



BEGINNER BAND HANDBOOK

My student wants to join band – what now?

Ms. Shepherd

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EX: 2297

SECURING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

RENT: DO NOT BUY – WHY?

- Brand New instruments easily cost anywhere between \$800 and \$3,500 or more and your student may change instruments or change their mind about band in the future.
- You are renting to own - Your payments go toward the purchase of the instrument.
- If the band director recommends that your student does change instruments you can switch which instrument you are renting through Music and Arts without losing the payments you've already made toward the other instrument.
- Renting an instrument has the option for insurance. Accidental damages and minor adjustments are covered under this insurance. Music and Arts usually provides another instrument while yours is being fixed so your student does not get behind in classroom learning.
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PLEASE NOTE IT IS NOT ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE INSTRUMENT BUT THE BRAND AND QUALITY

ONLINE SHOPPING – If you choose to shop online, before bidding or buying, print out (or email) all of the information about the instrument and we will be happy to dig around and let you know if it is a good deal. Please also ensure there is a return policy if you are not satisfied. What they say you are getting and what you end up with has been a problem in the past.

DISCOUNT STORES: Costco, Wal-Mart, Sears, and Amazon are not music stores. These instruments look good, but they are not a quality sounding musical instrument. These are really cheap instruments that many parents mistakenly get thinking they have saved a lot of money. They are also not made according to industry standards; which means that the instrument repair technicians cannot fix them – and believe me they do break. If it is purple, green, red, blue, or comes with white gloves **do not purchase the product.**

WE NO LONGER ALLOW these colored instruments in our program. We are providing a list of quality instrument brands. Please refer to this list if you choose to get an instrument on your own. Select from these brands (not in any particular order):

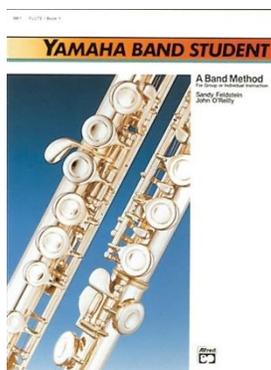
<u>FLUTE</u>	<u>CLARINET</u>	<u>ALTO SAXOPHONE</u>	<u>TRUMPET/TROMBONE</u>
- Armstrong	Selmer	Bundy	Bach
- Artley	Bundy	King	Conn
- Gemeinhart	Conn	Conn	Getzen
- Selmer	Evette	Holton	Holton
- Yamaha	LaBlanc	Vito	King
- Jupiter	Vito	Yamaha	Yamaha
	• Yamaha	Jupiter	Jupiter
	• Jupiter	Selmer	

What if I already have an instrument?

Please bring the instrument in for Ms. Shepherd to assess before school starts.

Other Required Materials

- Each student will need to purchase a Yamaha Band Student Book 1 for their specified instrument. (Example Flute Book 1)

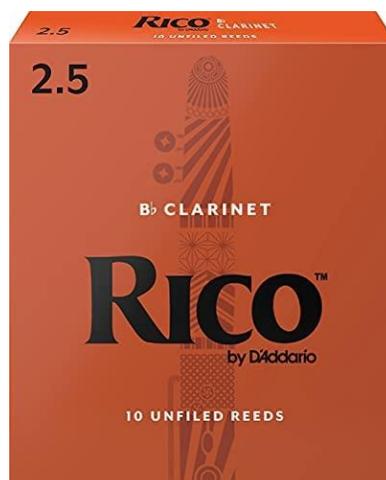


The following items are needed for certain instruments – rentals already come with these items.

- Trumpets will need to ensure they have valve oil. I recommend **Blue Juice**.
- Trombone will need to ensure they have slide grease. I recommend **Slide-O-Mix**.

Saxophones and Clarinets will need to keep multiple reeds on hand as they wear out and are prone to damage as students are learning.

The only brands we allow are Vandoren or Rico size 2.5 or 3. This is for quality purposes.



INSURANCE: You may wish (and it is suggested) that insurance be carried on privately owned instruments. This can be done as a rider on your household insurance. Be sure to report the brand name, model, serial number, and price or replacement cost. There is no insurance provided by the school for privately owned instruments, even when used and transported by the school.

How To Help Your Student Improve:

Your child is presently entering a trial period for playing a musical instrument. Their success is dependent upon their attitude, attention to class instruction, concentration, and effort. There are several ways that you can help, even if you are not a musician yourself. Please take an active role by encouraging your child. Just as children must be reminded to brush their teeth and do their homework, they must be reminded and encouraged to practice. The first few months are extremely important to ensure a successful start. (Hang in there! Those strange sounds will soon be music!) What can you do? The following items will aid your child greatly:

1. Be interested in their daily progress. Students should practice at least 90 minutes a week. However you choose to divide up the 90 minutes is up to each family's individual schedules.
2. Develop a schedule for daily practice and encourage your child to practice! Students will either write their weekly assignment in the front of their book or be given a practice slip with the assignment listed on it. Please check to make sure your student is actually practicing the assigned material. When exercises are assigned in the book the students are required to write in the measure numbers for each exercise. This helps make rehearsal times more efficient.
3. Select a practice area that is as private as possible. Do not permit interruptions. Have good lighting and either a music stand or a good place to prop up the practice book. Inexpensive folding music stands can be purchased at any music store.
4. Help your child remember their instrument on band day. All equipment is needed on class lesson days if the lesson is to be successful. This consists of the instrument, music book, any sheet music given, and in the case of clarinets and saxophones, at least one extra reed. Students are given a grade based on their preparedness and if they have remembered all their equipment. If students are habitually forgetting their instruments (more than three times a grading period) it is possible that they will be dismissed from the band program. Parents can also help by attending concerts, by encouraging home performances, and by helping the student understand that the more he or she practices, the more success and enjoyment will be experienced.