

Equipment Requirements 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.

5th Graders: All instruments are provided by the school.

Middle Schoolers:

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, 1-517-339-7333, 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, 1-734-662-8283
- 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, 1-800-348-5003, lowest price mail-order pricing

- 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, 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.

Percussion:

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

Medium Rubber Xylophone mallets: Vic Firth “M409”

Hard Bell Mallets: Vic Firth “M426”

Timpani mallets: Vic Firth “T-1”

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

This [Best Seller Stick Pack #1](#) is a great option rather than purchasing the individual items listed above.

*** Percussion Note:** If you have already purchased a different brand of an equivalent item, you might not need to get another one. Show them to Mrs. Boden to get her approval. Also, mallets can have rattan, birch, or fiberglass handles.