

Hello all,

We are very excited about your student's involvement in the **BLUE IGUANA** Band Program here at CIS! There has been a lot of growth over the past years, and we look forward to continuing to develop. This guide will give you details on the instrument that your child has shown interest in for Beginning Band next year, and will provide suggestions on *how to purchase/rent* these instruments. Please *do not hesitate* to ask any questions regarding an instrument.



Before you buy/rent, send me some information about it so I can verify you are making a safe investment. (*Cheaper is not better!*)  
***Don't get stuck with a lemon!***

### **Purchasing/Renting**

Instruments are very hard to come by on Island, so it is best if these are obtained while traveling during the summer. There is a list of websites below that you can order from and have delivered to a US/ Canadian address, or you can visit local music shops. Some shops may be willing to rent the instrument to you, which is a great option as well. *Don't be afraid to ask me if you have any questions!*

### **Used vs. New**

Finding a good used instrument can be difficult, but it always a great option when considering instruments for beginning students. When looking at a used instrument, make sure that it is free of large dents/scratches and that all keys/valves/slides move freely. Have the instrument assembled, and played if possible. New instruments are expensive, but are almost guaranteed to work well. However, stay away from off-brands and "cheap" brands. These will work for a few weeks, but then begin to wear out. I have tried to fix many instruments like this all year! It will help your student feel more successful in band with a well made instrument!

### **Sites I recommend:**

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center (<http://www.buyfromchucks.com/index.php>)

### **Contact Me**

Please contact me before you purchase an instrument so I may be able to help you to avoid any problems with your purchase. Should you have any questions regarding instrument purchase, please contact me!

[joe.millson@cayintschool.ky](mailto:joe.millson@cayintschool.ky) [jmillson@cayintschool.edu.ky](mailto:jmillson@cayintschool.edu.ky)

**Below is information on each instrument.**

# Flute

The flute is the highest pitched member of the woodwind family, and is one of the earliest known instruments. It is a prominent member of virtually every musical genre. It can be played as a solo instrument or in ensembles, and it's similarities to the other woodwind instruments make it a valuable instrument to learn!

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Flute-g25079t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

- Gemeinhardt
- Yamaha
- Selmer



## Models to Avoid:

- Noteworthy, Orpheo, Allora, BrassWind (*Cheaper is not better!*)

## Director's Pick:

- Gemeinhardt Model 3 (Offset G/B Foot Option) \$639 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Gemeinhardt-Model-3-Flute-464217-i1442318.wwbw>

## Other very good options:

- Gemeinhardt 2SP (Standard Option) \$479 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Gemeinhardt-2SP-Series-Student-Flute-483725-i1435519.wwbw>
- Bundy BFI-300 \$449 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Bundy-BFL-300-Flute-463679-i1412690.wwbw>

# Clarinet

The clarinet is a versatile member of the orchestra, and the principal treble woodwind of the concert band. The clarinet is a transposing instrument--its part in the score is written at a different pitch from the one actually sounded. Be sure to purchase a Bb Clarinet, as this is the standard option.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Clarinets-g25060t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

-Buffet, Yamaha, Leblanc, Vito, Selmer

## Models to Avoid:

-Simba, Noteworthy, Prelude, Allora, Band Now, Mendini  
(*Cheaper is not better!*)

## Director's Picks:

- Buffet B12 Student Bb Clarinet \$625 US
  - <http://www.instrumentalsavings.com/product-p/bg-bc2540-5-0.htm>
- Bundy BCL-300 Clarinet \$449 US  
<http://www.wwbw.com/Bundy-BCL-300-Clarinet-463680-i1412691.wwbw>



## Value Pick:

-Prelude by Conn-Selmer CL711 Bb \$359 US  
<http://www.wwbw.com/Prelude-by-Conn-Selmer-CL711-Bb-Student-Clarinet-585554-i1533747.wwbw>

## Reeds:

Students will need to purchase reeds in order to play the clarinet. An individual reed can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks depending on care, environment changes, and the amount that it is played. A good reed produces a full, characteristic tone while a 'bad' reed will cause a scratchy tone and be prone to squeaks. All reeds are given a rating of strength, "1" through "5" (the lower the number the softer the reed.) In general, the stronger or stiffer reeds are used by advanced players. For beginners, **a 2 or 2 1/2 strength reed is recommended.**

Below is a list of appropriate reed choices:

- Vandoren (recommended)
- Rico (beginners only)

Available On-Island:

There are limited options for purchasing reeds on Island. I would recommend purchasing a box of reeds while overseas.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Rico-Royal-Bb-Clarinet-Reeds--Box-of-10-462707-i1143634.wwbw>

# Alto Saxophone

The Alto Saxophone is a member of the woodwind family, although it is made of brass (this is because the sound is produced by a vibrating reed.) The alto transposes to Eb, meaning that a written C will sound an Eb. It is a very versatile instrument, and while it has a limited role in traditional orchestras, it is featured prominently in virtually every other ensemble and solo setting.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Saxophone-g25063t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

-Yamaha, Yanagisawa, Selmer, Jupiter

## Models to Avoid:

-Orpheo, Noteworthy, Vento, Vito, Buescher  
(Cheaper is not better!)

