

# *Beginner Instrument Guide*

This guide will help you to understand and identify the different instruments that are in the band. The band is made up of instruments from the Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion families.

Instrument choices listed in **YELLOW** are ones that must be provided by the student or rented/purchased from a music store such as Paige's Music. Those listed in **GREEN** are ones that are school-owned and you will rent from us directly.

## The Woodwind Family of Instruments



This is a **FLUTE**. The flute is played by blowing air across a hole in the top part of the instrument and notes are changed by pressing down keys.



This instrument is called an **OBOE**. The oboe is played by blowing air through a straw-like reed at the top of the instrument and notes are changed by pressing down keys.

Weekly private lessons with an oboe teacher are provided by the school.



Pictured here is the CLARINET. Unlike the oboe, it has only one reed that is strapped to a mouthpiece. When air is blown into the mouthpiece, a sound is produced.



This instrument is a larger version of the clarinet. It is called the BASS CLARINET. It plays the same way as the smaller version, but plays lower notes. A school-owned instrument is provided to the students to use for a fee, however, there are a limited number.



The BASSOON is a very unique instrument. It has a double-reed like the oboe, but the instrument is larger and plays lower notes. It has a very distinct tone. Bassoons are provided to students to use for a fee by the school because they are very expensive to buy. Weekly private lessons with a bassoon teacher are provided by the school.



The ALTO SAXOPHONE is an instrument that uses a reed on a mouthpiece; similar to a clarinet. The player hangs the instrument from a strap worn around the neck. \*Only a limited number of students may play saxophone, so those choosing it should have a second choice to fall back on.



The TENOR SAXOPHONE is a slightly larger version of the Alto Saxophone. Since it is larger, it plays notes that are somewhat lower. \*Only a limited number of students may play saxophone, so those choosing it should have a second choice to fall back on.

## The Brass family of Instruments



This is the TRUMPET. It is the smallest instrument in the brass family and plays the highest notes. It is played by “buzzing” ones lips together while air is blown into the instrument. This produces the sound.





The FRENCH HORN has a very mellow and beautiful tone. It is played in a similar way to the trumpet, but held differently.

A school-owned instrument is provided for the student to use for a fee.



The TROMBONE is played in the same way as the other brass instruments, however it is unique because the notes are changed through the use of a slide instead of valves or keys.



The EUPHONIUM (sometimes called the Baritone) is a low brass instrument. It is slightly larger than a trombone and uses valves to change the notes instead of a slide.

Euphoniums are provided to students by the school to use for a fee.

Usually, we can provide a euphonium to keep at home so that there is no need to carry it to and from school.



This is a TUBA. It is the largest and lowest of the brass instruments. It is like a Euphonium, only slightly larger. It provides bass for the band.

Like the Euphonium, a school-owned tuba will be provided for the students to use for a small fee. Usually, we can provide a tuba to keep at home so that there is no need to carry it to and from school.

## The Percussion Family of Instruments



When a student becomes a PERCUSSIONIST, they are required to learn many different skills. Not only do the students learn to play drums, they must know how to play many other such as xylophone, marimba, bells, cymbals, and many others.

Percussion players will be required to rent or purchase a xylophone kit for home practice.

Percussion students are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school. When students are chosen to be in the percussion section, preference is given to those who have previous instrumental experience such as piano lessons. Since spots are limited, students choosing percussion should have a second choice as a back up.