



Santa Fe Bands

- Recommended & Required Equipment List -

General Information on Musical Instruments:

Band instruments are marketed in three types depending on the age and ability level of the student: (1) Beginner, (2) Intermediate, and (3) Professional. Most so-called "intermediate" grade instruments are actually "beginner" instruments with only a few modest cosmetic improvements such as better cases or silver-plating. None of these improvements really add much to the actual playing sound of the instrument, but do add to the cost.

Examples of truly "intermediate" quality improvements (worth paying more money for) generally relate to woodwind instruments. These include features such as a solid silver head joint for a flute or clarinets with a body made of grenadilla wood rather than plastic/synthetic material. Beginner/Intermediate instruments are recommended for students in middle school and early high school.

As the student advances in high school, they will generally want to invest in a professional-level instrument to meet the needs of their higher skill-level. These are the instruments that will allow students to play at a collegiate level and are a worthy investment as students prepare to submit college applications and prepare for scholarship auditions (even those who do not plan to major in music).

Listed in this document are the strongly recommended instrument and mouthpieces brands/models for band students at Santa Fe High School and its feeding middle school programs. In particular, this list serves as a guide for band students at Santa Fe High School and its cluster of four feeding middle schools (Milagro, Aspen, Gonzales, El Dorado, and their related 6th grade feeders). Used instruments and equivalent late models are perfectly acceptable, provided the instrument is in clean, working condition with no adjustment or seal issues. Good quality instruments are an investment that can last a lifetime, when maintained and cared for properly.

We understand that models change over time, particularly with Yamaha. This guide simply uses the most recent model numbers. When possible, we would prefer to avoid Yamaha instruments made prior to (roughly) 1990 due to the changes in scale and mechanism that improved the intonation and action of instruments made after this date.

Please do not purchase any model or brand that is not on this list without first consulting a Santa Fe Band Director. When students purchase instruments not listed on this document we will, in most cases, recommend that they try to return the item immediately.

If an instrument is of sub-standard quality or unsafe, they will likely be asked not to use it and instead play on a different instrument in order to ensure the progress of the entire group and the well-being of the student. The best way to avoid this is to use this list when making purchasing decisions.

The reed brands and strengths listed below are not just recommended, they are REQUIRED. Nothing else will be allowed in our programs, no exceptions. Students who are not able to purchase the specific Vandoren reeds listed will receive assistance from their program as needed. Students who arrive in class with something other than what is outlined below will be asked to change their reed before participating in rehearsal.

Our percussion students purchase most of their recommended equipment through our partnership with Steve Weiss Music. Percussion students should visit www.steveweissmusic.com and click "Find My School," then scroll down to "Santa Fe High School" to view their list and make desired purchases.

Harp, Upright Bass, and Piano students should contact a director for direct assistance in making instrument purchases.

Recommended Instrument Brands/Models

Flutes:

Beginner Model Flutes (6th Grade Beginning Band – 8th Grade)

1. Yamaha YFL-262Y

* Students will upgrade directly to a professional model from their beginner flute. At that point we recommend keeping the beginner model as a spare/marching horn.

Professional Model Flutes (8th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha 577H or 677H with C# trill key (small hands)
2. Yamaha 587H or 687H with C# trill key (large hands)

* Other makers *may* be acceptable – please consult a director.

Piccolos:

Concert Piccolos (All Grade Levels):

1. Burkart (Any Model)
2. Hammig (Any Model)
3. Yamaha YPC-61 or YPC-81

Marching Piccolos (High School Only):

1. Pearl PFP-105
2. Yamaha YPC-32
3. Gemeinhardt Piccolos (Any Model, Plastic Body Preferred)

Double Reeds:

Oboes:

Intermediate Model Oboes (7th Grade Beginning Band – 9th Grade)

1. Fox-Renard Model 330
2. Select Fossati, Howarth, and Rigoutat Models (Ask for guidance)

Professional Model Oboes (All Grades)

1. Any F. Loree Model, Regular or AK Bore

Bassoons

Intermediate Model Bassoons (7th Grade Beginning Band – 12th Grade)

1. Beginner-Level Bassoons are provided by the school, we recommend this.

Professional Model Bassoons (All Grades)

1. Any Fox (Not Fox-Renard) Model, #2 Bocal

Clarinets:

Beginner/Intermediate Model Clarinets (6th – 9th Grade)

Bb Clarinet:

1. Buffet Crampon E11 Wood Clarinet (Preferred. 6th-9th Grade)
2. Yamaha YCL-255 or YCL-AD200 (Cheaper Option. 6th-9th Grade).

