

SOME THOUGHTS ON SELECTING AN INSTRUMENT

1. Take children to band concerts or other instrumental ensemble concerts. There are lots of free concerts in various parts of the city throughout the summer. Have children listen to the various instruments and think about what they like to listen to. Have them listen to the parts of the band the different instruments play. Do they play the melody often? Do they play the bass parts? Do they get to play solos often? Do they sit in the front or the back or the middle of the band?
2. Take children to a full service music store where instruments are rented and repaired. Ask a knowledgeable staff person to help them try a few instruments. Note the weight of each instrument. How does the instrument fit the child? Does the child like holding and blowing that instrument? Is the instrument easily attainable (via store rental or other means?)
3. Take children to music store “try-it” days. Call the store for details.
4. Request help from one of the MCS teachers.
5. Make an appointment with Mrs. Wallace at the MCS office, and she can help a student try various instruments.
6. Normally, students do the best on the instrument that they truly desire to play. If a family has a certain instrument in the home, but a child does not really care to play that instrument, it is best to allow him or her to play what he or she really wishes to play.
7. When a child does wish to play an instrument that is already in the household, be sure to have the instrument checked out and repaired, if necessary. A child cannot succeed on an instrument that does not work well.