



***Instrument & Equipment
Recommendations***

The longer a student participates in band, the more advanced they will become on their instrument. The more advanced they become, they will need to upgrade their equipment to allow for continued growth. What often happens is that a student advances past the capabilities of their instrument or equipment, which can lead to hindered capabilities and moments of frustration.

There are 3 categories of instrument models and equipment: *beginner*, *intermediate*, and *professional*. Most students should be on *beginner* currently, so this document will highlight our recommendations for *intermediate* and *professional* options to upgrade to for middle and high school. We always hope students will continue on with music after they leave us, and an *intermediate* model instrument could easily carry a student through high school and onto their 1st or 2nd year in a collegiate music program. If a student is considering pursuing a **Major or Minor in Music**, it may be best for them to upgrade to a *professional* model instrument.

Students should also consider taking Private Lessons on their instruments. Private Lessons are not like Tutoring (additional help because you're doing poorly), but rather are for students who are exceeding and need more to foster their growth and love of music! *Please talk with one of the directors for recommendations of teachers.*

Use the table below to find your instrument for equipment and teacher information. There are links embedded that will take you to reputable websites, but our local music stores carry these instruments/accessories and allow for trials, insurance/repair programs, and great customer service. Consider visiting [Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center](#), [Foxes Music Co.](#), or a Music & Arts store!

Flute.....	3
Oboe.....	5
Clarinet.....	6
Bassoon.....	7
Saxophone.....	8
Trumpet.....	10
Horn.....	11
Trombone.....	12
Euphonium.....	13
Tuba.....	14
Percussion.....	15
General Equipment (for any instrument).....	15

Flute

Main requirements/specs for all: a case, cleaning supplies, and silicone plugs, open-holed, off-set G key, B-foot, silver headjoint; silver-plated body and mechanism. Everything else is filler/not needed. Nice to have, but not required.

Intermediate Flute Recommendations:

- 1) [Haynes AF 680 Amadeus Flute](#)
- 2) [Azumi AZ3SRBO](#)
- 3) [Di Zhao 600BOF](#)
- 4) [Powell Sonare PS55BOFK](#)

Intermediate Piccolo Recommendations:

- 1) [Pearl PFP105E](#)
- 2) [Di Zhao DZP-201](#)

Professional Flute Recommendations:

- 1) [Powell Conservatory Flute](#)
- 2) [Powell \(gold-silver blend\)](#)
- 2) [Haynes Q4](#)
- 3) [Miyazawa Vision](#)

Professional Piccolo Recommendations:

- 1) [Hammig](#)
- 2) [Burkart](#)

Accessories:

- [Flute Flag](#)
- [Piccolo Flag](#)
- [Pad Paper \(for Sticky Keys\)](#)
- [Intermediate Flute Silicone Plugs*](#)
- [Professional Flute Silicone Plugs*](#)
- [Polishing Cloth](#)

*Silicone Plugs for replacement or if any did not come with your opened-hole flute.

Other Considerations:

1. Regular Maintenance and Swabbing your Flute or Piccolo after every time you play it.
2. COA (clean, oil, and adjust) every year during Summer Break/before school starts back.
3. Setting up Private Lessons (please talk with a director for recommendations)

Note: This equipment is to not be played outside for marching band. This will make your newly-purchased Intermediate or Professional instruments last as long as possible, and save on repair and cleaning costs. Please use rental equipment or consult with one of your band directors or lessons teacher with questions about instruments for marching band.

Oboe

Intermediate Instruments

- [Fox Renard Model 330](#)
- [Yamaha YOB-441 Intermediate Oboe](#)
- [Buffet Prodigie Performance Oboe](#)

Professional Instruments

- [Fox Model 300 Professional Oboe](#)
- [Buffet “Prestige” Series Professional Oboe](#)
- [F. Loree Professional Paris Professional Oboe](#)

Note: Professional oboes can get pricey. It may be worth it to research well-cared for [Pre-Owned Instruments](#).

Reeds

- [Andreas Eastman Oboe Reeds - Medium](#)
- [Julie Paul Oboe Reeds](#)

Note: You will eventually get reeds from your private lessons teacher, or even learn to make them yourself.

Accessories

- [Silk Swab](#)
- [Neck Strap](#)
- [Reed Case](#)
- [Hodge Reed Soaker Cup and Clip](#)

Other Considerations:

- Attending the yearly [Shenandoah Double Reed Camp](#)
- Setting up Private Lessons (please talk with a director for recommendations)

Clarinet

Intermediate Instruments

- [Buffet E12 Bb Clarinet](#)
- [Backun Beta Bb Clarinet](#)
- [Selmer Paris Prologue Bb Clarinet](#)

Professional Instruments

- [Backun Q Series Bb Clarinet](#)
- [Buffet R13 Bb Clarinet](#)
- [Selmer Paris Privilege Bb/A Clarinet](#)

Note: Professional Clarinets can get pricey. It is worth researching [Pre-Owned Instruments](#).

