

Percussion in 6th Grade

Percussion is a challenging and exciting instrument choice for beginning musicians. Anyone can “bang” on a drum and many students feel that drums are an easy instrument to play. In reality, percussion instruments demand a lot of work to be played musically and percussionists are required to be dedicated students to meet the challenges of the instruments. Percussion is THE MOST challenging part of band.

What do you look for in a percussionist?

To be successful, we find that student percussionists are the most successful if they:

- are good students in their classes. This doesn't mean all A's, but it does mean that the students know how to study and usually get their homework done and turned in on time.
- behave themselves in class, are trustworthy and are responsible. **MATURE.**
- are willing to take private lessons (usually for a weekly or monthly fee). Some students are already doing this. **REQUIRED.** We have a list of teachers.
- are supported by their parents. Expenses for lessons and supplies add up over the years. Students need encouragement to practice at home. Musicians must come to required concerts. Students are expected to participate in solo contest.
- have taken piano lessons. This is not required, but these students will have a head start on keyboard instruments.
- have a certain level of control in their hands and can demonstrate some musical concepts.
- **MUST BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER BAND**

What equipment will I need for percussion?

Percussionists will need a snare drum or drum pad, a set of orchestra bells. These may be rented or purchased together or individually. You will also need appropriate sticks, mallets, stick bag, and the required band books. If you already own a drum, you will need to find a set of bells. Paiges Music has the required list of percussion materials that you need. See other side.

What if I just want to play Drumset and do not want to play bells or that other stuff?

Every year some students feel this way. Middle school students who play Drumset learn to do it on their own with a private teacher. We like to see our students become well-rounded musicians who can play ALL of the percussion instruments. If you have no desire to work on these other instruments then you should not join the school band. Instead, buy a Drumset and get a good teacher to work with you.

How do I sign up for percussion?

EVERY student wanting to play percussion **must** audition with Mr Beckom. We usually accept 6-8 percussionists. Auditions will be held **Wednesday evening, April 25 AT THE CALL-OUT NIGHT**. You may then see the Paige's folks for instrument rental information.

What happens if I am not accepted as a percussionist?

This is the neat part! We need so many different instruments that even though you may not get your first choice, there are plenty of instruments left! We will find an instrument for you to play if you really want to be in the band!

List of teachers (required)

1. Mr Beckom, 765-480-6602

List of equipment (Paiges Music has the complete list. 1-800-382-1099; www.paigesmusic.com)

The percussionist kit comes with:
snare drum OR practice pad
bell kit w/ mallets

The Stick Bag includes:
snare sticks
timpani mallets
hard plastic mallets
rubber mallets
yarn mallets

Metronomes are optional but highly recommended!

Please see me if you have any questions!!! Or send an email:
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