

## PARENTS GUIDE TO OBTAINING A BAND INSTRUMENT

Perhaps the most important consideration in getting a band instrument for a beginner is to get one that works well and easily. While that statement may sound obvious, many parents buy "bargain" instruments for their children that are virtually impossible for even experienced players to play. Learning to play a band instrument is never easy. Trying to learn on a horn that simply won't play will only serve to frustrate the young player, causing him/her to quit.

**The best approach is to use a rental program** such as offered at local music stores. A full service music dealer is best. If your child does not do well, or does not like being in band, you may then return the instrument and owe no more money. In this way, you get the advantage of a new instrument without risking several hundred dollars. I feel that you should rent your instrument from a dealer that offers fast and dependable repair service to insure that your child's instrument always plays it's best. **I highly recommend the services of Muncie Music Center, who has been servicing Centerville-Abington Community Schools for well over twenty years.** You can contact them at either: (800) 992-4481 or [www.munciemusic.com](http://www.munciemusic.com) (look under **RENTALS** tab for setting up a new rental).

Muncie Music Center offers three options of instrument rentals: 1) NEW, 2) RE-RENTAL, & 3) BUDGET SELECT. Unless you need to have the "Christmas morning/Santa Claus" experience, the RE-RENTAL and BUDGET SELECT options are my recommendation (our trial instruments in the classroom are examples of RE-RENTALS). RE-RENTAL instruments have been slightly used by students and then returned for various reasons (ie: student didn't like that instrument, quit band, etc.). BUDGET SELECT instruments are similar, but have been rented for a longer period prior to being returned to the dealer. Every instrument is backed by Muncie Music Center's inspection and quality assurance. If you aren't pleased with the instrument, they will exchange it for a different one.

Lastly, if you order your instrument online, Muncie Music Center has a couple of promotions to help your family budget. First, if your sign-up for autopay, they will provide your child's band method book (\$12-13 retail value) at no extra charge. Secondly, they have a special introductory price for all instruments, which includes the second month FREE (first month payment due online, next payment will be due in OCTOBER). The instruments and method books will be delivered to the school in time for the first day of classes in August.

**If you do plan to buy** a used instrument for your child, **PLEASE** let me see the instrument **BEFORE** you make the purchase. I will give you an honest evaluation of the instrument. Buying a used band instrument is like buying a used car: you must be careful that you are getting a good one. A poor band instrument can cost you more in repairs (and in lost playing time for the child) than new.

The following brands of student line and professional quality instruments are **acceptable**.

**WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS:** (flutes, oboes, clarinets, saxophones)

Vito Leblanc Gemeinhardt Artley Yamaha Selmer Armstrong

**BRASS INSTRUMENTS:** (trumpets, French horns, trombones, baritones)

King Holton Conn Yamaha Bach

**PERCUSSION KIT INSTRUMENTS (includes practice pad and bells):** Pearl Ludwig

### **SOME BRAND NAMES TO AVOID:**

Lauren	Medici	Vedette	Silvertone	Simba	Standell	Pan American
Revere	Amati	Olds (current)	LaFayette	Winston	Grand	Roy Benson
First Act						

**Do not buy instruments from a wholesale club or from a catalog company. Also, avoid instruments from department stores such as Wal-Mart or Sams Club. (The instruments listed above are all inferior instruments by cheap manufacturers that will not be repaired by music stores).**

### **WHAT EACH STUDENT NEEDS**

Besides their instruments all students will need to have:

- 1) Oboes: (2) Reeds (Medium Soft)  
Clarinet: (1) Box of Rico Reeds (#2 1/2 or 3)  
Saxes: (1) Box of Rico Reeds (#2 1/2 or 3)
- 2) Tradition of Excellence, Book 1, for their instrument.
- 3) Items to keep the instrument in good working order as follows:
  - A) Woodwinds: Flutes need a CLEANING SWAB and a TUNING ROD, all others need CLEANING SWABS and CORK GREASE. I recommend the swabs called PAD-SAVER.
  - B) Brass: Trombones need SLIDE OIL and SLIDE GREASE (Vaseline is a good substitute), all others need SLIDE GREASE and VALVE OIL. It is also good for brass players to have cleaning brushes.
- 4) A music stand for home use is encouraged, but optional.