Mouthpiece Recommendations:

Middle School/High School:
Holton MDC

High School:
Schilke 39

Advanced High School/College:
Laskey Series

- This is where the “choosing one’s mouthpiece” adventure begins in earnest. I equate this to choosing a wand in the Harry Potter Universe.
- I recommend sticking with the G or J series from Laskey.
- There is a “Teacher Set” that can be acquired for students to try out different rim sizes in the series.
  https://houghtonhorns.com/products/laskey-french-horn-one-piece-mouthpiece-teacher-set

Beyond High School:
Informing students about the differences in mouthpieces is critical and there are infinite styles and makes to choose from.

- One of the best and easiest things to experiment with is the mouthpiece rim. It is the thing we put our lips on and thus crucial to a player’s comfort and versatility in playing.
- Students may want to find a mouthpiece cup that they like that has a detachable rim and therefore the experimentation can begin. Houser is a great company that sells tons of different rims in different materials. They are always very fair about returns, so students can try multiple rims in one go.
  https://housermouthpiece.net/product-category/horn/horn-rims/

Horn Recommendations:

Middle school & High school:

Conn 8D

- Widely used and widely loved. It is a dark sound, relatively easy to learn on and cheap to acquire

Hoyer 6800 series

- A similar large-bore size as the Conn, these horns are a little more consistent in quality.

High school only:

Yamaha 671

- A great intermediate “Geyer-wrap” horn. These horns imitate some of the great handmade horns on the market and do a good job of it.

Shires Q-series

- Similar to the Yamaha, this is a “Geyer-wrap” and serves as a less-expensive alternative for an advanced student looking to level-up in instrument quality.

**Why Geyer-wrap in high school only? This wrap, while very popular, really is a “professional model” in that it requires a different kind of air to be played efficiently. The “sizzle” that you sometimes hear in great orchestral horn sections is largely because of the smaller wrap’s reaction to fast, concentrated air. This technique required practice and a lot of control. It is easy for younger students to hurt themselves trying to create a “large-bore” sound on a “small-bore” instrument.

Suggested Etude books:

Progressive Studies in Flexibility and Range Development

- Fred W. Teuber

Pares Scales

- Gabriel Parès

For advanced middle school students and high school students, these etude books are a higher degree of difficulty both technically and musically:

Sixty Selected Studies for Horn

- Georg Kopprasch

Two-Hundred New Melodic and Gradual Studies for Horn (in 6 books going up in difficulty)

- Maxime-Alphonse

Other Equipment Recommendations:

Hand Strap:

- Fhrap (velcro hand strap for small hands or anyone feeling discomfort holding the horn with the left hand.

BERP (Buzz Extension Resistance Piece)

- Great tool that clamps onto the lead pipe.