

Congratulations!

Your child has been approved to play the **instrument on the supply list contained in this letter** in the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band Program. Thank you for trusting our professional judgment. We were very excited to have met your child, and through careful evaluation, have selected the instrument your child will play.

Now it is time for you to obtain an instrument! This letter will walk you through the options available to you for purchasing an instrument and/or supplies. Your first decision is to “rent-to-own” or purchase. Many families chose to rent-to-own their instrument so that they can make payments along the way. If you chose to do this, we recommend using local music companies in the Austin area that offer repair/supply packages. We suggest you compare prices and packages at each of these places in order to get the best value. We also advise you take the instrument letter with you in order to show them exactly the brands recommended in our band program and the supplies needed. Ask them if anything is provided free of charge and if they exchange the needed mouthpiece with the stock mouthpiece at no additional charge.

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| 1. Sam Bass Music | 246-9845 |
| 2. Strait Music | 918-3743 |
| 3. Better Than New | 388-7774 |

Many families also choose to purchase the instrument at once because the overall cost will be lower. If you chose this option, there are two out-of-state companies we recommend using for lower prices. You can purchase online or over the phone.

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| 1. Muncy Winds: | www.muncywinds.com | (800) 333-6415 |
| 2. Woodwind and Brasswind: | www.wwbw.com | (800) 348-5003 |

You might find instruments at local businesses that cost about \$200. Although these instruments seem like a great deal for a first time player, they are made with very thin and cost-effective materials. They generally need repairs within the first 12 weeks and they are very difficult to have fixed. Most repair companies refuse to work on them because the tools they use to fix them often cause even more damage.

Used instruments are a great consideration. If you buy from an independent person, we recommend seeing if they will let you show it to a band director before you purchase. We will be able to tell you if the instrument will need costly repair work and if the instrument will make a good beginner instrument. Used instruments that are warranted by a reputable music company equipped with the required accessory items are acceptable. For your protection, we ask that “used” instruments be approved by the director before you buy them to ensure that it is in good working condition and worth your financial investment unless it comes from a company listed on this letter.

This coming school year is going to be a very exciting one! Welcome to the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band!

Sincerely,

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