

INSTRUMENTS

OF THE CCCSD BAND AND ORCHESTRA



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TO SEE AND HEAR WHAT EACH
INSTRUMENT PLAYS AND SOUNDS LIKE.



Woodwinds

All of the woodwinds have similar finger patterns and play in treble clef. Most require reeds (other than flute) which must be replenished as the reed wears out over time. Each of these instruments are a member of an instrument family. As students age in middle school, they may choose to play one of the larger members of their instrument family such as bassoon, bass clarinet or tenor and baritone saxophone.

OBOE: The oboe uses a double reed to produce its sound. This means that 2 reeds vibrate together to produce the oboe's unique tone color. There are no more than 1-2 oboes in a band. Oboes must be rented or purchased privately.



FLUTE: Flutes play the highest pitches in the band and usually have the melody in ensembles. Sound is produced by blowing over the hole in the head joint. Flutes must be rented or purchased privately.



CLARINET: The clarinet uses a single reed to produce sound. Clarinets must be rented or purchased privately.



ALTO SAXOPHONE: The alto saxophone uses a single reed to produce their sound. Saxophones must be rented or purchased privately.



Brass

All brass instruments produce their sound when the lips are buzzed together into a cup shaped mouthpiece. The tension of the lips combined with airspeed help to control pitch.

TRUMPET: The trumpet is the highest sounding instrument in the brass family. Trumpets usually play the melody in ensembles. Trumpets must be rented or purchased privately.



FRENCH HORN: The French Horn is noted for its' full tone and beautiful harmonic blend in an ensemble. French horns are rented through the school district.



TROMBONE: The trombone is the only brass instrument without valves-it uses the slide to change pitch. Trombone and baritone provide the harmonic bass line in the band. They read bass clef. Trombones may be rented or purchased privately with the option of renting a second instrument through the school district.



BARITONE (EUPHONIUM): The baritone plays music similar to the trombone, but uses valves to produce different pitches. The fingerings are similar to trumpet but baritone plays in the bass clef. Baritones are rented through the school district.



Percussion

***Percussion** describes any instrument that is tapped, shaken or scraped. Students must rent/purchase both a practice pad and bell kit. Instruction will be given in both instruments equally, as well as auxillary instruments for the band. Confidence and organization*



Strings

All string instruments can be played by plucking the strings or by pulling the bow across the strings. Both cause the string to vibrate, which creates sound.

Violin: The violin is the highest-pitch instrument in the string family, and the smallest. The instrument is placed on the shoulder, and the bow is drawn across the strings. In orchestra, the violin plays melody and harmony parts.

Viola: The viola is slightly lower-pitched than the violin, but it is still held on the shoulder. Beginners often play similar size violins and violas, but high school students and professionals typically play violas which are bigger than violins. The viola also gets its very own clef - alto clef!



Cello: The cello is played sitting down, with the instrument resting on the floor. People of any size can play the cello! The cello is lower in pitch than the viola, but not as low as the bass. In orchestra, the cello typically plays melody and harmonies. Cello players often rent an instrument to keep at home, and use a school instrument in class, so they don't have to transport the cello.

Bass: Bass is the largest string instrument and is played standing or on a tall stool. It is also the lowest pitched instrument in the orchestra. Like cello, students of any size can play the bass! Bass players also typically keep an instrument at home and an instrument at school to avoid transporting their bass.

