



Marriotts Ridge High School Band



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Recommended Materials

Private lessons

These are strongly encouraged for all students, especially Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band members. Please refer to the list of Private Instructors. If you need a list of teachers please see Mr. Ellis or visit the MRHS band website. <http://clc.hcpss.org/~jellis>

Metronomes

These are recommended for all students, **especially** percussionists, to help develop a good sense of a steady beat. All students should be practicing with metronomes. Your playing assessments and audition material will have prescribed metronome markings to achieve.

Chromatic Tuners

These are recommended for all students. These devices help train students to center pitches and to learn how to adjust their instruments to match pitch with everyone in the band. All instruments have individual intonation characteristics that the player needs to determine and make appropriate adjustments for. Tuning charts are available from Mr. Ellis to assist you.

Mouthpieces

Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn and Trumpet players should have an appropriate mouthpiece for high school level playing. This allows for a better sound and center of pitch. For students in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble these upgrades are required. If you have a private instructor, consult with them before buying a mouthpiece. If you do not, I have some recommendations. These upgrades should last the student through high school.

Clarinet: Hite Premier, Van Doran B45 or 5RV
Saxophone - CB or SWE: Selmer C* (Seestar) for Alto, Tenor or Bari sax
Saxophone - Jazz: Meyer 5 or a metal mouthpiece
Trumpet: Bach 3C
French Horn: Holton MDC
Low Brass: See Mr. Ellis

Step-Up Instruments

If your child is demonstrating a high level of commitment to band, is willing to take private lessons, and will probably continue to play through high school then you should consider investing into a “step-up” level instrument. These instruments are built with better materials and more precise engineering, which make them easier to play in tune with a good sound. Many students keep their first instrument to use for marching band in high school, since it is not a good idea to take the better quality instruments outside on the marching field. Many of these instruments hold their value fairly well should the student decide not to play after high school. Most students in high school (and in many middle schools) in the top level performing groups own “step-up” instruments. Talk to your child’s private teacher or consult with me for recommendations of makes and models of “step-up” instruments. Below, are some of the brands of step up instruments that are available.

Piccolo – Yamaha YPC 81
Flute – Yamaha YFL 481H
Clarinet – Buffet R13
Alto Saxophone – Yamaha YAS 875 or Selmer Super Action 80
Tenor Saxophone – Yamaha YTS 875 or Selmer Super Acton 80
Trumpet – Bach 180S 37 ML bore
French Horn – Holton Farkas H-180
Trombone – Bach 42B closed wrap F attachment
Euphonium – Meinl Weston compensating valve on side.