



FINDING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

We are very proud of our instrumental music program in the North Pekin/Marquette Heights Schools. All that we do is intended to better that level of performance. Please make sure that your child has the chance to succeed by obtaining a quality instrument from a respected manufacturer. With the advance of on-line purchasing, there has been an influx of poorly made instruments into the market.

When renting or buying an instrument keep this in mind: **YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR!**

The following is a list of manufacturers who produce a quality instrument. Please refer to this list when obtaining an instrument for your child.

FLUTES: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Armstrong, Selmer, Emerson

OBOES: Yamaha, Selmer

CLARINETS: [Wood, not plastic please] Buffet, Leblanc, Yamaha, Selmer

SAXOPHONES: Yamaha, Selmer, Conn

FRENCH HORNS: Conn, Yamaha, Holton

TRUMPETS: Holton, Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King

TROMBONES: Holton, Bach, Yamaha, Conn, Benge, King

BARITONES: Conn, King, Jupiter

TUBAS: Yamaha, Jupiter, King,

PERCUSSION KITS: VicFirth, Mapex, Yamaha

Do not order or purchase an instrument from any big box retailer. **You will be wasting your money and your child's time.** These instruments are little more than toys. The mechanisms of these particular instruments are impossible to keep in adjustment. The band instrument repair technicians available to you in central Illinois are refusing to work on these instruments because they are of such poor quality. Refer to the list above when renting/purchasing an instrument for your child.

Do not buy any instruments manufactured by "Cecilio", "Unison", "First Act", or "Merano". These instruments are very poor in quality.

If you buy a used instrument, remember that the woodwind instruments have pads and springs that wear out over time. If the instrument is three or more years old, it most likely needs to have some pad work completed. Brass instruments should be cleaned and flushed for sanitary purposes.

We also require that you obtain instruments with traditional finishes; Silver Flutes, Black Oboes & Clarinets, Brass (Gold) Saxophones, Brass French Horns, Brass Trombones & Baritones, Brass or Silver Trumpets. NO COLOR instruments!

There are many reputable music dealers in the central Illinois area. You may purchase or rent an instrument anywhere you wish. We choose to have Kidder Music of Peoria service our school because they are close and they are reliable. They work very hard to keep us happy.

Mr. & Mrs. Woods