## Director's Pick:

-Prelude by Conn Selmer AS711 Alto Saxophone \$759 US

<http://www.wwbw.com/Prelude-by-Conn-Selmer-Prelude-by-Conn-Selmer-AS711-Student-Mode-I-Alto-Saxophone-585558-i1533751.wwbw>



## Value Picks:

-Etude EAS-100 \$329 US

<http://www.wwbw.com/Etude-EAS-100-Student-Alto-Saxophone-463675-i1412687.wwbw#reviews>

## Reeds:

Students will need to purchase reeds in order to play the saxophone. An individual reed can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks depending on care, environment changes, and the amount that it is played. A good reed produces a full, characteristic tone while a 'bad' reed will cause a scratchy tone and be prone to squeaks. All reeds are given a rating of strength, "1" through "5" (the lower the number the softer the reed.) In general, the stronger or stiffer reeds are used by advanced players. **I would recommend a 2 or 2 1/2 strength reed.**

Below is a list of appropriate reed choices:

- Vandoren (recommended)
- Rico (beginners only)

Available On-Island:

There are limited options for purchasing saxophones on Island. It is recommended to purchase a box of reeds while overseas.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Rico-Royal-Alto-Saxophone-Reeds-462701-i1143614.wwbw>

# Trumpet

Trumpets are one of the oldest instruments, and the primary melodic member of the brass family. They are quite versatile, playing prominently in virtually every ensemble and are often used as solo instruments.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Trumpet-g25064t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

-Bach, Yamaha, Getzen, Kanstul, Bundy, Jupiter

## Models to Avoid:

-Weril, Blessing, Amati, Allora, Brasswind, BandNow, and **any colored instruments (red, black, etc.)** (*Cheaper is not better!*)



## Director's Pick:

- Kanstul 700 Series Student Bb Trumpet (Laquer) \$875 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Kanstul-700-Series-Bb-Trumpet-463551-i1429180.wwbw>
- Getzen 390 Series Student Bb Trumpet (Laquer) \$875 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Getzen-390-Series-Student-Bb-Trumpet-483593-i1437707.wwbw>

## Value Pick:

- Bundy BTR-300 \$489 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Bundy-BTR-300-Series-Student-Bb-Trumpet-463683-i1412692.wwbw>

## Available On-Island:

-Options are limited. There is a small music store (Myles Music, near Red Cross/Cricket Pitch) that may carry some accessories, or you may find one used on eCaytrade.

## Recommended Sites:

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center (<http://www.buyfromchucks.com/index.php>)

# French Horn

French horn players are the bridge between the brass and woodwinds, playing integral parts of music. Most popularly, the french horn can be heard in star wars themes and jurassic park. **As a precaution, players must be recommended by Mr. Joe before consideration of purchase. It is a very difficult instrument to play.**

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-French-Horn-g25066t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

- Bach, Holton, Conn, jupiter,

## Models to avoid:

- Allora, BandNow, Amati, BrassWind,
  - *(Cheaper is not better!)*

## Director's Pick: (French horns are expensive)

- **Holton - 3,179 US**
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Holton-H378-Intermediate-French-Horn-460396-i1142522.wwbw>



## Value Pick/ On Island:

- Mr. Reid is a brass player and repair man on Island that has a small selection of used french horns from around 500-1000 CI. This may be the better route!

## Recommended Sites:

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center (<http://www.buyfromchucks.com/index.php>)
- Baltimore Brass ([www.baltimorebrass.net](http://www.baltimorebrass.net))

# Trombone

Trombones are the leaders of the low brass section of the concert band. They do not have any buttons/keys, but instead have a slide with 7 different positions.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Trombone-g25065t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

- Bach, Yamaha, Getzen, Bundy, King, Jupiter



## Models to Avoid:

- Weril, Blessing, Amati, Allora, Brasswind, BandNow, and any colored any instruments (red, black, etc.)

