

**Kenmore-Town of  
Tonawanda  
Union Free School  
District**

*Music Education*



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Dear Ken-Ton music families,

The District will be holding a vendor night with local music stores on **Monday, June 17th at Lindbergh Elementary school from 5-7pm**. All music families are invited to attend to learn about their options of purchasing or renting instruments from our local music stores. At this event you will also have the opportunity to purchase reeds, brass oil, percussion mallets, rosin, shoulder rests, music stands and other various instrument supplies. If you are unable to attend you may reach out to the local music stores directly. Attached is a list of local music stores and a list of recommended quality instruments.

The district policy for students in grades 5-12 is that each student is expected to provide their own instrument—either by rental from a music store or purchase. The only instruments that are guaranteed to be rented out from the school are: piccolo, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, baritone/euphonium, tuba and string bass. Students that play the trombone or cello will be provided with one for use in school, but should obtain their own for at home practice from a music store. For instruments that are too large for the bus (tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, baritone/euphonium, tuba and string bass) you will receive one instrument to keep at home and one to use at school.

If you decide to look into purchasing an instrument, it is very important that you choose a quality brand when purchasing a musical instrument. Unfortunately, there are many off-brands available today that are not good choices for purchase. Some of these off-brands cannot even be repaired when they become broken, because the necessary parts to repair them are not available! Recently we have seen an increase in subpar instruments that have been purchased through the internet, catalogs, and some music stores that don't specialize in band and string instruments.

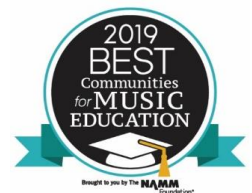
If you are concerned about renting an instrument due to financial or other constraints please contact the music teacher to learn about other options. We want every child to have the opportunity to play an instrument so we are willing to work to accommodate your needs!

We look forward to seeing you at the Vendor Night on June, 17th!  
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Sincerely,  
Laura Anderson  
District Music Coordinator



*As certified music educators, we are firmly committed to providing students with knowledge of music and its elements, ensuring life-long skills for active participation in the arts, and developing abilities to understand and appreciate music.*



## **Guidelines for Buying a Musical Instrument**

These guidelines were assembled by the Instrumental Music department of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District. We feel that it is important for parents to have the necessary facts in order to make an informed decision when purchasing a musical instrument for their child.

Recently we have seen a number of sub-par instruments that parents have purchased through the following sources:

- **The internet**
- **Wholesale warehouse clubs**
- **Catalogues**
- **Music stores that don't specialize in band and string instruments**

**Therefore, we have put together guidelines that will help you to purchase a good quality instrument for your child.**

## **Music Stores**

Below is a list of local Music stores to rent or purchase instruments from.

### **Band Instruments:**

**Buffalo Drum Outlet 684-0082**

**(drums and bells only)**

**Twin Village Music 683-4879**

**Matt's Music 693-7717**

**Northtown Music 838-3835**

**Twin Village Music 683-4879**

**Music and Arts Music Store (OP) 662-9533**

**Paramount Music Store 835-1500**

**Socha Band Instrument Repair 525-3317**

### **String Instruments**

**Monaco's 688-8600**

**Matt's Music 693-7717**

**Aldercreek Music 693-5456**

**Shar Music 1-800-248-7427**

**Piano and Organ Center 630-9800**

**Music and Arts Music Store (OP) 662-9533**

**Paramount Music Store 835-1500**

# Instrument Brands

It is very important that you choose a quality brand when purchasing a musical instrument. Unfortunately, there are many off-brands available today that are not good choices for purchase. Some of these off-brands cannot even be repaired when they become broken, because the necessary parts to repair them are not available! We recommend that you select from the following brands:

## Flute

Beginner: Purchasing a beginner model is not recommended.

Intermediate:

- Armstrong 303 or 303B
- Yamaha 381H
- Gemeinhardt 3SH

Advanced:

- Armstrong 80B
- Yamaha 481H
- Gemeinhardt M3 GE 3SB

Students who are pursuing a career in music after high school need to consult with their private teacher and will most likely need to purchase a hand-made flute, such as Powell, Haynes, Brannen, or Sanky.

## Clarinet

\*Wood and composite clarinets are preferred to plastic.

Beginner:

- Yamaha YCL-34 or YCL-20
- Selmer CL 201
- Buffet B12

Intermediate:

- Yamaha YCL-52
- Buffet E-11

Advanced:

- Buffet R-13
- Buffet E-11 would also be acceptable for students who are advanced, but not pursuing music as a career after high school.

## Clarinet Mouthpieces

Van Doren B45 mouthpieces are very good for beginner/intermediate students.

