Getting an Instrument

We’re so excited you’ve chosen to support your child’s interest in beginning band. You will need to acquire a student/beginner or intermediate level instrument from our preferred brands list by the first day of school.

*Please note: Due to extreme pitch problems, lack of durability and repair policies of our local music stores concerning generic/off-brand instruments, please make sure you acquire an instrument from our preferred brands list below. A variety of non-music stores and/or websites offer substandard quality instruments, but the pitch problems and lack of repair options can jeopardize your child’s band experience. When you rent/purchase a quality instrument for your child–that can be repaired if needed—you are giving them the best chance for success. Instruments do not need to be new, used ones are perfectly acceptable.*

**Preferred Instrument Brands**

**Flute:** Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Yamaha, Armstrong, Artley, Pearl

**Clarinet:** Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter, Armstrong, Buffet, Bundy, LeBlanc, Noblet

**Alto Sax:** Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter, Buffet, Bundy, Cannonball, Antigua

**Trumpet:** Bach, Yamaha, Selmer, Conn, Getzen, Jupiter, King, Olds

**French Horn:**Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha

**Trombone:** Yamaha, Jupiter, Getzen, Bach, Selmer, Conn, King, Olds

**Baritone:** Jupiter, Yamaha, King, Bach, Conn

**Percussion:** [See materials and supply list](http://blogs.waukeeschools.org/5thgradeband/materials-supplies/) for the exact description of what you need.

**Where can we rent or purchase an instrument & supplies?**

**West Music:**

Located in Cedar Falls, Iowa on University Avenue (behind Buffalo Wild Wings). A West Music representative visits our school every week, and they can deliver your order to us at the school.

* Cedar Falls, IA: 6322 University Ave Ph: (319) 277-1000
* Website: <http://www.westmusic.com/>

**Sam’s Clothing:**

Located in Oelwein, located at 9 N Frederick Ave, (next to Maurices). Sam’s Clothing sells many basic instrumental music supplies students may need throughout the school year, including lesson books, reeds, valve oil, cleaning care kits, etc.

**Are there school instruments to borrow?**

The Oelwein School District has a limited number of school owned band instruments available for student loan. Instruments are loaned out on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a rental form and fee associated with using a school instrument. Contact Mrs. Franzen for more details.

**Can I use an old family-owned instrument?**

Often times it is an advantage to use an old family-owned instrument for the initial year(s) of band experience. We prefer that these instruments are one of our recommended brands and we suggest that you take the instrument to a local music store to make sure it is in good working condition. There is nothing more frustrating for a beginner than trying to progress on an instrument that does not work properly.

**Can I buy an instrument from a newspaper ad, garage sale or online auction?**

Sometimes you can find good buys from these sources. However, we urge you to use great caution in these kinds of purchases. Many “off-brand” or “problematic” instruments are sold this way.  Mrs. Franzen can help you with questions you have about specific instruments.

Nothing is more frustrating for your child than trying to learn how to play an instrument that doesn’t work properly or play in tune. Please refer to our list of preferred instrument brands. All brands listed can be serviced by our local music store. Be sure have the instrument checked over and put into good playing condition before the first day of school.