



6-12 Instrumental Music

East Rochester Percussion Equipment Guide

Having the right equipment for percussion is as important as for any other instrument. When it comes to percussion, even our 6th graders are playing on the same quality instruments as our college-bound seniors. ***It is not acceptable for percussionists to play with whatever drumsticks, mallets, etc. they find laying around the bandroom or stage.*** See below for what percussionists at each level are expected to have, and then read down for more detail on brands, models, and costs.

It is expected that all sticks and mallets are in performance condition. Each year we add to the supplies. With the exception of drumsticks, everything else should last for several years if cared for.

Concert Band (“Regular Band”)

6th grade

- 1 small stick & mallet bag, or just skip to the standard mallet bag (see 9th grade)
 - should be marked with name or initials
- 1 quality drum pad for home practice
- 1 pair concert snare drum sticks

7th grade

- Everything for 6th grade
- 2 pair medium yarn marimba mallets

8th grade

- Everything for Grades 6-7
- 1 pair medium timpani mallets
 - The school will provide softer or hard “staccato” timpani mallets if needed.

9th Grade

- Everything for Grades 6-8
- Standard mallet bag (should be marked with name or initials)
- 1 pair soft marimba mallets

10th Grade

- 1 pair medium xylophone mallets
- 1 pair hard marimba mallets

HS Percussion Ensemble

- 1 pair Salyers JM1 or JM2 drumsticks will be provided each year
- Other sticks and mallets provided by the school
 - If something else is needed, Mr. Gowman will contact the student & parent

Jazz Band Percussion

- **Grade 6:** Standard drumset sticks, min. 2 pair in performance condition
- **Grade 7:** Grade 6, plus 1 pair light jazz drumsticks
- **Grade 8:** Grades 6 & 7, plus 1 pair jazz vibe mallets
- **Grade 9-12:** Grades 6-8, plus medium brushes

Percussion Equipment Guide

Practice Pad

I strongly encourage students to purchase and practice with the **Ahead S-hoop marching snare practice pad**. These are what we have at school. They feel like a real drum and are quiet enough to keep from annoying the family, yet they have a real snare sound and provide enough quality tone that students don't pound. They also have a real hoop that allows for shots and playing on the rim. Retail \$60.

Xymox makes what are considered to be the best practice pads on the market (and are what I play on), but they are much more expensive and delivery time is typically months to more than a year. Retail \$98-\$120, but they seem to have 50% off sales once or twice a year.

Many drummers swear by the **OffWorld Invader v3** pads and they are in the same price range as the Ahead S-hoop pad. I just personally don't like the sound or feel of them.

Ahead, OffWorld, and others also make smaller pads that may be less expensive, but they also don't feel or sound as good.

Not recommended: The standard “tunable” practice pad available from Remo, Pearl, and others, gray plastic with white drumhead, \$22-\$42.

Drumsticks & Mallets

I (Mr. Gowman) am an endorsing artist for **Salyers Percussion** drumsticks & mallets. This means that 1) I believe in their products, and 2) we get significant discounts on their sticks and mallets, which I usually have in stock at school. It does not mean that you have to use their sticks and mallets, if you prefer a different company’s similar model of stick or mallet.

Concert Snare Sticks

Salyers JM2 (highly recommended), FCS1/ FCS1-FF, or 2B/2B-FF

Alternate: Vic Firth 2BN or Innovative Percussion IPJC James Campbell model

Medium Jazz Drumsticks

Salyers SP5A

Alternate: Vic Firth Dave Weckl Signature Model

Light Jazz Drumsticks

Vic Firth AJ3 drumsticks

Mallets

Medium marimba mallets: Salyers PCM30 or MAM30

Alternate: Innovative Percussion IP300 or Vic Firth M212

Hard marimba mallets: Salyers PCM40 or MAM40

Alternate: Innovative Percussion IP400 or Vic Firth M214

Soft marimba mallets: Salyers PCM10 or MAM 10

Alternate: Innovative Percussion IP100 or Vic Firth 210

Xylophone mallets: Salyers MAX10

Alternate: Vic Firth M131

Timpani mallets: Salyers KG3

Alternate: Innovative Percussion BT4 or Vic Firth GEN6 Tim Genis Signature Hard Tonal

Bags

Standard mallet/stick bag: Salyers SMB, standard mallet bag

Alternate: Innovative MB-1 or Vic Firth VICPACK, SBAG, SBAG2, or Concert Keyboard Bag

Small mallet/stick bag: Innovative Percussion Fundamental Stick Bag or Vic Firth Vic Firth Basic Stick Bag