

# **Instrument FAQ for Families new to Band!**

Welcome to Band! We are so excited to have you join this musical family. We know it can be a bit overwhelming at first with all the different choices of instruments, not to mention how to get that instrument to play at school! Here are some answers to those frequently asked questions. If you want or need more information, please feel free to email us anytime at [anastasia.kossler@smusd.org](mailto:anastasia.kossler@smusd.org) or [shannon.mcinnis@smusd.org](mailto:shannon.mcinnis@smusd.org). We look forward to a fabulous year!

## ***How do I choose an instrument?***

The first few weeks of band, we do an instrument “petting zoo” where students can try out some of the different instruments offered to learn. These include flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and baritone. We use special sterilizing spray on the mouthpieces and reeds in between each student who is trying the instrument.

## ***Where can I get my instrument once I have picked it?***

There are several options on getting an instrument. We have a limited number of instruments at school that we can loan to students. We work with two music stores in North County who also rent instruments. They are:

San Diego Music Studio  
423 S. Las Posas Ave.  
San Marcos, CA 92078  
760-761-0055

[www.sandiegomusicstudio.com](http://www.sandiegomusicstudio.com)

San Diego Music Exchange  
985 Civic Center Drive Ste 102  
Vista, CA 92083  
760-630-7451

[www.sdmusicexchange.com](http://www.sdmusicexchange.com)

Finally, you may choose to purchase an instrument. When purchasing an instrument, there are certain aspects to take into account. Although an instrument may seem like a good deal, the quality of the instrument is very important to set up your student for success. Some of the less expensive instruments break easily and can cause a lot of frustration when first learning. Below is a helpful list of preferred versus non preferred instrument brands.

### Preferred

Yamaha  
Conn  
Selmer  
Vito or LeBlanc  
Blessing  
King  
Gemeinhardt  
Pearl  
Jupiter  
Buffet

### Non-Preferred

Cecelio  
Mendini  
Glory  
Jean Baptise  
First Act  
Mugig  
Ammoom  
Merano  
D’Luca  
Lazarro

## ***When should I have my instrument?***

As soon as possible! Even if we aren’t playing as a class, you can bring in your instrument the first week and start learning! We will play as a class starting week 3.