

Obtaining an Instrument 101

Please read this 1 page carefully!

Families & Caregivers will provide the following:

- A Rental Instrument and supplies (details outlined below)
- A music stand for home practice (generally \$15 at any music store)
- A place to practice with a good chair.
- A pencil

The school will provide:

- Making Music Matter method book
- A music folder

***We recommend renting an instrument!** We assume you will rent unless you reach out to request a school instrument. Renting is a low-risk, low-investment way to provide an instrument for your student. Optional (highly suggested!!) insurance can give you peace of mind when giving your child a valuable, delicate instrument. Sign up to rent online at www.hickeysmusiconline.com

***What if we can't afford to rent?** We are deeply committed to every music student regardless of financial status. We can provide your child with everything they need to succeed in middle school band. **Please just let me know.** Call 387-7551 x 1322 or email sposegate@tburg.k12.ny.us **I will assume you will rent unless I hear from you!**

***Discount chains and Amazon instruments—** Instruments sold through discount chains or on Amazon are usually *not* worth the eye-popping low prices one finds on them. Instead, ask to borrow a school instrument that we know will work well. See above.

***What about buying a used instrument?** — Used instruments, like used vehicles, are just a little risky but can be a good, affordable option. Instruments are designed to endure decades of proper use, and can be refurbished for a reasonable fee. **Email me before you bid or buy.** I'll give you the inside word on brand-name reputation and quality. The following brands are always okay: Conn, Armstrong, Selmer, Buffet, Vincent Bach, Olds, Artley, Renard, Yamaha, LeBlanc, Gemeinhardt.

Find your student's instrument below for a list of needed supplies to go *with* that instrument and a bit of useful information on the instrument.

Instrument Requirements

◆◆◆**Woodwinds**

This family of instruments generally uses reeds (except flute), which must be replaced. They are more complicated than brass (lots of keys) and therefore a little easier to break.

Flute -

- ☐ Student Flute
- ☐ Cleaning cloth (handkerchief or similar) and cleaning rod

Notes: Learning fingerings and getting a sound are harder upfront for flute than the other winds. **Switch to:** possibly oboe, bassoon.



◆**Single Reeds**

Clarinet (Bb Soprano Clarinet)

- ☐ Student Clarinet
- ☐ Box of Rico Royal 10 clarinet reeds size 2½
- ☐ Cleaning swab

Notes: Regular purchase of reeds required. **Switch to:** possibly bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon.



Alto Saxophone

- ☐ Student Alto Saxophone
- ☐ Box of Rico Royal 10 alto sax reeds size 2½
- ☐ Cleaning swab

Notes: Regular reed purchases required. **Saxophonists also play:** Tenor (<1 yr.) or baritone sax (1 yr.). **Switch to:** possibly oboe, bassoon.



◆◆◆**Brass**

Using valves and lip buzzing to make sounds, the brasses require little maintenance and are hard to break.

Trumpet

- ☐ Student Trumpet
- ☐ Valve oil
- ☐ Cleaning cloth (handkerchief or similar)

Notes: **Switch to:** Baritone. Horn



Trombone - not allowed on the bus therefore school will provide **at least** 1 trombone for at school. Your rental would stay at home for practice

- ☐ Student Trombone
- ☐ Slide cream
- ☐ Small spray bottle (for water)
- ☐ Cleaning cloth (handkerchief or similar)

Notes: It is simple and inexpensive and fun.



Baritone (school provides instrument - do not rent or buy)

- ☐ Valve oil
- ☐ Cleaning cloth (handkerchief or similar)



Notes: Provided by the school. Students generally get a home instrument and a school instrument and carry a mouthpiece back and forth. **Switch to:** Tuba.

◆◆◆Percussion

Students interested in learning percussion will learn the basics on another instrument of their choice. Later percussion students will be selected based on their work ethic, note reading ability and sense of pulse/rhythm.