

Dear 6th grade parent,

Congratulations! Your child has been selected to play **alto saxophone** this upcoming year. We are thrilled that he/she will be in our program, and we are looking forward to working with your child for years to come. Please take note of our two concert dates this year: **Monday, December 7th** and **Monday, May 3rd**. More information about our concerts will be communicated at a later date.

We took many things into consideration when selecting your child for this instrument. First, we asked each child to select the top three instruments that they would enjoy playing. Then we asked the student to try out the instruments to see which would suit them the best. Many times, we are able to tell if the child has a chance of success on this instrument by our simple tryout. Also, we looked at the instrumentation of our band to make it balanced. For example, a concert band with 35 saxophones and 3 trombones would NOT sound good. In the case of the most competitive instruments, we simply chose the students who had the best tryouts.

Just like any major purchase, it is important that you know what to buy. Some alto saxophone brands are excellent for beginners, but some are terrible. If you buy your child a bad instrument, they could develop some wrong habits which are difficult to correct. Additionally, these instruments chronically need repair with parts that are unavailable or are very expensive. In general, you will get what you pay for.

We recommend **Yamaha, Jupiter, or Selmer** (but NOT Selmer Bundy) brand alto saxophones. You may rent or buy these instruments at music stores in the area. (See next paragraph for our recommended store, Palen Music Center.) We strongly recommend that you acquire a quality instrument for your child. In our opinion, you should not purchase an instrument from a retail/big-box store, as these instruments are of low quality and will cause problems in the future. If you choose to look to other places for an instrument (Ebay, online, etc.) please let us know and we will be happy to look at the website to make sure that you are getting a good brand at a good deal. Also, if you have a quality used alto saxophone (from the recommended brands above) at home, please take it to a music repair store for cleaning and needed repair/ overhaul.

Palen Music will host an Instrument Rental Night on Monday, August 17th at 6:00 PM at the Jenks High School Performing Arts Center auditorium (NW area of JHS campus) to rent/sell woodwind instruments. Palen Music essentially brings their store to the school for your convenience. You may rent or purchase an instrument from them at that time if you choose to do so. Band books and other supplies will also be available. If you cannot make the meeting, you also have the option of renting/buying through palenmusic.com. If you do this, Palen Music will bring the instrument to the school, and we will deliver it to your child.

Supplies for band:

Found at Rental Meeting:

1. **Yamaha** Alto Saxophone with Selmer C-star mouthpiece
2. "Tradition of Excellence - Book One for Alto Saxophone" (red book)
3. One box of Vandoren Eb alto saxophone reeds, strength 2.5 (blue box and blue package)
4. Sax cleaning kit including: cork grease, reed case, cleaning brushes
5. "Shove-it" Pad Saver

Found at other stores:

6. 3-ring binder (1 inch)
7. Page protectors (25 pack)
8. Pencils

Optional supplies but highly recommended:

9. Folding music stand
10. Tuner and metronome (this can be one device and doesn't need to be expensive). Korg TM-70 is a good example of this
11. Mouthpiece patch

Our first day with instruments will tentatively be Wednesday, August 19th. Students do not need to bring instruments until that time. **We STRONGLY urge you to NOT allow your child to play before they receive our instruction. It is easy to establish poor habits at the onset, and it is very difficult to correct them afterwards.**

Please email me if you have any questions, I am always willing to help!

Sincerely,

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