

## **Christopher High School Bands & GUSD Middle School Bands** **Recommended & Required Equipment**

Listed in this document are the strongly recommended instrument and mouthpieces brands/models for band students in Gilroy Unified School District. In particular, this list serves as a guide for band students at Christopher High School and its three feeding middle schools (South Valley, Ascension Solarsano, and Brownell Middle Schools). Please do not recommend any model or brand that is not on this list without first consulting the Director of Bands at Christopher High School, Zeb Bellon (zebulon.bellon@gilroyunified.org) or the Director of Bands at ASM/BMS, Aaron Shemas (aaron.shemas@gilroyunified.org). When students purchase instruments not listed on this document we will, in most cases (unless it is a specialty purchase directed by advisement of the director/their private instructor), recommend that they try to return the item asap.

We understand that models change over time, particularly with Yamaha. This guide simply uses the most recent model numbers. Used instruments and equivalent late models are perfectly acceptable, provided the instrument is in clean working order with no adjustment or seal issues. When possible, we would prefer to avoid Yamaha instruments made prior to (roughly) 1990 due to the changes in scale and mechanism that improved the intonation and action of instruments made after this date.

Please do not sell our students used wooden instruments that have been cracked, even if the crack has been well-repaired. We will ask the student to return the instrument immediately.

Our default brand for Bb clarinets is Buffet Crampon and ONLY Buffet Crampon for intermediate/professional model Bb and A clarinets. We will strongly and aggressively urge a student to return any intermediate or professional model Bb or A clarinet that is not made by Buffet Crampon. Yamaha is acceptable only for beginner clarinets.

Our default brand for double reeds is Fox for intermediate oboes and bassoons, Fox for professional bassoons, and Loreé for professional oboes. We will strongly and aggressively urge a student to return any professional model oboe that is not made by Loreé. Likewise, we will strongly and aggressively urge a student to return any intermediate or professional model bassoon that is not made by Fox or Heckel.

Our default brand for ALL other instruments is, when in doubt, Yamaha. While we have other brands listed below, Yamaha is our most trusted brand. If there is uncertainty with any instrument (other than double-reeds and Bb Clarinets), please always lean towards Yamaha.

The reed brands and strengths listed below are not just recommended, they are **REQUIRED**. Nothing else will be allowed in our programs, no exceptions. Students who are not able to purchase the specific Vandoren reeds listed will receive assistance from their program as needed. Students who arrive in class with something other than what is outlined below will be asked to change their reed before participating in rehearsal. Please ask any GUSD student their grade level and please do not sell them anything that is not on this list.

Our percussion students purchase most of their recommended equipment through Steve Weiss Music and Lonestar Percussion, through a partnership we have created with those companies. However, we will send them to purchase locally as frequently as possible – this is a promise.

## **Recommended Instrument Brands/Models**

## **Flutes**

Beginner Model Flutes (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Yamaha YFL-262Y

\* Students will upgrade directly to a professional model from their beginner flute. At that point we recommend keeping the beginner model as a spare/marching horn.

Professional Model Flutes (8<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha 577H or 677H with C# trill key (small hands)
2. Yamaha 587H or 687H with C# trill key (large hands)

Piccolos:

Concert Piccolos (All Grade Levels):

1. Burkart (Any Model)
2. Hammig (Any Model)
3. Yamaha YPC-61 or YPC-81

Marching Piccolos (High School Only):

1. Pearl PFP-105
2. Yamaha YPC-32
3. Gemeinhardt Piccolos (Any Model, Plastic Body Preferred)

## **Double Reeds**

Intermediate Model Oboes (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Fox-Renard Model 330

Professional Model Oboes (All Grades)

1. Any F. Loreé Model, Regular or AK Bore

Intermediate Model Bassoons (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Beginner-Level Bassoons are provided by the school, we recommend this.

Professional Model Bassoons (All Grades)

1. Any Fox (Not Fox-Renard) Model, #2 Bocal

## **Clarinets**

Beginner Model Clarinets (6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Bb Clarinet:

1. Buffet Crampon E11 Wood Clarinet (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade)
2. Yamaha YCL-255 (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade. Can be used as a HS marching instrument later on).

Bass Clarinet:

3. Bass Clarinets are provided by the school – this is what we recommend. All GUSD Clarinetists should own their own Bb Clarinet.

Professional Model Clarinets (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

Bb Clarinet:

1. Buffet Crampon R13
2. Buffet Crampon Festival
3. Buffet Crampon R13 Greenline (Synthetic Blend)
4. Buffet Crampon Festival Greenline (Synthetic Blend)

Bass Clarinets: (These are generally provided by the schools and should only be purchased if student already has their own Bb Clarinet).

1. Yamaha – Any model number beginning with 5, 6, 7, or 8
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Buffet Crampon (Any Model made in Paris – NO German Models)

## **Saxophones**

#### Intermediate Model Saxophones (7<sup>th</sup>– 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

##### Alto Saxophone:

1. Yamaha YAS-480 Alto Saxophone

##### Tenor & Baritone Saxophone

1. Beginner/Intermediate Tenor and Baritone Saxophones are provided by the school. All GUSD Saxophonists should own their own alto.

#### Professional Model Saxophones (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

##### Alto Saxophone:

1. Yamaha YAS-62III, YAS-82ZII, or YAS-875EXII
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Yanigasawa (Any Model)

##### Soprano, Tenor, & Baritone Saxophone: (Should only be purchased if student already has an alto).

1. Yamaha – Any model number beginning with 5, 6, 7, or 8
2. Selmer Paris (Any Model)
3. Yanigasawa (Any Model)

## **Trumpets**

#### Beginner Model Trumpets (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Yamaha YTR-2330 Standard Bb Trumpet
2. Yamaha YTR-4335II Trumpet in Silver (Slightly Upgraded)

\* Students will upgrade directly to a professional model from their beginner trumpet. At that point we recommend keeping the beginner model as a spare/marching horn.

