Instruments & Materials - Information for Parents

Instrument Purchase or Hire

Purchasing or hiring an instrument is one of the most important aspects of preparing for the students first lessons in band. Regardless of whether you are hiring or buying, new or secondhand – it is definitely worth going for quality.

Please discuss choice of instrument during the lead up sessions. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your band teacher with any questions. The band program caters for the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and bass.

Once you know which instrument you need, here are some options:

INTERNET WARNING! Many cheaper wind instruments purchased via the Internet can be very poor quality, and cause significant difficulties with the students’ learning. Some reliable name brands are Yamaha, Conn, Jupiter, Selmer, King, Bach, Ibanez, and Fender. There may be others, so feel free to contact me with any questions about instruments.

Online
Musicorp (www.musicorp.com / rental@musicorp.com.au) is the largest online musical instrument hire service in Australia. They have an easy convenient service. It is possible for schools to setup a relationship with Musicorp and bring in all the required band instruments together, or Parents can hire directly from Musicorp on an individual basis.

Local Music Shops
• Engadine Music Ph.02 9520 3044 / www.engadinemusic.com
• Wollongong Music Centre – 4228 9286
• Haworths Guitars (Wollongong) Ph.42252844 / www.haworthguitars.com.au
• South Coast Music / Ph.4421 8688 / www.scmusic.com.au

Method Book - Essential Elements 2000 Book 1’
Currently the majority of our instrumental programs use ‘Essential Elements 2000 Book 1’ (Hal Leonard publishing). These books are readily available online and from the music stores mentioned. Make sure you purchase the book specific to your instrument (eg. Essential Elements 2000 Book 1’ for Clarinet).

Music Stand
For practicing at home a music stand is very useful. A music stand promotes good posture and makes practicing more efficient and enjoyable (during the week leave the music stand setup in the bedroom or other practice space with the method book open to the page we are working on in band). The music shops indicated above will stock a variety of music stands.

Other Materials
In addition to their instrument and method book, students should also bring to each rehearsal; a pencil and a folder with A4 plastic inserts for additional print music and other handouts.