



## Instrument Recommendation List

This list is only a guide for families considering purchasing or renting an instrument in the future. **Please do not purchase an instrument on your own without consulting a private lesson teacher or Mr. Pwu.** There are many brands of varying quality available, and a poor instrument is the leading cause of frustration and discouragement for a student. An instrument is an investment and will last decades if treated and cared for properly!

**CLARINETS/SAXOPHONES:** Oftentimes a mouthpiece upgrade can make a more significant difference than a new instrument. These mouthpieces are made of hard rubber or other material that improve tone quality dramatically.

### Flute

- **Yamaha YFL-222** (buy from a reputable seller, there are many fakes/imitations of this model), **Pearl 505, Jupiter YFL710A**
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Pearl 665, Pearl 765, or Miyazawa 101 or 102

### Oboe

- It is not recommended to buy a “beginner oboe” model as students will quickly outgrow it. Rent an instrument until a purchase can be made.
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Fox Renard “Model 333 Progege” or “Model 330”, Yamaha YOB-441
- **Reeds:** Jones Medium or Singing Dog Reeds
- **\*\*Renting an oboe is strongly recommended during middle school\*\***

### Clarinet

- Yamaha YCL-250, Yamaha YCL-255, Buffet Prodiges, or Buffet Premium Student Clarinet
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Yamaha YCL-450 or Buffet E12, R13
- **Standard Mouthpiece:** Clark Fobes “Debut” or Yamaha 4C
- **Mouthpiece Upgrade:** Vandoren 5RV/M13/M15 Lyre, D’Addario Reserve Mouthpiece, D’Addario H-Ligature
- **Reeds:** Vandoren or Rico Royal #2 (6th grade), #2.5 - 3 (6th/7th Grade), #3+ (7th/8th grade)

### Bass Clarinet

- Yamaha YCL-221 Bass Clarinet
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Backun Alpha Low C, Kessler Low C, Buffet Prestige Low C
- **Standard Mouthpiece:** Clark Fobes “Debut,” Yamaha 4C, or Clark Fobes “Nova”
- Reeds: Vandoren or Rico Royal #2 (EB), #2.5 (EB/CB), #3 (CB/SB)

### Alto & Tenor Saxophone

- **Alto:** Yamaha YAS-280 / YAS200AD / YAS-23 (these are all the same models, just different generations), Cannonball Alcazar Student, Jupiter JAS700A
- **Tenor:** Yamaha YTS-280 / YTS200AD / YTS-26 (these are all the same models, just different generations), Cannonball Alcazar Student, Jupiter JTS700A
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Selmer, Yamaha, Yanigasawa, or Cannonball Big Bell Series (see Mr. Pwu)
- **Standard Mouthpiece:** Yamaha 4C
- **Mouthpiece Upgrade:** f or Selmer S80 C\*
- Reeds: Vandoren or Rico Royal #2 (EB), #2.5 (EB/CB), #3 (CB/SB)

### Trumpet

- Eastman ETR-221, Yamaha YTR-2330, YTR-200AD, Jupiter JTR-700, or Bach TR300H2
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Back Stradivarius, Yamaha Xeno
- Starting Mouthpiece: Bach 7C (or equivalent such as Yamaha 11B4)
- **Mouthpiece Upgrade:** Bach 5C (7th grade) or 3C Mouthpiece (7th/8th grade and higher)

### French Horn

- Eastman, Conn 6D, Holton 179, or Yamaha 567
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Conn 8D
- **Mouthpiece:** Holton Farkas Mouthpiece

### Trombone

- Jupiter JTB700A or Yamaha YSL-354

- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Bach 36B or 42B (see Mr. Pwu)
- Starting Mouthpiece: Bach 12C
- **Mouthpiece Upgrade:** Bach 6 1/2AL, 5G or 5GS Mouthpiece

#### **Baritone (Euphonium)**

- Eastman EEP321
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Yamaha YEP-321 4-Valve Euphonium
- Starting Mouthpiece: Bach 12C or Bach 6 1/2AL
- **Mouthpiece Upgrade:** Bach 6 1/2AL, 5GS Mouthpiece

#### **Tuba**

- Eastman EBB-226
- **Step-Up/Advanced Models:** Yamaha YEP-321 4-Valve Euphonium