***Mouthpieces***

If a student is playing the mouthpiece that came with the instrument (with the exception of Selmer professional models) he/she will probably be out of tune, will not have a great sound, and will have difficulty with control. No amount of practice will fix this. The best option in choosing a mouthpiece is for the student to have a teacher with many different mouthpieces to try. No single mouthpiece will be the best for every student. Plan B involves taking advantage of mouthpiece trial offers (ordering several and returning the ones you don’t want) from some music stores (usually online).

Here are my suggestions:

Clarinet: smaller 4th or 5th grade student – Hite Premier

Preferred for 6th grade and up – Vandoren M15

Soprano saxophone – general playing – Vandoren S25

Alto saxophone – Concert band -

Best Value – Rousseau 4R

Best for blend in concert band - Vandoren AL 3.

Slightly brighter – Vandoren A25

Jazz band –

Vandoren Java A35

Vandoren V16, 5M facing

Tenor Saxophone – Concert band –

Best Value – Rousseau 4R

Slightly brighter - Vandoren T25

Jazz band –

MANY of these, but I would recommend the Vandoren Java Series –T45

Bari Saxophone – Concert band

Best Value – Rousseau 4R

Vandoren B27

Jazz band – again, many of these

Vandoren B35 is good.

These are not the only good mouthpieces, and there will never be complete agreement on the “best” mouthpiece.