

Mary Orr Beginning Band



Instrument Selection Guide

Like Harry Potter..... You don't choose the instrument, the instrument chooses you!



Woodwind/Brass Signup Sessions

May 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

<http://bit.ly/InstrumentSession>



Percussion Signup Sessions

May 7

Note: You must also signup for woodwind/brass sessions if wanting to tryout for percussion

<http://bit.ly/PercussionSession>



Band Instrument Selection Guide

Woodwind Family

Flute

The flute is the smallest of the beginner instruments. It is a very popular selection each year and enjoy having a lot of flute students in this class (15-20 usually sign up to play the flute). Flutes are part of the woodwind family. In the band the flute players play most of the melody with the band. Students typically rent a flute from a reputable music company in the area. Students typically rent a flute from a reputable music company in the area.



Flute

Oboe

The oboe is a school owned instrument. The oboe is similar in its appearance to a clarinet, but it is played using a “double reed” instead of a single reed and mouthpiece. The oboe adds ‘color’ to the band. Selection of oboe players is EXTREMELY limited. VERY few will actually be selected for oboe. Students who select this instrument and successfully play through high school have been known to receive scholarships for college.

We typically have 3 oboe students every year. Other Considerations: Because the oboe is such a difficult instrument to master, only students with high academic performance records will be considered. Students who choose (and are selected) to play oboe are REQUIRED to take weekly private lessons with an MISD District approved lesson teacher. Private lessons cost \$19.00 per week. Students are required to maintain a supply of 3-4 high-quality reeds at ALL times. Reeds can cost \$15-20 each. With proper care, reeds can last 3-4 months.



Oboe

Bassoon

The bassoon is a school owned instrument. The bassoon is the largest instrument in the woodwind family. It is similar to the oboe in the fact that it uses a double reed to produce the sound and adds color to the band. VERY few students will be selected to play Bassoon. Students who select this instrument and successfully play through high school have been known to receive scholarships for college. We choose around 3 bassoon

students every year. Other Considerations: Like the oboe, the bassoon is such a difficult instrument to master, only students with high academic performance records will be considered. Students who choose (and are selected) to play oboe are REQUIRED to take weekly private lessons with an MISD District approved lesson teacher. Private lessons cost \$19.00 per week. Students are required to maintain a supply of 3-4 high-quality reeds at ALL times. Reeds can cost \$15-20 each. With proper care, reeds can last 3-4 months.



Bassoon

Clarinet

Unlike the oboe, the clarinet uses a “single reed” and a mouthpiece to produce the sound. Like the flute, clarinets play most of the melody in the band. So we like a lot of students in the clarinet class! Students typically rent a clarinet from a reputable music company in the area. Like the flute we have about 15-25 students join this class! Other Considerations: Clarinet players are also responsible for maintaining a working stock of 4-6 quality reeds. A box of 10 reeds costs \$30.00 and can last (with proper care) up to 4 months.



Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

The alto saxophone gives the impression of being both a brass AND a woodwind instrument, however it is indeed considered a woodwind instrument. The alto saxophone (which uses a single reed like the clarinet) is a very popular instrument like percussion and only a few students will be chosen to play it. Students typically rent a saxophone from a reputable music company in the area. The Mary Orr Band selects approximately 6-8 saxophone students per year depending on enrollment.

Other Considerations: Saxophone players are responsible for maintaining a working stock of 4-6 quality reeds. A box of 10 reeds costs \$30.00 and can last (with proper care) up to 4 months. Alto Saxophone students will have the opportunity after their first year of instruction to audition for Tenor Sax or Baritone Sax (based on their proven musical and behavioral abilities while in alto saxophone class).



Saxophone

Brass Family

Trumpet

The trumpet is the smallest member of the brass family. The sound of the trumpet is produced by buzzing into a small mouthpiece. Students who choose the trumpet are confident and will enjoy being in the spotlight because they play most of the melody in the band. As a result, we sign up a lot of trumpet students in this class, usually about 15-20 students select the trumpet as their instrument of choice! Students typically rent a trumpet from a reputable music company in the area.



Trumpet

French Horn

The French Horn is also a member of the brass family. French Horns are school owned instruments. Students with good musical ears (such as those who love to sing or can distinguish between different musical tones) should consider French Horn. Students who select this instrument and successfully play through high school have been known to receive scholarships for college. Other Considerations: Students who choose to play French Horn are REQUIRED to take weekly private lessons with an MISD District approved lesson teacher. Private lessons cost \$19.00 per week. Because the French Horn is such a difficult instrument to master, only students with high academic performance records will be considered.



French Horn

Trombone

Like the French Horn, trombone players should have good “musical ears”. The trombone is played like the other brass instruments (buzzing into a cup-shaped mouthpiece), but uses a slide instead of valves. The slide is not marked or notched and players rely on their memory and listening skills to tell if they are in the exact proper location. Students with good musical ears (such as who love to sing) should consider Trombone. Students typically rent a trombone from a reputable music company in the area. Another popular instrument and we have about 15-20 students that sign up for the trombone. Other Considerations: While some might think that trombone players must have long arms, the truth is there are numerous accommodations that make it possible for students of all shapes and sizes to play. Trombone players should have slightly fuller lips than average.



Trombone

Euphonium (Baritone)

The euphonium (you-PHONE-knee-yum) is sometimes known as the baritone. The euphoniums are school owned instruments. It is a member of the brass family and looks like a small version of a tuba. Its sound is similar to that of a trombone, but it uses valves (like trumpet) instead of a slide (like trombone). We have around 4-6 baritone players in the 6th grade class.



Euphonium

Tuba

The tuba is a school owned instrument. The tuba is the largest and **most important instrument in the band** and many would believe would be hard to physically manage. But they aren't! The tubas we use for beginners are $\frac{3}{4}$ size and easy to handle. We would love as many as we can get but usually around 6-10 tubists! Other Considerations: Tuba players need to have full lips and a large lung capacity. While the size of the student doesn't matter TOO much, a long torso (upper body) helps a student reach the mouthpiece of the tuba while resting the bottom of the tuba on the edge of their chair or across the thighs. The tuba provides the musical foundation for the band and requires players that are self-motivated over-achievers.



Tuba

Percussion (drums)

Just because you are always tapping on things does not mean you are a natural percussionist (drummer). In fact, the percussion section is the most select, hand-picked section of the band. Only students with extremely high gross and fine motor skills will be considered for percussion. Percussion class consists of playing marimba for half the class and snare pad for the other half of class. The Mary Orr Band typically selects approximately 6-8 percussion students per year depending on enrollment. Other Considerations: Students should exhibit a great deal of coordination in gross and fine motor skills. The study of percussion includes bells, triangle, cymbals, tambourine, maracas, and claves, timpani, among many other instruments.



Percussion