**INSTRUMENT SELECTION GUIDE**

**BRADLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Flute**- Woodwind instrument. Very competitive instrument. Facial structure is important when assessing whether or not a student should play flute. Start a maximum of 20. Student must rent or purchase a flute.

**Oboe**- Double Reed Instrument. Requires a highly motivated, gifted student. Private lessons are required. Successful oboists are very valuable. School owns oboes, range of value $2000-$4000. Start a maximum of 2 very select students. Students must commit to playing the instrument for three years of middle school.

**Bassoon**- Double Reed Instrument. Same qualifications as oboe. School owns bassoons. Range of value $2400-$5000. Start a maximum of 2 very select students. Students must commit to playing the instrument for three years of middle school.

**Clarinet**- Single Reed Instrument. No major physical requirements. More clarinetists are needed than any other instrument. Start a maximum of 30. Students must rent or purchase.

**Alto Sax**- Single Reed Instrument. **Very competitive!** All interested must have a 2\(^{nd}\) choice of an instrument. You will be notified by a band director if you are chosen to play sax. We will take the top players from interviews. All students must be willing to switch to tenor or bari sax in the future as needed. There will never be a need for more than 4 altos in a quality advanced band. Students must rent or purchase. This is the most expensive instrument that the school does NOT provide.

**Trumpet**- Brass instrument. Very important in band, jazz band - always plays the lead role. Care must be taken to watch lip size and structure of teeth. Student must rent or purchase instrument. Start 25 maximum.

**French Horn**- Brass instrument. Requires a VERY good ear. Only serious students will be considered for horn. The school has instruments, range in value of $950 to $2400. Students will start a single F horn then move up to a professional model (double horns). Very beautiful, artistic instrument. Start a maximum of 10.

**Trombone**- Brass instrument. Requires a very good ear. Trombones are incredibly important to a successful band, jazz band and a marching band. Plays lead role in all music. Student must rent or purchase. Start a maximum of 20.

**Baritone**- Brass instrument. Same in many ways to a trombone (same size mouthpiece), except has valves instead of a slide. School provides, range in value from $1000 to $3000. Start a maximum of 6. We will provide a horn for school and home whenever possible.

**Tuba**- It is the largest brass instrument and is the foundation of a good band. Without a good tuba section a band is considered weak. Lots of opportunities and lots of fun to play. School
owns horns and range of value $1600 to $5500. Start 6 maximum. We will provide a tuba for school and home whenever possible.

**Percussion**- Playing percussion is **NOT playing drums!!** Students must have at least 3 years of piano reading experience and may have a keyboard sight reading test. Percussion class is over 50% of working on bells. Other instruction includes: timpani, xylophone, accessories, cymbals, and snare drum. Requires a HIGHLY DISCIPLINED, RESPONSIBLE, MATURE STUDENT and one who thrives on responsibility and thoroughness. All interested must have a 2nd and 3rd choice of an instrument. You will be notified by a band director if you are chosen to play percussion. We will take the top players from auditions.