



Yorktown High School Percussion Survival Sheet

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in the band program based on the quality/brand of their instrument. Achievement is enhanced when students perform on quality instruments and understand how to properly care for their instruments. The intent of this document is to serve as a guide for parents and students as they navigate the many options that are available for aspiring musicians who seek to upgrade their instruments and/or purchase the necessary materials to perform required routine maintenance on their instrument.

- **All Musicians Should Own a Metronome and a Tuner.**
- **It is better to buy a quality, used professional instrument than a new beginner/intermediate instrument. Many new instruments will never play in tune, and no amount of practice or hard work will help you make such an instrument sound good.**
- Percussionists should label all sticks and mallets, and keep materials in a stick bag. Practice bell kits are recommended for home use, but whenever possible it is recommended that students practice at school on full-sized instruments.
- Percussionists should have a Practice Pad (not a beginner Remo practice pad).

Recommended Practice Pads

- Evans Reel Feel Practice Pad 6"/12" (~ \$20 - \$30)
- Vic Firth Heavy Hitter Practice Pad (~ \$30)

Recommended Snare Drum Sticks

- For Concert Snare, Cooperman Sticks, (~ \$20)
- For Drum Set (Jazz), Zildjian John Riley Sticks (~ \$8)
- For Drum Set, Retractable Wire Brushes (~ \$20)

Keyboard Mallets

- There are numerous options for mallets that are specific to marimba, xylophone, bells, and vibes. Speak with your director before making a purchase and he can help guide you in the right direction. Below are some versatile options.
 - Malletech Natural Rubber NR19 Medium-Hard Xylo/Bell Mallets (~ \$20) These mallets can be bought with Rattan or Hard Birch shafts. They can be used on marimba, xylophone, or bells, and are also useful for other percussion (e.g. woodblock).
 - Stay away from brass bell mallets. Brass is a "special effect." Hard Rubber is general use.
 - Vibraphone - We recommend a Medium/Medium Hard Mallet with a Rattan shaft. (2 pairs)
 - Balter Medium Hard Rattan 45R Arthur Lipner (~ \$30)
 - Marimba - We recommend mallets with a birch/cedar shaft. When buying two pairs for 4-mallet playing, it is common to buy mallets that vary in hardness to match the range of the instrument you will be playing in. (left hand can use softer mallets than right)
 - Malletech Stevens LS15 Medium Soft-Hard Birch Marimba Mallets (~ \$38)
 - Innovative Nebojsa Zivkovic NJZ1 Soft Cedar Marimba Mallets (~ \$38)

Timpani Mallets

Speak with Band Director &/or Private Instructor before purchases to ensure best deal and appropriate choices

- There are numerous options for different styles of playing timpani. We recommend having one pair of general timpani mallets, with felt head.
 - Vic Firth American Custom Timpani T3 - Staccato (~ \$24)
- Students should also have a tuning fork (Key of A) (~ \$9)

A \$50.00 per year instrument fee will be collected to help maintain the school instruments that the students use. This includes tuning keyboards and the purchase/repair of Cymbals, Drums, Timpani, Marimbas, Xylophones, Vibraphones, Auxiliary Percussion, Drum Heads for Snare Drums, Timpani, Toms, Tenor Drum and Bass Drum, and specialized mallets for all instruments.