**Guide for Renting/Buying Instruments**

* Rent or purchase from a reputable BAND instrument dealer
	+ Stores that specialize in BAND can offer instrument repair agreements, rental programs, band supplies such as reeds, mouthpieces, and books. Other stores do not carry the same products.
* Be careful of pawn shops
	+ Unless you know what you’re purchasing and can try it out, don’t buy from a pawn shop. Many times the instrument is not good quality or needs more repair than the instrument is worth.
	+ If you find something in the Jacksonville area and would like my opinion, I would be happy to check it out for you!
* Stay careful of the internet!
	+ If the price looks too good to be true, then it is probably not what you want! Instruments are pieces of equipment and quality instruments are expensive! What you put in, is what you will get out of it. I know that we are all trying to save a buck, but if you INVEST more upfront on a quality instrument, then your child will have more success and you will save money later on repair.
	+ Many of the instruments on the internet are products coming out of China which do not have the standards for metal and can be poisonous and break much easier. American instrument technicians do not have the same parts to fix the instruments and therefore instruments cannot be repaired. Many of these brands claim to be able to repair or exchange instruments if they malfunction, but this can take up to 6 weeks. This means your child is sitting in class for 6 weeks without an instrument.
* All brands of instruments are not equal
	+ Instruments that come in a rainbow of colors are not usually quality instruments. Colored instruments are not made with the same materials as other more well-known brands. Materials instruments are made from DO affect the sound of the instrument. Lesser quality instruments may not sound the same or have difficulty blending with the rest of the band.
	+ Recommended: The following is an incomplete list of brands of band instruments that are manufactured by companies that are recognized, trusted and relied upon by most band directors:  Selmer, Conn, Bach, Buffet, Yamaha, Holton, Leblanc, Ludwig, Pearl, Armstong, King Emerson, Musser, Besson, Getzen, Cannonball, Jupiter, Gemeinhart, Avanti.
	+ If you see some of the following, please do not purchase them for your child, as they are not a quality instrument and may be easily broken and may be non-repairable.
		- The following is an incomplete list of brands of band instruments that are manufactured by companies that are not widely recognized as trusted and relied upon brands: Etude, Iotone, Monique, Belton, Jean Baptiste, Simba, Heimer, Weimer, Laurel, TriStar, Morelli, Gruskin, Helmke, Wemburg, Deura, Feile, Rossetti, Bandfolio, Kersting, Maxan, Merano, Mirage, Hsinghai, Victory Band, Dolnet, Avalon, Coudet, Jazz Studio, Golden Cup, Sonatina, Laval, Unison, Maxtone, Bestler, Belcrest, Remstein, Concert, Delphi, Jinyin, Palatino, Stellar, Venus, Yamato, Shiny Clarinet, Lacquer Saxophone