

Equipment and Supply Recommendations

Version 1.0

Starting out on a student level instrument is fine, as long as it is in good shape. Any music store generally will only rent out good, high quality student instruments. And, if they need repair, often this is included in the rental price. There are many good student, intermediate and professional brands out there, but the instruments I have listed below, I either have personally tried it and can confirm that it is a good instrument, or have it on very good authority that it is a good instrument. I highly recommend that after 6th grade, you seriously consider upgrading your instrument to ones I have listed below.

It should be noted that mouthpiece upgrades should happen BEFORE an instrument upgrade. The exception here is flute: you need to have a good flute before a head joint upgrade. It is important you are playing on good reeds, and good mouthpieces. This will have a HUGE effect on your sound quality.

Lastly, to get the best personalized equipment recommendations, we highly recommend that you seek out a private teacher on your instrument. They can work with you specifically in where you are in your musical ability, and recommend to you the equipment that will work best FOR YOU.

WOODWINDS

Reed Recommendations

Oboe- <https://www.jonesdoublereed.com/> (Private lessons highly recommended *link to private lesson teachers*)

1st-2nd year players- Student Oboe Reed (red)

3rd-4th year players- Artist Oboe Reed (purple)

Bassoon- <https://www.jonesdoublereed.com/> (Private lessons highly recommended *link to private lesson teachers*)

1st-2nd year players- Student Bassoon Reed (red)

3rd-4th year players- Artist Bassoon Reed (purple)

Clarinet Reeds-

6th Grade- 2.5-3 Strength Vandoren Traditional (blue) box

7th-8th Grade- 3-3.5 Strength Vandoren Traditional (blue) box

Alto Sax Reeds-

6th- 2.5 Strength Vandoren Traditional (blue) box

7th-8th- 2.5-3 Strength Vandoren Traditional (blue) box

Jazz- 2.5-3 Strength Rico (orange) box

Tenor Sax/ Bass Clarinet Reeds-

6th-8th Grade- 2.5 Strength Vandoren Traditional (blue) box

Jazz- 2.5 Strength Rico (orange) box, or 2.5 Legere Signature Cut

Bari Saxophone Reeds-

2.5-3 Legere Signature Cut

-you have to experiment with what strength works best for you

Synthetic Reeds-

ABSOLUTELY try them out. Some people like them, some don't. I recommend Legere Signature Cut. Try out a strength .25 less than the cane reed strength you currently play on.

Instruments

Investing in a good, quality instrument will help you enjoy band, and provide you with a solid foundation in music. Playing on a bad, or low quality instrument invites frustration, and long term, can actually be more expensive than a higher priced, high quality instrument, due to extensive repairs needed on an instrument that breaks often due to the less-than-stellar craftsmanship and low quality materials used to make it. Below are highly suggested instruments, but not an exhaustive list. The suggested grades next to them are what we would recommend, but if you take good care of your instrument (see Periodic Instrument Care), then these instruments can last a very long time. We do encourage you to look into "step up" instruments as you enter high school as you will be a better player, and some student-entry instruments will actually hold you back as your skills become more advanced.

Flute

6th-7th Grade- Yamaha YFL-222 Standard Flute

7th-High School- Yamaha YFL-462 Intermediate Flute, Offset G, B-Foot

High School-College- Yamaha 577H Series Professional Offset G, C# trill, Split E Gizmo

*Headjoint upgrades for flutes (not student level flutes) is a fantastic way to upgrade without spending money on a new flutes

Oboe- Any Buffet or Fox brand Oboe, or Yamaha 841 Custom

*Getting a student model Oboe is not a good investment and should be avoided.

Bassoon- Any Fox brand Bassoon. Yamaha does make good bassoons, but be sure to do research. Moosmann is also a good bassoon brand.

* Getting a student model Bassoon is not a good investment and should be avoided.

