

It's the time to get an instrument for your band student! All 6th graders start on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone or Percussion to learn the basics. Toward the end of the year students may switch to Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba. Students will be choosing which instrument they will play over the next week. There are several ways to obtain a quality instrument:

- 1) Buy - I recommend a good used instrument. I am happy to look at an instrument you find to make sure it is a quality instrument. Be careful buying online if you do not know what to look for. Stay away from inexpensive new instruments. These are made with inferior materials and often play out of tune. They cannot always be repaired when they get dropped or damaged. Mid-State Piano Gallery in Tullahoma has quality used instruments for sale at affordable prices.
- 2) Rent - This is a very good option if you are not sure your child will stick with band or if they will be switching instruments later as there is no long term obligation and repairs are covered at no charge. You may rent from The Music Stop as described below and I have attached a flier for a store in Tullahoma you may rent from at your convenience. The Music Stop also rents instruments online at www.themusicstoponline.com.
- 3) School Instrument - I do have a limited number of used instruments available for students to use if options 1 and 2 are not possible. These are available on an as needed basis.

All students will need an Essential Elements Book 1 for their particular instrument (\$10). All students will need a care kit (\$20) to maintain their instrument in good working order (this reduces repair bills later). Clarinet students need a box of reeds. All of these items may be purchased Saturday, August 22, at North Middle School from 9:00-11:00. The Music Stop from Murfreesboro will be here with a mobile store. This is also an opportunity to rent an instrument if you decide to use their rental program. Cash, checks and cards are accepted for purchases, you must have a credit card to rent (you can pay with cash, but they need the card for rental security). Items may also be ordered online or at a music store of your choice.

I am happy to talk with you about the best way to get a quality instrument. My email is jonanne.hammer@fcstn.net, feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you may have. You may also call the school and leave a message, I will return your call. Please refer to my teacher web for updated announcements.

<http://southmiddle.fcstn.net/> and go to "Hammer" under Staff Directory.

Student Name _____

Instrument _____

_____ We have an instrument or will be purchasing one

_____ We will be renting an instrument from The Music Stop on Saturday, 8-22

_____ We will be renting an instrument from Mid-State Piano Gallery or other store

_____ We will use a school instrument