## Director's Pick:

- Getzen 351 Series Student Trombone \$949 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Getzen-351-Series-Student-Trombone-461322-i1142789.wwbw>
- Kanstul 750 Series Student Trombone (Lacquer) \$895 US
  - <http://www.wwbw.com/Kanstul-750-Series-Student-Trombone-463601-i1429186.wwbw>

## Value Pick:

- Prelude by Conn Selmer TB711 Series Student \$469 US
- <http://www.wwbw.com/Prelude-by-Conn-Selmer-TB711-Series-Student-Trombone-585556-i1533749.wwbw>

## Recommended Sites:

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center (<http://www.buyfromchucks.com/index.php>)

# Baritone/ Euphonium

Along with trombones, baritones are the other leaders of the low brass section of the concert band. These instruments sound similar, but the baritone has 3 valves rather than a slide.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Buyer-Guides-Euphonium-g25067t0.wwbw>

## Recommended Models:

- King, Besson, Jupiter, Yamaha, Blessing

## Models to Avoid:

- Accord, Band Now, Allora, Mendini

## Director's Pick:

Yamaha YEP- 4 valve euphonium



<http://www.wwbw.com/YAMAHA-YEP-321-Series-4-Valve-Euphonium-483643-i1433744.wwbw>

\*Baritones are quite expensive. This model is both cost effective and of a good quality.

## Recommended Sites:

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center (<http://www.buyfromchucks.com/index.php>)
- Baltimore Brass: ([www.BaltimoreBrass.net](http://www.BaltimoreBrass.net))



# Percussion

Percussion is the most “percussive” section of the band. All instruments are struck with various sticks and mallets to create the sound. Players will switch from a variety of instruments, playing snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, timpani, and a assortment of “toys”.

Students will be required to have a assortment of sticks and a practice pad, Below are recommendations:

## Recommended Brands:

- VicFirth, Steve Weise

## Brands to avoid:

- Off brand sticks
- hard rock cafe drum sticks
- light up sticks



## Director’s Top-Pick:

- Steve Weiss Best-Seller Pack
- <http://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/bestseller-stick-pack-1/stick-mallet-pack>
- Practice Pad: RealFeel Practice Pad
- <http://www.wwbw.com/Evans-RealFeel-Practice-Pad-J26697-i4508317.wwbw#/product-details>

## Value Deal:

- Liberty Tenn Pack
- <http://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/liberty-i-univ-of-tenn-stick-pack/stick-mallet-pack>
- Practice Pad: RealFeel Practice Pad
- <http://www.wwbw.com/Evans-RealFeel-Practice-Pad-J26697-i4508317.wwbw#/product-details>

## Recommended Sites:

- Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com))
- Music 123 ([www.music123.com](http://www.music123.com))
- Sam Ash ([www.samash.com](http://www.samash.com))
- Steve Weiss Music (<http://www.steveweissmusic.com/> )

## Band Recommendation Recap:

**Flute:** *Yamaha, Geminhardt, Armstrong, Jupiter*

**Clarinet:** *Yamaha, Selmer, Buffet, Leblanc,*

- Fobes Debut Mouthpiece
- Ligature & Mouthpiece Cap
- Swab
- 4 - #2.5 Rico Clarinet Reeds
- Reed holder for 4 reeds

**Alto Sax:** *Yamaha, Jupiter, Vito, Selmer, Accent*

- Mouthpiece
- Ligature & Mouthpiece Cap
- 4 - #2.5 Rico Alto Sax Reeds
- Reed holder for 4 reeds
- Neck Strap
- Cork Grease
- Swob

**Tenor Sax:** *Yamaha, Jupiter, Vito, Selmer, Accent*

- Tenor Mouthpiece
- Ligature & Mouthpiece Cap
- 4 - #2.5 Rico Tenor Sax Reeds
- Reed holder for 4 reeds
- Neck Strap
- Cork Grease
- Swob

**Trumpet:** *Bach, Holton, Yamaha*

- Bach 7C Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease

**Horn:** *Holton, Conn, Yamaha, Jupiter*

- Holton Farkus Medium Mouthpiece
- Rotary Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease

**Trombone:** *Bach, Conn, Yamaha, Jupiter*

- Bach 7C Mouthpiece
- Slide Oil/Cream
- Tuning Slide Grease

**Baritone:** *Bach, Yamaha, Holton, Jupiter*

- Bach 7C Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease

**Percussion:** *Snare Drum, DrumKit*

- Practice Drum Pad
- Stand
- Drum Sticks – Vic Firth Generals
- Bell Set\*
- Mallets for bells\*
- \*Optional

**Thank you for your interest in  
CIS Blue Iguana Band!**

