

TE Middle School 5/6 Instrument FAQs



Purchase or Rent?

Students can purchase or rent an instrument depending on what works best for your family. Renting can be the most cost effective, especially if you are unsure whether your child will continue with an instrument. Also, children are not always as careful with their instruments as we would hope and many of them are damaged or in need of repairs often. If renting, general upkeep and maintenance is included in your cost (please check your agreement for specifics).

If you do decide to purchase, keep a few things in mind:

- Always try an instrument before purchase. *I would never purchase any instrument I did not test first.*
- Used does not mean worse. *Depending on how the instrument was cared for, used instruments are often a great value and are just as good as brand-new ones (many vintage saxes are coveted over newer models).*
- Choose a reputable brand. *Do a quick online search or ask a musician for reputable brands that have been around*

Amazon Instruments?

BUYER BEWARE! Although you can find some very inexpensive instruments on Amazon, I do not recommend purchasing any instrument online. Most of these instruments are cheaply made and many instrument repair stores will not service them. It is worth it to rent from a reputable vendor that offers repair and maintenance as part of their cost (it will save you time, money, and stress in the long run).

Percussion Kits

Students studying percussion learn both pitched (mallets) and non-pitched (snare) percussion. Students will need Percussion Kits that include a snare drum and a set of bells. These can be rented/purchased separately, but it is much more economical to get them together. They should include a snare drum, practice pad, bells, drumsticks, and bell mallets.

If you happen to already have a snare drum at home, you can just get the bell kits as well.

Either way, it is advisable to get a practice pad considering the noise a snare drum makes!

Instrument Care Kits

If you rent, your instrument should come with a care kit that includes swabs, cleaning clothes, brushes, rosin, etc. These are extremely important for the longevity of an instrument. If you purchase make sure you get one or buy one as well, they are cheap and will save you money in time!

Vendors List:

**this is not an extensive list, but the most popular and closest vendors*

[Music & Arts](#) (Wayne) - we use this store as our vendor and they have an updated list of materials for each ensemble and grade.

[Taylor's Music Store](#) (West Chester)

[George's Music](#) (Berwyn)

[Sam Ash](#) (King of Prussia)

Can't Afford an Instrument?

No child who wants to learn an instrument should miss out due to costs. FLITE is a committee of our Music Parent's organization (TEMPO) that can aid families in need. This is an incredible program that has helped many families in our district since 2006.

If you are in need, please contact Mary Frances Szpila at mftszp@aol.com

Concert Band Instruments

- Woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone
- Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba
- Upright Bass or Bass Guitar
- Percussion – includes pitched (mallets) and non-pitched (snare, timpani, bass drum, auxiliary etc.) percussion.

String Orchestra Instruments

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass

Jazz Band Instruments

- Woodwinds*: Saxophone (alto, tenor, and bari)
- Brass*: Trumpet, Trombone
- Drum Set
- Vibes
- Upright Bass or Bass Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Piano

**Other woodwind and brass instruments are accepted such as flute, clarinet, baritone, and French Horn. These are just not typical in a Big Band Ensemble*