

## Selecting an Instrument

Many considerations may be made in helping your child select an instrument. For example, the length of child's arms might affect the reach needed to move a trombone slide in and out. A student with braces might find a trumpet mouthpiece that applies pressure to be uncomfortable. A student who has difficulty moving fingers may not choose the clarinet or flute. Percussionists must be excellent at multitasking and have good hand-eye coordination. **Note to students:** Do not choose an instrument just because all your friends are playing that one. Pick the one that sounds the best to you.

**If you plan on purchasing an instrument- PLEASE contact Ms. DeRoche before purchasing. NOT ALL INSTRUMENTS are created equal. We want to find an instrument that can last your child through high school.**

### Rent to Own (through Music & Arts).

You can begin renting an instrument now by visiting [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com) !! This is an excellent option to get a quality instrument at an affordable price without making a big investment. Students can even switch instruments without additional cost. More information will be available at our Parent Meeting/Rental Night on August 17th at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

### Attic/Family

Ask around! Someone in your family members may have an instrument in a closet or the attic from when they were a band student. In many cases, these instruments may work well. It is highly recommended that you take this instrument to your local repair shop and your instructor for an evaluation. Just like a car that sits in the garage for 20 years, your instrument may need a tune up to get it ready for the road. It may also need a complete overhaul that may not be as affordable as a new purchase or rental.

### Newspaper/Yardsale/Online Classifieds

Another option you might have is in purchasing through various internet auction sites such as Craig's List or E-Bay. If you can, ask the owner to play it for you before purchasing.

### Big Box Retail/Internet Music Stores

Finally, there are many brands, models, and price points to choose from on the internet and in big box retailers and local music stores. Unfortunately many companies take advantage of people looking for an affordable "starter instrument." In these cases you get what you pay for. The \$135 price tag looks good but these products are harder play and will likely break beyond repair within the first year of use. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Please use your best judgement. **AVOID COLORED INSTRUMENTS!**

## Suggested Quality Brands:

**Flute (C):** Yamaha, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Bundy



**Clarinet (Bb):** Vito, Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy, Buffet



**Alto Saxophone (Eb):** Cannonball, Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy, Jupiter



**Trumpet (Bb):** Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King, Getzen, Bundy, B&S, Holton



**Trombone (Bb Tenor):** Bach, Yamaha, King, Jiggs-Pbone (believe it or not this one is plastic and it actually works!)



**Percussion (Bell Kit/Snare Drum/Practice Pad):** Vic Firth, Pearl, Ludwig, Yamaha, Mapex

