

~Acquiring an Instrument~

The GCS Band currently consists of six main instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. Your student may select any of the six to play in band class at Gilbert Christian Schools. If your student decides to switch from an instrument they have already played, it may cause having to be in a beginning level band. As it is an elective class, the school does not provide instruments for the students. Instruments can be purchased or rented, based on family preference. Quality band instruments are not inexpensive to make. A quality instrument should be acquired because low quality instruments do not make a pleasing tone. Students who are newly learning need to be encouraged by a pleasant sound when the instrument is played correctly.

Benefits of Renting

- Renting allows families to try an instrument out without committing to the larger expense of purchasing.
- Rent-to-Own programs allow equity to be applied to the purchase of an instrument.
- Most rental companies will include repairs and insurance in the cost of the rent, which makes getting an instrument fixed hassle-free.

Benefits of Purchasing

- Student pride in ownership often leads to better care of the instrument.
- The gift of an instrument can be an inspiring gift as a result of achievement.
- Owning an instrument is a life-long treasure, as is the ability to play for enjoyment.
- A beautiful instrument is a family heirloom.

What to Look for in a Band Instrument:

High-quality construction, often having someone who plays the instrument test it out is a great resource.

Quality Brands – ex;(not limited to)

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Lazarro, Jean Paul

Clarinet: Jean Paul, Selmer, Jupiter & Yamaha

Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Yanagisawa & Cannonball

Trumpet: Bach, Yamaha, Blessing & King

Trombone: Yamaha, Bach & Conn-Selmer

Percussion:

Glockenspiel; Gearlux, GP Percussion, TMS (definitely recommend a kit that comes with a practice pad)

Snare Drum; ADM, Mendini & Griffin (completely unnecessary if the students bell kit comes with a practice pad)

- Always ask to play an instrument before purchasing. If you don't know how to play it try to find someone that does to take with you when purchasing.
- Older instruments sound just as nice and often better than new instruments. Instruments can last hundreds of years with careful maintenance.

Where to Rent/Purchase:

- Any local store that has quality instruments; Milano Music is recommended however Music & Arts or others are fine as well. GCS has a direct representative with Milano music which allows us to often take care of issues directly.
- Find a store that provides rental insurance that is part of the rental cost.
- Check to see if the rental insurance covers all repairs.
- Ensure that your rental program can build equity towards a purchase.
- Ebay, Amazon, and Craigslist are difficult places to find quality instruments; look for local listings that you can test out before you purchase.
- Inquire if a cleaning kit or valve oil (trumpet)/slide cream (trombone) are included in the purchase or rental of an instrument. These are necessary and often are not included with the rental.

Your Band instructor or private instrument teachers are always happy to make specific recommendations or to test an instrument before you purchase.