

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Equipment Needs for Steam Band Students

Every student may participate in the Steam band program – no student will be denied access based on financial ability to obtain equipment. Most students buy or rent their own instrument, or borrow from a friend or family member. Contact me if you need to borrow an instrument for short-term or long-term use due to financial need.

\*The Ann Arbor School District provides the following band instruments after 5th grade based on availability and match with the student: Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion Equipment (for in-school use only). These instruments are more expensive to personally own but are greatly needed to enhance the sound of the group.

\*Instruments **Not** provided after 5th grade: Flute, Bb Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Cornet/Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion.

Switching instruments requires instrumental music teacher approval, as well as a clear agreement on the part of the student, parent, and teacher about how to achieve a successful transition. Some switches are encouraged to help produce a full complement of instruments needed in the band. Some switches are **not permitted**. Please work with the teacher to help ensure a successful transition.

**Acquiring an Instrument** – Avoid non-music retailers for instrument purchases as well as related supplies due to quality issues.

**Buying New:** Pay attention to the brand names listed below. A new instrument that is an inferior brand can be a headache if it has to constantly be repaired. A less expensive instrument could cost you more time, money and frustration in the long run.

**Buying Used:** This can be a low risk option if the instrument is in good shape. Check listing places like MLive daily. Have a music teacher or a music store inspect the instrument before buying. Most people will let you leave a deposit while you have it checked.

**Rent to Own:** Some of the local music stores will rent an instrument to you, and after a certain amount of time you will own the instrument (like a car loan). These rental plans often include repairs and/or insurance, so check the contract.

#### **Music Stores and Repair Information**

- Meridian Winds, 1-517-351-263, Okemos, MI. A repairman visits Steam every week for repairs, instrument rentals and supply order delivery.
- Music Go Round, 1-734-662-1080, Ann Arbor, Oak Valley Center (near Target), used instruments, books, supplies
- Oz's Music, Packard Road, 1-734-662-1080
- Anderson Music, 1-313-278-0100 or 1-800-385-7022, Dearborn, full-service music store for sales and instrument rentals
- Woodwind and Brasswind, South Bend, IN, [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com), 1-800-348-5003, lowest price mail-order pricing

### **Music Stores and Repair Information - continued**

- Steven Mumford Horn Works, brass instrument repairs, 734-769-6361
- Pepper Music, 1-800-345-6296, www.jwpepper.com, sheet music and music books

### **Brands to Consider:**

Flute: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Selmer, Armstrong, Dean, Emerson

Clarinets: Yamaha, Buffet, Bundy, Selmer

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Bundy, Blessing, LeBlanc

Trumpet: Yamaha, Bach, Getzen, Holton, Conn

Double French Horn: Holton, Conn, Yamaha

Trombone: Holton, Bach, Yamaha, Conn, Olds

Baritone: Yamaha

Euphonium or Tuba: see your music teacher

Percussion Practice Kit: Yamaha, Pearl, Ludwig, Musser.

Kit must include a set of bells and either a snare drum or drum pad.

Sticks and Mallets often come with the kit, but some are inferior quality so an additional purchase of sticks and mallets may be needed.

### **Supplies Needed**

Flute players: cleaning rod, small soft cloth

Clarinet and saxophone players: 4 reeds needed at all times (brands: Rico Royal, Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie, LaVoz), reed guard, mouthpiece cushion, cork grease, swab, mouthpiece brush. Saxophones need plug. Optional – clarinet thumb rest cushion.

Trumpet players: valve oil (Alysin synthetic oil preferred), slide grease (Bach or Selmer preferred), cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush.

French horn players: rotary valve oil (Alysin synthetic oil preferred), slide grease (Bach or Selmer preferred), cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush.

Trombone players: slide cream or SuperSlick, a small spray bottle, slide grease (for tuning slide), cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush.

Baritone, Euphonium and Tuba players: valve oil (Alysin synthetic oil preferred), slide grease (Bach or Selmer preferred), and mouthpiece brush.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion:

Snare drum sticks: Vic Firth “SD1 General” (no skinny sticks or plastic tips)

Medium Bell/Xylophone mallets: Encore “92R” or Vic Firth “M 132”

Hard Bell Mallets: Mike Balter “91R” or Vic Firth “M 133”

Stick bag/carrier: A zippered drum stick bag or sturdy bag from home is fine.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion:

Timpani mallets: Vic Firth “T-1”

Chromatic pitch pipe for tuning timpani

Suspended Cymbal/Marimba mallets: Mike Balter MB-13R medium yarn

\* **Percussion Note:** If you have already purchased a different brand of an equivalent item, you do not need to get another one. Mallets can have rattan, birch, or fiberglass handles.