

## How to Get an Instrument

All students will need to have their own instrument for band class. Your instrument will need to come to school every morning and go home (to practice) every afternoon.

There are several ways to get an instrument:

1. **Rent an Instrument** – this is the “safe” choice but more expensive in the long run. It is safe because if the instrument breaks, the store will fix it and/or if you decide to switch instruments within a week, you’re not stuck with an instrument you don’t want. Music and Arts is the closest store that rents instruments. Their store is located behind Triangle Town Center Mall in the same parking area as Target (but closer to Cold Stone). BigNoteMusic.biz also rents instruments over the internet and a repair man can come by the school if there are any problems with it.

Other stores in the Raleigh area that rent horns are Marsh Woodwinds (downtown Raleigh) and Sam Ash Music (Capital Blvd.)

2. **Buy an Instrument from a Store** – my biggest piece of advice – be careful that you are getting a good instrument! There are some really nice looking, brand new, relatively inexpensive instruments out there that are essentially nice toys. And like toys they can break REALLY quickly. A good instrument will last years and years and years. Some of these expensive toys that LOOK like good instruments will often break within a month or two and instrument stores are unable to fix them since they’re made with cheap plastics or metals that are irreplaceable. Make sure you can find the brand of instrument you’re about to buy at a music store like wwbw.com or musicarts.com. If you can find the brand there, chances are it is a great instrument!

3. **Buy an Instrument Online** – please keep in mind the advice I gave for buying an instrument at a store. Craigslist is probably the cheapest option for buying a used local instrument (raleigh.craigslist.org). Ask the person you are trying to buy from to meet you at a music store. Music stores are happy to look over the instrument and make sure it is in good working condition. That way you can make sure you are getting a good, working instrument and not a broken one. If you buy from Ebay, PLEASE make sure you get a good brand and make sure there is a really good return policy in case you get a defective instrument.

4. **Hand-Me-Down from a Relative** (ie an older instrument) – just be sure to take it by a music store and make sure it is in good working condition. Or bring it by school and I can check it out for you. Often, the pads on the instruments can wear down, get frayed, or even fall off or valves/slides can be locked up from inactivity. You’ll need to get these things cleaned up so they are in good working condition.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any help finding a good instrument for you!

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