

MRHS Band Equipment Guide

Mouthpiece, Reed, and Ligature Recommendations:

A good mouthpiece, reed and ligature will help make (almost) any instrument sound better. Here are some recommendations.

- Clarinet and Saxophone: Vandoren 3 or above, 56 Rue or V21 for clarinet
- Clarinet: Vandoren Black Diamond BD5 mouthpiece, BG Super Revelation Ligature, Cap
- Saxophone: Selmer S80, BG Super Revelation Ligature and Cap
- Trumpet: Bach 5C or 3C
- Horn: Stork C10 or C8
- Trombone: Bach 6 1/2 AL or Denis Wick equivalent (make sure to check the size of the shank)
- Euphonium: Bach 5G or Denis Wick equivalent (make sure to check the size of the shank)
- Tuba: Hellenberg Standard or Perantucci 44 or 48

Step Up Instrument Recommendations:

We recommend that students not continue to use their "beginner" instruments past the 8th grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. To use a bicycle analogy: just as kids outgrow their first bicycle, there's a good chance that they have also outgrown their beginning band instrument. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease, and can help ALL students take their music performance to the next level. The instruments listed below are recommended by the MRHS staff as the best quality:

Piccolo

Yamaha model YPC-62 - Standard Headjoint

Absolute Necessities:

- Grenadilla wood body and headjoint

Flute

Yamaha models 684 or 684-H

Miyazawa model 202

Muramatsu model EX

Burkhart

Absolute Necessities:

- Solid Silver Head Joint (plated keys are ok), Solid Silver Body is preferred
- Open hole
- B Foot Joint
- C# Trill Key (optional)

Clarinet

Selmer Presence or Selmer Privilege

Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

Yamaha YCL-SEVR

Alto/Tenor Sax

Yamaha YAS-875 EX, YTS-875EX

Yamaha YAS-62III, YTS-62III

Selmer Paris Series II Model 52 Jubilee Edition

Trumpet

Yamaha YTR-8335RGS Xeno Series

Bach Stradivarius 180-S

Most Popular Specs:

- .459" Medium-Large Bore
- #37 Bell Flare
- Silver-Plated Finish

Double Horn

Yamaha models YHR-871 or YHR-671

Conn 11D or 8D

F-Attachment Trombone

Yamaha YSL-882 Xeno Series

Bach 42-BO

Conn 88H

FAQ's for Parents:

What is different about a step-up instrument?

- **Improved Tone** – Think of tone as the engine of a car. Step-up instruments play with incredible tone and resonance unlike what is possible on a beginner instrument. This is due to the use of higher quality materials and craftsmanship.
- **Improved Response** – As your child advances in band, the music they play will become increasingly demanding as far as technique and intonation. Step-up instruments allow them to progress unhindered due to their quick response, improved extreme ranges and excellent intonation.
- **Additional Keys/Tubing** – Many woodwind instruments have additional keys that are used in intermediate and advanced music. Many brass instruments have thicker metal (double walled). Trombones have an F attachment. Horns, Euphoniums and Tubas have additional valves.
- Going back to the bike analogy, these features are like the difference between riding a bike with training wheels and flying down the road freely. The level of speed, performance and enjoyment of playing a step-up instrument can not be overestimated.

What about the money I've paid?

If you bought your child's beginner instrument outright, that's just fine! You will want a marching instrument, and beginner instruments are perfect for that.

If you have been renting an instrument from a local music store, many stores offer the option to return the instrument and have some (or all) of those payments applied to the better quality instrument. It's also possible to pay off the current instrument if it's almost paid for (to use for marching band or resell) and then negotiate a substantial discount on the step-up instrument.

Will I be able to sell this instrument when my son/daughter graduates from MRHS?

Yes, quality instruments hold their value well and can be resold down the road as needed. However, we hope your child will be a lifelong musician and keep their instrument to play in community bands and possibly pass on to your grandchildren!

Regardless of whether your child continues to play after high school, this is an investment in your child's music education and it is priceless. You're not just investing in the instrument.

You are investing in the experience.

You are investing in the love of music.

You are investing in memories.

You are investing in your child expressing themselves.

You are investing in your child learning discipline, work ethic.

You are investing in your child being part of a team, a family.

You are investing in your child committing and seeing results.

You are investing in your child's success.

You are investing in your child.