

Instrument and Supplies Information

Instruments: Kennedy has many of the larger instruments (tubas, trombones and baritones) available to rent through the school for \$50.00 for the year. Except for low income families, **flutes, clarinets, sax's, trumpets and percussion need to be rented.** There are scholarships for those who need them. (Please e-mail or call me if there are questions about renting a school instrument, and see Ms. Sloan in the office for scholarships.) An excellent place to rent instruments is Pacific Winds. The first few days of band we demonstrate the instrument choices. (All percussionists must start on bells.) Students will get to try each instrument and make a their choices if they haven't already decided. We like to get started playing as soon as possible, so renting the instruments and buying the books and supplies early is essential. (Also, the best instruments go first.) Some of the more difficult instruments like oboe, bassoon and french horn are also an option; please talk to me about the challenges of these instruments. Students choosing the more difficult instruments should take private lessons to insure their success.

Beware of inexpensive instruments; sadly these instruments are usually not bargains. In many cases, the instruments are of poor quality and the parts cannot be replaced. Local music stores will often not be able to repair them. Students with poor quality instruments tend to do poorly in band and get frustrated because they don't sound as good as the other students which makes them want to drop out. The bitterness caused by poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price. Pacific Winds offers free evaluations on any new or used instruments. I recommend an evaluation prior to any purchase. Please feel free to ask me about instruments you may wish to purchase.

Instrument care: review the first few pages of the band book Standard of Excellence with your students and remind them to clean and care for their instruments daily. Instruments are fragile and extremely expensive to repair. Students will be responsible to pay for any repairs needed.

Books and Supplies: We will be using **Standard of Excellence Book One** which costs \$9.95 for most instruments and \$10.95 for horn and bells/percussion. These come with CD's that students practice with and are excellent for developing intonation, tone, rhythm and they are fun. Scholarships are available for books as well. (See Ms. Sloan.) Cleaning supplies, reeds and valve oil may also be needed. (Pacific Winds will help you with the items you need.) You may think about purchasing a music stand as it makes practicing much easier.

Please E-mail me with any questions. decker@4j.lane.edu Or you can call my voice mail at 687-5033. It is harder to get a hold of me by phone because I'm part time. And when the phone rings in the band room..... we can't hear it! So far I'm loving this new group of young musicians. Its going to be an awesome year; thanks for your support!