Clarinet

6th-8th- Backun Alpha Bb Clarinet

Yamaha YCL-255 Standard Bb Clarinet

Selmer Prologue

High School-

Backun Beta Bb Clarinet

Backun Protégé Bb Clarinet

Buffet E12 Intermediate Clarinet

Buffet R13 Professional Clarinet

Any Henri Selmer Paris Clarinet

*mouthpiece and barrel upgrades are a great way to upgrade the instrument without having to buy whole new clarinet

Alto Saxophone

6th-9th - Yamaha YAS-26

Eastman EAS451

Better Sax Student Alto Saxophone

Prelude by Selmer AS711

High School/Professional-

Yamaha YAS-62 III

Eastman 52nd Street Eb Alto Saxophone

Yamaha 875 EX II Custom

Yanagisawa AWO2

Yanagisawa AWO10

Selmer Serie II/III

Selmer Signature Series

Tenor Saxophone

6th-9th - Prelude by Selmer TS711

Eastman ETS-281

Yamaha YTS-26 Standard Tenor Saxophone

7th-8th - Eastman ETS-481

Yamaha YTS-480 Intermediate Saxophone

High School/Professional-

Yamaha YTS-62 III

Eastman ETS-852 52nd Street

Yamaha YTS-875EX Custom

- Selmer Series II or III

- Selmer Signature Series

Bari Saxophone-

Talk to your band director before purchasing

Mouthpieces

Mouthpieces

Clarinet-

Vandoren B45
Vandoren M13
Vandoren M15

Alto Sax-

Jazz-

Meyer 6M
Theo Wanne
Syos

Classical-

Selmer C* (S80)
Selmer C**
Selmer S90
Rousseau NC4
Vandoren AL3

Tenor Sax-

Jazz-

Meyer 6M
Meyer 7M

Classical-

Selmer S80
Selmer S90
Rousseau NC4
Vandoren TL3

Bari Sax-

Ligature

Clarinet/Alto Sax-

Rovner Dark
Vandoren Optimum

Tenor-

Rovner Dark
Vandoren Optimum

Bari-

Vandoren Optimum

*ligatures are a very personal experience and I suggest you experiment with these as you see fit. Some professionals are fine with the \$20 Rovner, and some swear by the \$200 specialty ligature.

Mouthpieces and Equipment

For Trumpet:

1. Bach 7C Mouthpiece (6th)
2. Bach 3C Mouthpiece (6th, 7th, 8th)

3. Bobby Shew Lead (jazz band)
4. Valve Oil
5. Slide Grease
6. Instrument specific stand
7. Straight Mute
8. Cup Mute
9. Harmon Mute
10. A better instrument case (Protec and Gator are very good baseline brands)

For Horn:

1. Holton Farkas Series French Horn Mouthpiece (MDC)
2. Rotor Oil
3. Slide Grease
4. Instrument specific stand
5. Protec Contoured French Horn Case
6. Private Lessons

For Trombone:

1. Bach 12C Mouthpiece (6th)
2. Bach 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece (7th, 8th)
 - a. Be sure to get correct bore size
3. Super Slick Slick-It Trombone Kit (slide oil)
4. Instrument Specific Stand

For Euphonium:

1. Slide Grease
2. Valve Oil
3. Bach 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece (7th, 8th)

For Tuba

1. Slide Grease
2. Valve Oil
3. Tuba- speak to teacher
4. Willingness to clean it:)

Instrument Recommendations

Trumpet

1. Prelude TR711 (beginning)
2. Conn Director (older horns, but great! must be in good condition!) (middle school)
3. Eastman ETR530S Advanced Series Trumpet (Intermediate-Advanced)
4. Yamaha Xeno YTR-8335RS (High School-PRO)

Horn

1. Horn- Holton H179 Farkas Series Fixed Bell Double Horn
2. Horn- Conn 8D CONNstellation Series Double Horn
3. Horn- Holton H378 Intermediate French Horn

Trombone

1. Trombone- Prelude by Conn-Selmer TB711 Series Student Trombone (5th, 6th)
2. Trombone- Eastman ETB322 Intermediate Series Trombone (6th,7th)
3. Trombone- Eastman ETB428 Intermediate Series F-Attachment Trombone (7th, 8th, and beyond)

Euphonium