Advanced students should look into custom-made mouthpieces such as Larry Combs, Dan Johnston, Pine, or Perone.

## Oboe

Intermediate:

- Fox 330 with Bb key

Advanced:

- Loree

## Bassoon

Intermediate/Advanced:

- Fox 222, 220, or 240

## Saxophone

Beginner/Intermediate:

- Armstrong
- Bundy II
- Yamaha YAS 23

Advanced:

- Selmer Paris (Super Action 80, mark VI, Vintage)
- Selmer USA
- Yamaha Pro Series or Custom Series
- Keilworth
- Conn Vintage
- Cannonball

## Saxophone Mouthpieces:

- Selmer C\* Mouthpiece
- Sigmund Rascher Mouthpiece
- Jazz mouthpieces: Otto Link, Berg Larson, Meyer

## Trumpet

Beginner:

- Selmer
- King
- Yamaha

Intermediate:

- Yamaha 2335
- King 601
- Bach TR200
- Carol Brass

Advanced

- King Silver Flair
- Bach Stradivarius 37
- Yamaha XENO
- Conn
- Cannonball
- Carol Brass

## Trumpet Mouthpieces

Beginner:

- Bach 5C

Intermediate:

- Bach 5C or 3C

Advanced:

- Bach or Stork 3C

## French Horn

Purchase of a double horn is recommended.

Intermediate/Advanced:

- Conn 8d
- Yamaha
- Holton/Farkas

## Trombone:

Beginner:

- King 606
- Conn Director

Intermediate/Advanced: purchase a trombone with an F rotor attachment:

- Conn 52H
- Bach TB 2003
- Conn 88H
- Bach Stradivarius 42B

## Trombone Mouthpieces:

Beginner:

- Bach 12C

Intermediate:

- Bach 6

Advanced:

- Bach 6 ½ or larger

## Percussion

Mallets:

Vic Firth (snare, timpani mallets)

Mike Balter (yarn mallets)

# Strings

**Beginner:** No purchases should be made until student reaches full size instrument capabilities. It is important to shop for stringed instruments at a shop that specializes in them, such as Monaco's. Recommended Students Models are listed below.

**Intermediate:** All wood hand crafted instruments. Any quality German, French, or Italian instrument can be purchased in a full size. Teacher may need to accompany student and parent in order to determine if the instrument is of good quality. Bows: Carbon Fiber

**Advanced:** This is a larger purchase and the teacher or private teacher should be consulted. Tone and quality becomes very important.

## **Instruments to Avoid**

- Any instrument that is not the natural wood color (black, white, pink, blue, etc.). Painted instruments do not vibrate in the same way that varnished instruments do and will not produce a characteristic tone.
- Many teachers report repeated problems with the following brands: Cecilio, Mendini, Cremona, Crescent, Palatino, Lark, Skylark and First Act. In addition, many teachers have noted significant problems with Chinese instruments not made of real wood or ebony parts and with inexpensive instruments purchased on eBay or Amazon that cannot be tried out, approved by a teacher, or returned easily. For this reason, **many teachers recommend against purchasing any string instrument you have not first played on.** Many of these poor quality instruments cost more to have set-up properly (bridge, fingerboard, strings, sound post) than the instrument itself may be worth. This can cost \$200 or more just to make the violin or viola functional.

## **MODELS:**

### **VIOLIN**

Eastman 80 or 100  
Erik Wagner 120 or 131  
Geller 120P  
Glaesel VI31  
Joseph Geisler  
Knilling 1OK (or 8K)  
Otto Benjamin  
Otto Klier  
Scherl & Roth 301  
Strobel ML85  
Franz Hoffman  
Klaus Mueller

### **VIOLA**

Geller 201  
Glaesel VAIO

Joseph Geisler

Knilling 3104  
Otto Benjamin  
Otto Klier  
Scherl & Roth 403  
Strobel MA85  
Wagner 201 or 203  
Franz Hoffman  
Klaus Mueller  
Eastman

### **CELLO**

Glaesel - Model CE42 or CE44  
Hermann Beyer  
Knilling Bucharest 157F or 152F  
Otto Benjamin  
Scherl & Roth 503 or RC97E4 (advanced)

Eastman VC80, VC90, VC95, VC100

Franz Hoffman  
Klaus Mueller

### **BASS**

Christopher  
Eastman  
Glaesel-DB66  
Knilling Bucharest 1302T, 1308T  
Franz Hoffman  
Klaus Mueller  
Shen

### **Recommended Brands of replacement Strings:**

Dominant  
Pirastro  
Virtuoso  
Helicore  
Do not purchase Red Label

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