

INSTRUMENT SELECTION

As an aid in selecting an instrument to play, we provide the opportunity for our students to try the beginner woodwind and brass instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and baritone. Instrument try-outs are conducted at your child's school, during the school day. A parent/guardian should attend if at all possible. Together, the student, parent/guardian, and band director can agree on an instrument well suited to the student. To arrange an instrument try-out for your child, contact your school band director.

INSTRUMENT COST

We recommend the student attend an instrument try-out before an instrument is obtained.

Parents may buy, rent, or lease their child's band instruments from the instrument dealer of their choice.

The lowest prices for instruments are generally available when buying rather than renting. For new instruments, large mail order companies most often offer the largest discounts. An excellent company is "the Woodwind and the Brasswind" in South Bend, Indiana, phone # 1-800-348-5003, www.wwbw.com.

Used instruments are available through newspaper ads, at garage sales, or from local music stores. Some good local stores are Cadenza, Eckroth, Groth, Music-Go-Round, Schmitt, and The Music Connection. When buying a used instrument, ALWAYS tell the seller you want your child's band director to look it over before you pay. Local stores will generally give you a week to accomplish this. We can help you determine the instrument's condition and suggest a fair price.

Renting or leasing an instrument is, for many parents, more affordable than buying because payments can be made over time. Most of the local stores listed above have rent/lease-to-own programs, whereas most mail order companies do not. Shop carefully when renting/leasing an instrument because the interest rates and fees vary greatly from store to store.

We believe Eckroth Music and Groth Music offer excellent rent/lease-to-own programs. A good lease program is offered by Cadenza Music.

If an instrument is ordered from Eckroth, it will be delivered to your child's first lesson. Instruments from Eckroth Music will be the brands we recommend, and will come with all necessary supplies. Instruments can be ordered from Eckroth on the internet, over the phone, or by visiting the store in White Bear Lake.

The instrument brands we recommend are:

	Recommended Models	Also Good Choices
Flutes:	Trevor James TJ10XCE	Accent ACCFL510SG Gemeinhardt 2SP, GFL400 Haynes Amadeus Pearl PF501E Yamaha YFL-221
Clarinet:	Accent ACCCL521P	Vito 7212, 7214 or Yamaha YCL-20
Alto Saxophones:	Cannon Ball CANA3000L	Vito 7131R or Yamaha YAS 23
Trumpets:	Accent ACCTR 510L	Getzen 390 or Bach TR300H
Trombones:	Jupiter 432L	Getzen 351
Percussion Kits:	Vic Firth V7806 Ross RK-1432DP	Accent ACCCK510C Verve BK2000 Pearl SK 700 snare kit Pearl PK 600 bell kit

Many online retailers and some large warehouse or discount stores feature inexpensive instruments, sometimes listed as "educator approved". We have found that they are frequently substandard instruments that do not hold up well over time. Most will look nice and often will get a nice sound for the first few days, but are constructed poorly. We have seen bent keys, broken valves, and bad slides after just a few weeks of use. Many of these instruments are unable to be repaired, as replacement parts are not available or the metals are unsuitable for soldering. Many are unable to be returned, as the return period from the initial purchase may be very short. Please exercise caution when considering off-brand instruments. Consult your band director or an instrument repair technician before purchasing an unfamiliar brand.