Bass Clarinet:

Bass Clarinets are provided by the school – this is what we recommend. All clarinetists should own their own Bb Clarinet, including bass clarinet players.

Professional Model Clarinets (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

Bb Clarinet:

1. Buffet Crampon R13 or R13 "Festival"
2. Buffet Crampon R13 or "Festival" Greenline o(Synthetic Blend)

Bass Clarinets: (These are generally provided by the schools and should only be purchased if student already has their own Bb Clarinet).

1. Yamaha – Any model number beginning with 5, 6, 7, or 8
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Buffet Crampon (Any Model made in Paris – NO German Models)

Saxophones:

***SFPS does not allow beginning saxophonists. Saxophone players begin on clarinet, then switch to saxophone in 7th grade.**

Intermediate Model Saxophones (7th– 9th Grade)

Alto Saxophone:

1. Yamaha YAS-480 Alto Saxophone

Tenor & Baritone Saxophone

Beginner/Intermediate Tenor and Baritone Saxophones are provided by the school. All saxophonists should own their own alto saxophone.

Professional Model Saxophones (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

Alto Saxophone:

1. Yamaha YAS-62III, YAS-82ZII, or YAS-875EXII
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Yanigasawa (Any Model)

Soprano, Tenor, & Baritone Saxophone: (Should only be purchased if student already has an alto).

1. Yamaha – Any model number beginning with 5, 6, 7, or 8
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Yanigasawa (Any Model)

Trumpets:

Beginner Model Trumpets (6th Grade Beginning Band – 8th Grade)

1. Yamaha YTR-2330 Standard Bb Trumpet
2. Yamaha YTR-4335II Trumpet in Silver (Slightly Upgraded)

* Students will upgrade directly to a professional model from their beginner trumpet. At that point we recommend keeping the beginner model as a spare/marching horn.

Professional Model Trumpets (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Vincent Bach Stradivarius Models 37, 43, or 72
2. Yamaha - Any "Xeno" or 800/900 Series Model

Horn:

Intermediate Model Horn (7th Grade Beginning Band – 8th Grade)

* French horns are generally provided by the school during middle school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they transition to high school.

Professional Model Horns (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha – Any 600 or 800 Series with “Kruspe wrap” and detachable bell
2. Hoyer – Any Professional Model with “Kruspe wrap” and detachable bell
3. Holton H281 or H279
4. Conn 8DS “CONNstellation” Model with “Kruspe wrap” and detachable bell

Trombone:

Beginner Model Trombones (6th Grade Beginning Band – 8th Grade)

1. Yamaha YSL-446G or YSL-448G Intermediate Trombone w/F Trigger
2. Yamaha YSL-354 Series Student Trombone (6th Grade Only – Should only be purchased if cost of 446/448 is an issue. Should not be used past 7th grade at the latest.

Professional Model Trombones (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Vincent Bach Stradivarius 42BO
 2. Yamaha – Any “Xeno” or 800 Series Model
 3. Getzen Models 1047F (Eterna) or 3047AF (Custom)
- * Bass Trombones are provided by the school, which is what we recommend.

Euphonium:

Beginner/Intermediate Model Euphoniums (7th Grade Beginning Band – 8th Grade)

* Euphoniums are generally provided by the school during middle school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they transition to high school. 6th Graders are only allowed to begin on Euphonium if they are physically too small to play 6th and 7th position on the trombone.

Professional Model Euphoniums (9th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha YEP-642T “Neo”, YEP-642II “Neo”, or YEP-842TS Custom
2. Besson – Any Professional “Compensating” Model

Tuba:

Beginner/Intermediate Model Tuba (7th Grade Beginning Band – 10th Grade)

* Tubas are always provided by the school during middle school and early high school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they near the completion of high school and prepare for college.

