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Principal

**Will Nowling**
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***Home of the Wildcats!***

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**2014-2015**

**MEMO: Important Information to all Parents**

**RE: All Beginning and Advanced Band Members**

**FROM: Stacy Rohde, Band Director at WBMS**

Several local music stores and area school band directors are now experiencing the negative results created by the marketing of band instruments that are of poor quality but attractive to consumers because of their rather low price. These instruments are predominantly manufactured in China, India, Indonesia and other third world countries. These instruments are showing up on the Internet auction sites, wholesale clubs, and discount department stores.

The problem is twofold, first, repair facilities have no parts and cannot even begin to find the manufacturer to obtain parts; and second, the materials and craftsmanship do not respond to adjustments for any length of time. Considering these facts, many music stores are adopting the policy that they ***WILL NOT SELL, TRADE, or REPAIR SUCH INSTRUMENTS***. Please consider the consequences of purchasing poorly made, low-priced instruments.

The following are some of the brands to caution parents about:

First Act Simba Windsor

Cadet Accent Parrot

Rhythm Stuebin Pathfinder

Image Iolite Steubar

Winston Heimer Skylark

Rhyme Bestler Bandfolio

 Wexler Lark Maestro

Concert Works Belcrest Symphony

Tempo Dixon Victory

Concer Mark II LaFayette

Artist Burlington

Belmonte Palentino

This is a difficult situation because quality may not be apparent, and it seems most expedient to notify parents of this situation. Such situations usually lead to frustration and are not conducive to success in band. Area music stores and school band directors alike, welcome any opportunity to work together to avoid such failures that will protect the integrity of instrumental music programs in Northwest Florida.