#### Professional Model Trumpets (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Vincent Bach Stradivarius Models 37, 43, or 72
2. Yamaha - Any "Xeno" or 800/900 Series Model

## **Horn**

#### Intermediate Model Horn (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

\* French horns are generally provided by the school during middle school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they transition to high school.

#### Professional Model Horns (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha – Any 600 or 800 Series Model with "Kruspe wrap" and detachable bell
2. Hoyer – Any Professional Model with "Kruspe wrap" and detachable bell
3. Holton H281 or H279
4. Conn 8DS "CONNstellation" Model with "Kruspe wrap" and detachable bell

## **Trombone**

#### Beginner Model Trombones (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Yamaha YSL-446G or YSL-448G Intermediate Trombone w/F Trigger
2. Yamaha YSL-354 Series Student Trombone (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Only – Should only be purchased if cost of 446/448 is an issue. Should not be used past 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the latest.

#### Professional Model Trombones (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Vincent Bach Stradivarius 42BO
2. Yamaha – Any "Xeno" or 800 Series Model
3. Getzen Models 1047F (Eterna) or 3047AF (Custom)

\* Bass Trombones are provided by the school, which is what we recommend.

## **Euphonium**

Beginner/Intermediate Model Euphoniums (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

\* Euphoniums are generally provided by the school during middle school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they transition to high school. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are only allowed to begin on Euphonium if they are physically too small to play 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> position on the trombone.

Professional Model Euphoniums (9<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Yamaha YEP-642T "Neo", YEP-642II "Neo", or YEP-842TS Custom
2. Besson – Any Professional "Compensating" Model

## **Tuba**

Beginner/Intermediate Model Tuba (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

\* Tubas are always provided by the school during middle school and early high school, which is what we recommend. Students should upgrade to their own professional-level instrument as they near the completion of high school and prepare for college.

Professional Model Tubas (10<sup>th</sup> Grade/HS – College Level)

1. Miraphone – Any professional BB 4/4 Tuba with rotary valves
2. Yamaha YBB 641

## **Required Reeds:**

GUSD uses only the Vandoren reed types and strengths listed below. Incorrect brands (I.E. Rico, Mitchell Laurie, etc) or strengths will not be allowed for use in class, at rehearsals, or at concerts due to the loss of instructional time they cause and the loss of sound quality that effects all students in the ensemble.

Clarinet Family:

Eb Clarinet (HS Only):

Vandoren Blue Box #3

Bb Clarinet:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5 or #4 (per teacher's discretion)

Bass Clarinet:

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren JAZZ Tenor Sax Reeds #2.5

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren JAZZ Tenor Sax Reeds #3

Contra Alto & Contra Bass Clarinet (HS Only):

Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

Saxophone Family:

Bb Soprano Saxophone:

Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

Eb Alto Saxophone:

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

Bb Tenor Saxophone:

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3.5

Eb Baritone Saxophone:

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #2.5

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Vandoren Blue Box #3

Double Reeds:

Double reed students SHOULD NOT purchase reeds from the music store. Store-bought reeds will not be allowed for use in the classroom. This includes lesher, emerald, jones, rico, etc...

Double Reed students should purchase reeds directly from their private teacher, with their private instructor's direct guidance, or from a double reed specialty shop. We recommend students purchase reeds from Forrest Double Reeds in Berkeley, CA if they must purchase at a store or

online. In this case we recommend they order the following reeds from their online website at [www.forrestsmusic.com](http://www.forrestsmusic.com).

Oboe (All Grades): Forrests Gold Label "Regular" Oboe Reeds  
English Horn (HS Only): Forrests Black Label English Horn Reed  
Bassoon (All Grades): Forrests Blue Label Bassoon Reed, "Style C"

Additionally all double reed students should have a reed knife, plaque, sharpening stone, cigarette paper, a soaker cup, and a swab with them at all times. These can also be purchased through a double reed specialty shop (IE Forrests in Berkeley or Chudnow in Napa).

## **Recommended WW & BRASS Mouthpieces (All Grades, 6-12)**

### Clarinet Family:

#### Eb Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren (Any Model) w/toothguard  
Ligature: Bonade Inverted Eb Clarinet Ligature

#### Bb Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren 5RV w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Bb Clarinet Ligature

#### Bass Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren B45 OR Selmer C\* w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Bass Clarinet Ligature

#### Contra Alto & Contra Bass Clarinet:

Mouthpiece: Vandoren B45 OR Selmer C\* Mouthpiece w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Contrabass Clarinet Ligature

### Saxophone Family:

#### Bb Soprano Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C\* w/toothguard  
Ligature: Selmer Paris Metal Soprano Saxophone Ligature

#### Eb Alto Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer S80 C\* w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Ligature

#### Bb Tenor Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C\* w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Ligature

#### Eb Baritone Saxophone:

Mouthpiece: Selmer C\* w/toothguard  
Ligature: Rovner Dark Ligature

### Trumpets:

Vincent Bach or Yamaha 7C Trumpet Mouthpiece  
\*High School students should ALSO have a Vincent Bach or Yamaha 3C

### Horn:

Yamaha 30C4 Horn Mouthpiece  
Holton Farkas Standard Horn Mouthpiece  
Schilke 30 or 31 Horn Mouthpiece

### Trombone:

Vincent Bach 6.5AL or 5G  
Schilke 51 or 52

### Bass Trombone:

Vincent Bach 2G

### Euphonium:

Yamaha EP53D  
Schilke 51D

### Tuba:

Helleberg 120-S  
Schilke Standard Series Tuba Mouthpiece