

We will complete personal instrument “fittings” in beginning band classes during the first week of school in August. Once we have confirmed the instrument chosen by your child, THEN we can begin the process of getting their instrument.

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 Quinlan & Fabish (formerly 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.qandf.com (look under RENTALS tab for setting up a new rental).

Quinlan and Fabish offers a special introductory price for all instruments, which essentially covers the rental for the entire first semester of band (monthly rental payment begin in January). The instruments and method books will be delivered directly to the school 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)
Sax: (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.