



BEGINNING BAND?

What Instrument Will My Child Play?

Welcome to what is surely going to be a great experience. I am eagerly awaiting our first rehearsal and am looking forward to many wonderful performances. Before your child decides which instrument he/she would like to play, let me take a moment to explain the instrument selection process.

By now, all interested students have been introduced to the instruments of the beginning band ensemble. At this time, students were given the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to each instrument. After all of the instruments have been discussed, a form will be distributed to each student listing all of the instrumental choices and the instrument that best suits them. The student will then be responsible for taking this form home and discussing his/her choice with their parent or guardian. To help make this monumental decision a little easier for you and your child, let me further explain additional information regarding instrument selection.

Musically, the first group objective is to achieve and maintain an appropriately balanced instrumentation. This means that in order for each student to have the best educational experience, all of the musical parts and instruments need to be represented accordingly. Although my intention is for each student to play the instrument that he/she chooses first, I would like to draw your attention to some other very important instruments that may not have been originally considered.

In Band, there are certain instruments that we usually have an abundance of like: saxophone, percussion, flute, clarinet and trumpet. They are important to the group, but we often need more trombones, baritone horns, French horns, oboes, bass clarinets, and bassoons to balance the ensemble. When there are too many students playing the same instrument, the lesson groups become excessively large. Oversized lesson groups limit the time for individual attention—which will directly affect progress. Lack of progress will, in turn lower morale and interest, as well as negatively affect the success of the ensemble. Too many students playing the same instrument will also distort the sound of the group. In short, if there are too many requests for a particular instrument, we will have to consider second or third choices.

If your child has not chosen an instrument yet, don't worry. I will schedule a time to meet with each student, individually, to: review choices, answer additional questions, and finalize the decision. **YOU MAY GO TO A MUSIC STORE AND TRY OUT ANY OF THE BAND INSTRUMENTS.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at school or email me.

Thank you for your continued support and happy instrument hunting!