

## SUGGESTED INSTRUMENT BRANDS & SUPPLIES

It is of vital importance that your son / daughter begin their musical experience on an instrument which meets certain industry-wide standards of quality, materials, and workmanship. **Instruments which may seem like a bargain, (often found on the internet, departments stores, membership clubs, and even some local music stores) generally do not meet these industry standards and are often extremely difficult, if not impossible, to play properly.** What seems to be a wise economical choice, in reality, becomes more expensive when one considers the cost of more frequent repairs and maintenance. Often these instruments cannot be repaired locally, leaving the student without an instrument while it is shipped back to the manufacturer for repair. Also, the difficulty and frustration your child may face in attempting to play these instruments is discouraging. The instrument list below, although not exhaustive, is a representation of companies that abide by these industry standards and produce a product suitable for the beginning band student.

Instrument brands listed in **bold** are the director's recommended brands. Currently, I believe the **Yamaha** product is the best student-line instrument available today. Based on my many years experience teaching Band, Yamaha has proven to be simply the most consistent and well-built instrument for the middle school band student.

### FLUTE

SUPPLIES: Cleaning rod (should be included)  
small lint-free cloth  
polishing cloth for fingerprints

BRANDS: **Yamaha, Gemeinhardt**, Armstrong, Selmer

### CLARINET

SUPPLIES: **size 2 1/2** *Mitchell Lurie* or *Mitchell Lurie Premium* reeds  
*2 good reeds (2 reeds is a minimum . . . most clarinet players have at least 4 good reeds at all times!)*  
cork grease  
swab (should be included)

BRANDS: **Yamaha, Buffet**, Selmer, LeBlanc (may also be called Vito or Noblet)  
*\* Wooden clarinets are better than plastic*  
*\* Plastic clarinets are acceptable for beginners*  
*\* Strongly suggest a **Hite Premier** mouthpiece and a **Luyben** ligature*

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

SUPPLIES: **size 2 1/2** *Rico Royal* or Medium-soft *La Voz* reeds  
Neck strap  
*2 good reeds (2 reeds is a minimum . . . most sax players have at least 4 good reeds at all times!)*  
cork grease  
swab (should be included)

BRANDS: **Yamaha**, Jupiter \*The Yamaha student sax is, in my opinion, so far superior to other instruments that it is difficult to recommend any other brand.

### TRUMPET & TROMBONE

SUPPLIES: mouthpiece brush  
flexible cleaning brush ("snake")  
valve or slide oil (preferably *Al Cass FAST*)  
polishing cloth for fingerprints  
tuning slide grease

BRANDS: **Yamaha, Bach**, Jupiter