

# ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIAN

As students enter into a high school band program, it is important that they are all set-up with the correct equipment for them to perform at their very best, and to be prepared for what high school-level literature calls for in the area of equipment and accessories. Everything on the lists below can be found online at various websites including The Woodwind & Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)), Steve Weiss ([www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)), Musician's Friend ([www.musiciansfriend.com](http://www.musiciansfriend.com)), or Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). Of course, they can also be obtained from most of our local music dealers as well, such as Underwood Music, The Band Room, Music Shack, and others. Shop around to find the best price.

As with all students using accessories that look alike, it is critical that everything is labeled with the student's name!

## WOODWIND PLAYERS

### Reeds

- **ALL** reed players should have a good supply of reeds to choose from at any point during the year. Avoid getting down to only having "one good reed!"
- The reed brand to use is [Vandoren](#) (blue or silver box). **La Voz** and **Mitchell Lurie** are *OK*, but are not always as consistent in quality as Vandoren reeds.
- Purchase a box of reeds – this is always less expensive than buying individual reeds, and it assures that the student has a selection of reeds to choose from. **Check for deals on the Internet for reeds!**
- Except for bass clarinet and contrabass clarinet players, **plastic reeds are not to be used.**
- High School reed players should be on a reed strength of 3 or 3.5. Higher reed strengths are made and are available for purchase, but very few high school musicians need, let alone are ready for, playing on a reed stronger than a 3.5. Reeds that are 2.5 strength and softer are not to be used.
- Bassoon and Oboe players should seek out hand-made reeds if at all possible.

### Mouthpieces

- In addition to being prepared with good reeds, high school musicians must be playing on a quality mouthpiece. Mouthpieces are very individual based on anatomy and personal preference, but at the very least students should be playing on a mouthpiece that is a "step up" from what they played on in middle school.
- Concert Setup
  - Clarinet and Saxophone players should be playing on a good rubber mouthpiece.
  - For clarinetists, you really cannot go wrong with a [Vandoren B45](#) mouthpiece.
  - For saxophonists, one of the standards is the [Selmer C-star](#). There is an expense to these types of mouthpieces, however, with proper care, they can last a lifetime.

- Jazz Setup (Saxophones)
  - Saxophonists in a big band setting need a mouthpiece with a larger throat in order to play with the style and dynamics required for big band jazz music.
- Make sure there are no chips in the mouthpiece. Even the most insignificant-looking chip in a mouthpiece can change the functionality of that mouthpiece.

## **BRASS PLAYERS**

### **Mouthpieces**

- Brass mouthpieces are a very specific and personal thing. There are hundreds of different brands, cup sizes, shank sizes, etc., however, in most cases, by the time a student is in high school, they should not be playing on the same mouthpiece that they started on in Beginning Band. See directors or private teacher for suggestions.
- Trumpet: [Bach 3C](#)
- French Horn: [Yamaha 32C4](#)
- Trombone: [Bach 5G](#)
- Euphonium: [Bach 5G](#)
- Tuba: [Hellerberg Silver Standard](#)
- Unless there is a specific medical reason, avoid plastic mouthpieces.

### **Mutes**

- All high school trumpet and trombone players should own at least a metal straight mute. There are many brands of metal straight mute, however, [Denis Wick](#), [Tom Crown](#), and [Alessi-Vacchiano](#) brand mutes are all great.
- French horn player should consider owning a straight mute (not the same as a stopping mute). Again, Denis Wick makes a very reasonably-priced straight mute for horn.
- Euphonium and Tuba mutes are very rare and not usually owned by students.

## **PERCUSSIONISTS**

Each percussionist must have their own *personal* pairs of the below sticks and mallets and their own personal stick bag for safe keeping. This is part of your Rehearsal Preparedness grade each day during the school year. Sticks and mallets should be marked with the owner's initials.

### **Stick Bag**

- For storing all of your personal sticks and mallets. Should be clearly marked with your full name.
- [Vic Firth](#)
- [Zildjian](#)

### **Xylophone/Bell Mallets**

- [Vic Firth M6 Hard Phenolic 1" Keyboard Mallets](#)
- [Bob Becker BB34](#)

### **Vibraphone Mallets**

- [Vic Firth Terry Gibbs M32 Medium Hard Green Cord.](#)

**Marimba Mallets**

- [Vic Firth Robert Van Sice M124 Medium](#)
- [Innovative Soloist Series IP240](#)

**Concert Snare Drum Sticks**

- [Vic Firth SD1 General](#)
- [Innovative Percussion IP-1 General/Hickory](#)

**Drum Set Sticks** (if in a jazz class)

- [Vic Firth 5A](#)
- [Innovative Percussion ES1](#)

**If you have any questions, or if you need assistance in finding any of the above equipment, please contact Mr. Clemente at [Michael.Clemente@ocps.net](mailto:Michael.Clemente@ocps.net) or Mr. Smith at [Daniel.Smith2@ocps.net](mailto:Daniel.Smith2@ocps.net).**