Professional Model Tubas (10th Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Miraphone/Miraphone – Any professional BB 4/4 Tuba with rotary valves
2. Yamaha YBB 641 (Pro Rotary)

Recommended WW & BRASS Mouthpieces **(All Grades, 6-12)**

CLARINET FAMILY:

Eb Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren (Any Model) w/tooth guard patch

Ligature: Bonade Inverted Eb Clarinet Ligature

Bb Clarinet (Standard Clarinet):

Mouthpiece: Vandoren 5RV Lyre w/tooth guard

Ligature: Rovner Dark Bb Clarinet Ligature

Bass Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren B45 OR Selmer C* w/tooth guard

Ligature: Rovner Dark Bass Clarinet Ligature

Contra Alto & Contra Bass Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren B45 OR Selmer C* Mouthpiece w/tooth guard

Ligature: Rovner Dark Contrabass Clarinet Ligature

SAXOPHONE FAMILY:

Bb Soprano Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C* w/tooth guard

Ligature: Selmer Paris Metal Soprano Saxophone Ligature

Eb Alto Saxophone:

Mouthpiece:

1. Selmer S80 C* w/tooth guard, OR
2. Vandoren Optimum AL3

Ligature:

1. Rovner Dark Ligature, OR
2. BG Traditional Gold Lacquered Ligature

Bb Tenor Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C* w/tooth guard

Ligature:

1. Rovner Dark Ligature, OR
2. Rico H Ligature

Eb Baritone Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C* w/tooth guard

Ligature:

1. Rovner Dark Ligature, OR
2. Rico H Ligature

TRUMPET:

1. Vincent Bach 7C
2. Yamaha 7C
3. Yamaha 11B4

*High School students should ALSO have a Vincent Bach or Yamaha 3C

HORN:

1. Yamaha 30C4 Horn Mouthpiece
2. Holton Farkas Standard Horn Mouthpiece
3. Schilke 30 or 31 Horn Mouthpiece

TROMBONE:

1. Vincent Bach 6.5AL or 5G
2. Schilke 51 or 52

BASS TROMBONE:

Vincent Bach 2G

EUPHONIUM:

1. Yamaha EP53D
2. Schilke 51D

TUBA:

1. Helleberg 120-S
2. Schilke Standard Series Tuba Mouthpiece

Required Reeds

SFPS uses only the Vandoren reed types and strengths listed below. Incorrect brands (I.E. Rico, Mitchell Laurie, D'Addario, Legéré, etc) or strengths will not be allowed for use in class, at rehearsals, or at concerts due to the loss of instructional time they cause and the loss of sound quality that effects all students in the ensemble.

CLARINET FAMILY

Eb Clarinet (HS Only):

Vandoren Blue Box #3

Bb Clarinet:

6th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

7th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

8th-9th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5

10th-12th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5 or #4 (per teacher's discretion)

Bass Clarinet:

7th-8th Grade: Vandoren JAZZ Tenor Sax Reeds #2.5

9th-12th Grade: Vandoren JAZZ Tenor Sax Reeds #3

Contra Alto & Contra Bass Clarinet (HS Only):

Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

SAXOPHONE FAMILY:

Bb Soprano Saxophone:

Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

Eb Alto Saxophone:

7th-8th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2 or #2.5 (Ask Your Director)

9th-12th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

Bb Tenor Saxophone:

7th-8th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2 or #2.5 (Ask Your Director)

9th-10th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

11th-12th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5

Eb Baritone Saxophone:

7th-8th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

9th-12th Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

DOUBLE REEDS – OBOE & BASSOON:

Double reed students SHOULD NOT purchase reeds from the music store. Store-bought reeds will not be allowed for use in the classroom. This includes lesher, emerald, jones, rico, etc...

If possible, Double Reed students should purchase reeds directly from their private teacher, with their private instructor's direct guidance, or from a double reed specialty shop. We recommend students purchase reeds from Forrest Double Reeds in Berkeley, CA if they must purchase at a store or online.

In this case we recommend they order the following reeds from their online website at www.forrestsmusic.com.

Oboe (All Grades): Forrests Gold Label "Regular" Oboe Reeds

English Horn (HS Only): Forrests Black Label English Horn Reed

Bassoon (All Grades): Forrests Blue Label Bassoon Reed, "Style C"

Additionally, all double reed students should have a reed knife, plaque, sharpening stone, cigarette paper, a soaker cup, and a swab with them at all times. These can also be purchased through a double reed specialty shop (IE Forrests in Berkeley or Chudnow in Napa).