

BUYERS BEWARE! "Instrument Shaped Objects"

There are some impostors out there marketing "bargain" "professional" instruments on the internet (Amazon.com, Walmart.com and similar sites) except they are of questionable quality. Also, parts to repair them are often unavailable.

It is always recommended to read reviews written by band directors when purchasing online. I would also caution against ordering an instrument out of a catalog or from Sam's Club. Please contact Mr. Van if you are unsure about any instrument purchase. These "bargains" cost more money in the long run than real instruments and make your child's learning much more difficult. **If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bots write lots of fake positive reviews on Amazon. Please no Temu or Wish. We'll "wish" we could get a sound out of them!**

On the other hand, we've had name brand instruments purchased on E-Bay or Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace and they have been fine beginner instruments. The key in those cases, is that parents were informed to look for used instruments with these brand names: Yamaha, Bundy, Conn, Gemeinhardt, (flutes) Accent, Jupiter, King and Selmer. Mr. Van will be happy to help with this process.

If your child wants to be in band but your budget will not allow it at this time, please consider applying for a Band Bank Instrument. We have a limited number of used instruments that have been donated to the school that may be used by students for a yearly maintenance fee. If you would like more information, call or email Mr. Van avan@spartanpride.net or (319) 825-5449. Band bank instruments are reserved for families in financial need.