Mouthpieces

- [Vandoren 5RV Lyre](#)
- [Vandoren M13 Lyre](#)

Reeds

- [Vandoren “Blue Box” - Traditional Reeds](#)
 - Sizes 3-4 recommended

Note: For auxiliary clarinets (Bass, Eb, etc.), please consult with a private lessons teacher.

Accessories

- [Mouthpiece Cushions](#)
- [Neckstrap](#)
- [Instrument and Mouthpiece Swab](#)
- [Bb Clarinet Stand](#)
- [Reed Case](#)
- [Yamaha Pad Paper](#)

Private Lessons

- Talk with one of your band directors for recommendations of teachers.

Bassoon

Qualifications for students interested in Bassoon:

1. Reliable and Bright.
2. Someone who is okay doing things on their own; not a follower.
3. Someone that agrees to take weekly lessons. Bassoon is a very intricate instrument which requires lessons to exceed.
4. Has the desire to learn the bassoon for themselves but also to help out the Band Program.

Reeds:

- Your private lessons' teacher will hand make reeds for you. You can also use [Jones Medium Soft Reeds](#).

Other Accessories:

- [Reed Case](#)
- [Swab](#)
- [Water Cup](#) (for Soaking Reeds before playing)

Instruments:

Bassoons can be very expensive instruments and serious investments. Only students who are considering a Major in Music (with a focus in Bassoon Performance) might invest in their own instrument. If you are at this level, please work with your private lessons teacher to determine the best fit for you. In the meantime, we have many instruments at school that students can rent each school year.

Private Lessons and other considerations:

- **Private lessons** are necessary for bassoon. Please talk with a band director for recommendations.
- Attending the yearly [Shenandoah Double Reed Camp](#)

Saxophone

Intermediate Instruments

Alto Saxophones

- [Yamaha YAS-480](#)
- [Selmer La Voix II](#)

Tenor Saxophones

- [Yamaha YTS-480](#)
- [Selmer La Voix II](#)

Professional Instruments

Alto Saxophones

- [Yamaha YAS-875 EXII](#)
- [Selmer Paris Super Action 80 Series II](#)

Tenor Saxophones

- [Yamaha YTS-875EX](#)
- [Selmer Paris Signature](#)

Note: Professional saxophones can get pricey. It may be worth it to research well-cared for [Pre-Owned Instruments](#).

Mouthpieces and Reeds

Alto Saxophone

- Mouthpiece: [Selmer Paris S80 C Star](#)
- Mouthpiece: [Vandoren AL3 Optimum](#)
- Reeds: [Vandoren “Blue Box” - Traditional Reeds](#)
 - Size 3.0 to 3.5

Mouthpieces and Reeds Cont.

Tenor Saxophone

- Mouthpiece: [Selmer Paris S80 C Star](#)
- Mouthpiece: [Vandoren TL3](#)
- Reeds: [Vandoren “Blue Box” - Traditional Reeds](#)
 - Size 3.0-3.5

Baritone Saxophone

- Mouthpiece: [Selmer Paris S80 C Star](#)
- Reeds: [Vandoren “Blue Box” - Traditional Reeds](#)
 - Size 3.0-4.0

Accessories

- [Mouthpiece Cushions](#)
- [Neckstrap](#) *Note: Avoid neoprene neck straps; they make playing difficult.*
- [Protec Mouthpiece Pouch](#) *(Look for correct size)*
- [Silk Swab](#)
- [End Cap](#)
- [Reed Cases](#)
- [Yamaha Pad Paper](#)

Other Considerations/Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations of teachers.
- Attending the yearly [US Navy Band Saxophone Symposium](#) hosted at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

Trumpet

A note about upgrading instruments: *For students considering an upgrade from a beginner level instrument, it is best to look for a used, professional level instrument at a good price.*

Intermediate Instruments

- [Bach Intermediate Trumpet](#)
- [Blessing Performance Trumpet](#)

Professional Instruments

- [Yamaha Xeno Artist Series](#)
- [Bach Stradivarius](#)

Mouthpieces

- [Bach Standard Mouthpieces](#)
 - Beginner: 7C
 - Intermediate: 5C
 - Advanced: 3C
 - Professional: 1.5C

Accessories

- [Cleaning Brushes](#)
- [Hetman Valve and Slide Oil](#)

Mutes

- [Denis Wick Straight Mute](#)
- [Denis Wick Cup Mute](#)
- [Jo Ral Bubble Harmon Mute](#)

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations.

