

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 obtain that instrument! 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.homes@smusd.org or shannon.mcinnis@smusd.org. We look forward to a fabulous year!

How do I choose an instrument?

In Beginning Band, you can choose to play **Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion (limited spots open), and Bass (limited spots open and it is preferred that students have other string experience)**. On the reverse side of this page, there is information on the Instrument Petting Zoo hosted by San Diego Music Studio. If you are not able or comfortable to attend these in person trying sessions, you are still absolutely welcome to get an instrument and watch the start up videos we have prepared for the students available through our website www.semsband.com

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

San Diego Music Exchange
985 Civic Center Drive Ste 102
Vista, CA 92083
760-630-7451
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. Also, some repair shops will not work on certain brands. 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
Bach

Non-Preferred

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

When should I have my instrument?

As soon as possible! Although we don't start playing the first day, the sooner the students have their instruments, the sooner we can play as a band!