

The Instruments of Band

MVUSD

Music Connections / Recorders

Dr. Garvin

Don't worry, you are ready!

- Sometimes, students are worried about doing new things.
- From our music connections, recorder class, even piano or other music lessons, you are ready for a great adventure.
- First, let's learn some facts about instruments in band!

Starting Instruments of Band

- There are three main instrument "families" in the band. They are called:
 - Woodwinds
 - Brass
 - Percussion (Limited)

The Woodwind Family

- In **5th Grade**, the Woodwind family is made up of **Flute**, **Clarinet**, **Bass Clarinet** and the **Saxophones**.
- Later in upper grades with training, you can switch to an **Oboe**, or even a **Bassoon** (Double Reeds).



Flute

- The flute is one of the highest sounding woodwind instruments.
- The flute is held level with the floor, unlike most other instruments that are held like the recorder.
- To produce sound, covered keys are pressed down by the players fingers.
- Even air is used across the top opening, at the mouthpiece.



Clarinet



- The clarinet is played by covering the holes and pressing the keys.
- A single reed, which is attached on the mouthpiece, is used to produce sound.
- It is held like a recorder. (Left hand on top)
- 4 "back up" reeds are kept ready for use in the players instrument case.

Alto Saxophone

- A saxophone is like a clarinet, because it plays with a single reed on its' mouthpiece. Back up reeds are also kept ready.
- There are three types. They are *Alto*, *Tenor*, and *Baritone* Saxophones.
- Talk to your teacher on which instrument is best!



Oboe (Advancing Instrument)

- Similar to the Clarinet, the Oboe is played by pressing down on different combinations of keys.
- Instead of having a single reed, like the clarinet, the oboe is played with a ***double reed***.
- Often, students learn this college instrument on the side while playing the 1st choice instrument.



Bassoon (Advancing Instrument)



- The Bassoon is the lowest sounding instrument in the ***double reed*** instruments.
- It also has a double reed like the Oboe.
- You sit in a chair, with a special strap to help hold it.
- Yes, learning on the side is often the first step!

The Brass Family



- The Brass family is made up of Trumpets, French Horns, Trombones, Baritone, and Tuba.
- *Treble Clef* Brass = Trumpets, French Horns, and Baritone.
- *Bass Clef* Brass = Trombones, Baritone and Tuba.

Trumpet (Treble Clef)

- The highest sounding instrument in the brass family is the trumpet.
- Smooth air and proper "ways" of playing are needed to sound good.
- Left Hand holds the instrument, right plays the valves (buttons on top). Those are the ABC – notes.



French Horn (Treble Clef)



- This instrument plays many different high/middle sounds.
- It is considered an advancing instrument.
- While playing, the left hand presses the valves and the right hand is placed inside the bell to help control its' best sound.

Trombone (Bass Clef)

- The trombone is unlike the other members of the brass family because there are no valves to push down.
- Different notes are played by putting the slide into different positions. (#1 –7)
- Special sounds can also be created that are called for in music that only this instrument is able to do.
- Right Hand holds the instrument, left moves the slide!



Baritone / Tuba (Bass Clef)

- The tuba is one of the lowest sounding instruments.
- It comes in smaller sizes to start. (Baritone - Tuba)
- Valves are pushed down by the player to produce different notes. (Right Hand)
- As players advance, they get the larger instruments.



The Percussion Family

- The percussion family consists of *instruments* that are played by striking with the hand or a mallet.
- The percussion section keeps the tempo and plays melody.
- Typical 5th grade instruments include: Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Xylophone/Bells, Cymbals, and more.



What do you remember?

- Which group of instruments does the oboe belong?
- How is the trombone different than the other members of the brass family?
- Name two typical 5th grade percussion instruments.
- How is doing things correctly now helpful later?

Moving Forward . . .

- In MVUSD, our Middle and High Schools have top rated Marching Bands, and when not representing on the field, students are in smaller selected groups playing different kinds of fun music all year!
- The friendships, the things you will see, and the places you will go are amazing!
- Each school and Band Director will help with your class scheduling.
- Make your school years, the best musical years!