

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIAN

As students enter into a high school band program, it is important that they are 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 ([wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)) and Steve Weiss (steveweissmusic.com). Of course, they can also be obtained from most of our local music dealers as well. Shop around to find the best price.

As with all 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!"
- Purchase a box of reeds – this is always less expensive than buying individual reeds, and it usually assures that the student has a selection of reeds to choose from.
- Except for bass clarinet and contrabass clarinet players, **plastic reeds are not to be used.**
- The reed brand to use is **Vandoren** (blue or silver box). **La Voz** and **Mitchell Lurie** are *okay*, but are not always as consistent in quality as Vandoren reeds.
- High School reed players should be on a reed strength of 3 or higher (but not too high – very few high school clarinet or saxophones students are ready for a reed stronger than a 4). However, 2 ½ or lower should not be used as they are too soft.
- Bassoon and Oboe players should seek out hand-made reeds if at all possible.

Mouthpieces

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Stick Bag

- For storing all of your personal sticks and mallets. Should be clearly marked with your full name.

Xylophone/Bell Mallets

- Encore 206R, Vic Firth M6 Hard Phenolic 1" Keyboard Mallets, *or* Bob Becker BB34.

Vibraphone Mallets

- Vic Firth Terry Gibbs M32 Medium Hard Green Cord.

Marimba Mallets

- Vic Firth Robert Van Sice M114 Medium, Mike Balter 13BXL Ensemble Series Birch Medium Blue Yarn, Innovative Soloist Series IP240, *or* Encore 32YR.

Snare Drum Sticks

- Vic Firth SD1 General *or* Innovative Percussion IP-1 General/Hickory

If you have any questions, or if you need assistance in finding any of the above equipment, please contact Mr. Blackmer at Christopher.Blackmer@ocps.net or Mr. Clemente at Michael.Clemente@ocps.net.