matches pitch by humming or singing

SAXOPHONE

- Better for orthodontics
- Slight overbite or underbite ok
- No protruding top teeth or sharp / jagged bottom teeth
- Larger hand size is a plus

TRUMPET

- Slight overbite is ok
- No underbite
- Thin to medium lips
- Three finger dexterity of right hand
- Bold personality

FRENCH HORN

- Slight overbite is ok
- No underbite
- Thin to medium lips
- Matches pitch by humming or singing
- High academic achievement

TROMBONE

- Slight overbite is ok
- No underbite
- Medium to full lips
- Good distance from nose to top lip
- Longer arms a plus
- Matches pitch by humming or singing

PERCUSSION

(Snare Drum Kit or Percussion Kit)

- Great deal of coordination
- Matches rhythm
- Good critical thinking skills
- Good work ethic and organized

String Instruments

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO

- The size of the student should not factor into choosing which instrument to play. They make all string instruments in fractional sizes to match the size of the student (eg. $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$ instruments).
- You will be able to trade them in for bigger sizes as your student grows.
- Good finger independence of left hand
- Good finger strength
- Good hand independence

How to Determine String Instrument Size

Violin and Viola Sizing

With the student's **left arm fully extended and palm up**, place a measuring device under the chin to simulate a violin and **measure to the center of the palm**. Compare your measurement to the chart below to determine the instrument size.

If you have access to an instrument, ask the student to hold the instrument as if they are playing. The student should be able to cup the majority of the fingers around to the top of the scroll. Always choose the smaller size if the student is in-between sizes, because a larger instrument will hinder the student's ability to play properly.

Violin

Arm Length	Approximate Age	Violin Size
17.6" to 20"	4-7 years	1/4
20" to 22"	6-10 years	1/2
22" to 23.5"	9-11 years	3/4
23.5" & up	9-adult	4/4

Viola

Arm Length	Approximate Age	Viola Size
20" to 21.9"	6-9 years	12"
22" to 23.2"	6-9 years	13"
23.2" to 24.9"	9-11 years	14"
24.9" to 25.6"	11-12 years	15"
26.4" to 27.1"	Average adult	16"

Cello Sizing

Choosing the most suitable size is not an exact science; there can be differences of opinion even between experienced educators if the student is "right on the line" between sizes. Because of this, we strongly encourage you to select the smaller size if there is any question.

To use the chart below, take the following three measurements with the student:

1. Height - the student should stand barefooted against a wall. Use a tape measure to determine their height.
2. Arm length - the student should hold their left arm straight out to the side, palm up. Using a tape measure or yard stick, measure from their neck to roughly the center of their palm.
3. Finger span - the student should hold their left hand open so that they are looking at their palm. Open the fingers of the left hand as far as they comfortably go (as if you were trying to palm a basketball), then use a tape measure, ruler, or yard stick to measure the distance between the tip of the index finger and the tip of the pinky finger.

Once you have all of these measurements, use them to consult the chart below. Remember, if the height and arm length indicate "3/4" size but the finger span indicates "1/2" size, it is safest to begin with the 1/2 size. Our program makes it easy and convenient to switch to a larger size as soon as it is time.

Height	Arm Length	Finger Span	Approximate Age	Cello Size
up to 4'	18"-20"	3"-4"	5-7 years	1/4
4'-4'6"	20"-22"	4"-5"	7-11 years	1/2
4'6"-5'	22"-24"	5"-6"	11-15 years	3/4
5' & up	24" & up	6" & up	15 & up	4/4

This is only a guide and not a hard and fast set of rules.

Preference for the sound of an instrument often improves the student experience.