Horn

The horn is the most-intricate brass instrument that requires a solid foundation, discernible ear, and is helpful, however not required, to be in private lessons. For any of the below, consult your private lessons' teacher as well for tailored recommendations.

Intermediate Instruments

- [Holton H378](#) or [Holton H379](#)

Professional Instruments

- [Conn 8D](#)
- [Hans Hoyer 801](#)
- [Holton Farkas Horn](#)

Mouthpieces

- [Schilke 30](#)
- [Holton-Farkas](#)
- [Engelbert Schmid Mouthpieces](#) (consult private teacher)

Accessories

- [Yamaha Maintenance Kit](#)
- [Hetman Spindle Rotor Oil](#)
- [Balu Musik Mutes](#)
- [Moosic Mutes](#)

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations of private lesson teachers.

Trombone

Intermediate/Advanced Instruments

- [Yamaha 448-G](#)
- [Bach 12](#) or [Bach 16](#) (pea-shooter, no trigger valve)
- [Bach 36](#) or [Bach 42](#) (B version with trigger valve)

Note: Private teachers can also help with recommendations.

Professional Instruments

- [Conn 88H](#)
- [Shires TBQ30R](#)

Mouthpieces *(most available in both small and large shanks)*

Great for Younger Players:

- [Bach 6.5 AL](#)
- [Blessing 6.5 AL](#)
- [Giardinelli 6 ½ AL](#)

Advanced Mouthpieces:

- [Bach 5G](#)
- [Yamaha 48/48D](#)
- [Schilke 51/51D](#)

Accessories

- [Al Cass Valve Oil](#)
- [Baltimore Brass Co. Slide Grease](#)
- [Mouthpiece Brush](#)
- [Denis Wick Straight Mute](#)
- [Denis Wick Cup Mute](#)

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band director for recommendations of teachers.

Euphonium

Intermediate Instruments

- [Yamaha 321](#)
- [Wessex Dolce](#)
- [Mack Brass Euphonium](#)
- [Austin Custom Brass Euphonium](#)

Professional Instruments

- [Willson Q Series](#)
- [Shires Q Series](#)
- [Besson Sovereign](#)
- [Yamaha 842](#)
- [Willson 2900](#)

Mouthpieces

- [Schilke 51d](#)
- [Griego BB1](#)

Accessories

- [Lap Pad](#)
- [Hand Strap](#)
- [Monster Valve Oil and Slide Grease](#)
- [Mouthpiece Pouch](#)

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations of teachers.

Tuba

Personally-Owned Instruments

- Consult with your Private Lessons teacher on this.

Mouthpieces

- [Conn 120S](#) (*Beginner Mouthpiece*)
- [Robert Tucci RT48](#) (*Intermediate Mouthpiece*)
- Consult w/ your Lessons Teacher for *Professional Mouthpieces*.

Accessories

- [Al Cass Valve Oil](#)
- [Baltimore Brass Co. Slide Grease](#)
- [Holton Linkage Oil](#)

Maintenance

- Oil all of your valves once a week. Don't wait till they stick.
- Rotors can and should be oiled once a week.
- Slides should be greased once a semester usually unless they are using it a lot. Our instruments can be cleaned with a wet soft cloth and then dried with a soft cloth.
- The outside of our tubas can also be given a bath with Dawn dish detergent and a garden hose. Inside will scratch the tuba.
- Tubas should be placed up and down on the bells, and lifted STRAIGHT down or STRAIGHT up. No rolling. That is how the bells become dented. The tubas SHOULD go on the side the bell points to--please have them leave space to put them beside their chair that way.

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations of teachers.

Percussion

Please see the following document by Alvin Macasero: [LB Percussion Gear List](#). Mr. Macasero has great recommendations for stick bags, sticks/mallets, and accessories.

Private Lessons

- Please talk with your band directors for recommendations of teachers.

General Accessories (for any instrument)

These are great accessories for any instrumentalist to have:

- Tuner/Metronome - [KORG TM-60](#)
- Pencils
- Mouthpiece Pouch (*Find correct size*) - [Protect MP Pouces](#)
- Lip Balm - [ChopSaver](#)
- Ear Protection - [EARasers](#)
- [Instrument Stands](#)
- [Wire Music Stand](#)
- [Instrument-Specific Lyre](#)