**PHMC TIPS ON INSTRUMENTS NOT PURCHASED FROM A MUSIC STORE**

**Internet sellers do a great job making bad instruments look like good ones. Parents buy these online with the intention of getting a better one later.**

**Typically, these instruments do not function properly and are not repairable due to their inferior design. In this case, there is no path to success and the student quits after being discouraged.**

* **If the price seems too good to be true, it is.** The instrument probably needs a lot of work, or is an off-brand purchase mistake. Quality instruments may cost more, but they will last a lifetime.
* If there is a smell, it will need to be cleaned.
* Look at the pads on woodwinds. If they are dirty or ripped, they will need to be replaced.
* On brass instruments, make sure the slides and the valves move. If not, the instrument may require more than a cleaning.
* **Brightly colored instruments are not appropriate.** While they look “cool,” they are not standard quality instruments. Not to mention they stick out in the professional setting of your child’s band.
* Get all instruments not purchased from a music store cleaned!
* If you purchase something online, feel free to email me the link. I will take a look at it and give you my professional opinion.

**APPROPRIATE BRAND NAMES**

* Beware: companies often misspell an acceptable brand name by one or two letters to confuse buyers on purpose.

**Flutes (silver) Clarinets (black) Trumpets/ Trombones/**

Armstrong Artley **Baritones (brass or silver)**

Artley Buffet Bach

Bundy Bundy Benge (trumpets only)

Emerson Jupiter Blessing

Gemeinhardt LeBlanc Bundy

Jupiter Selmer Conn

Pearl Vito Getzen

Selmer Yamaha Holton

Yamaha Jupiter

**Saxophones** King

**Oboes (black)** **(brass or silver)** Olds

Buffet Bundy Schilke

Fox Conn Schiller

Lorilee Jupiter Selmer

Selmer Olds Yamaha

Yamaha Selmer

Vito **French Horns (brass or silver)**

**Percussion Kits** Yamaha Conn

Ludwig Holton

Pearl Schiller

Yamaha Yamaha