

BEGINNING BAND

Instrument Interest & Fitting Form



Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Choosing Your Instrument

Choosing an instrument is an exciting first step in becoming a musician. Most students have an instrument they are immediately drawn to, while others aren't sure which instrument is right for them. Both are perfectly normal! Students will have the opportunity to learn about, hear, and try several instruments. Because every student is different, the instrument a student prefers and the instrument on which they are most successful are not always the same. Mr. Williams will help each student find an instrument that is a good fit.

Rank your three favorite choices: Write 1 beside your first choice, 2 beside your second choice, and 3 beside your third choice.

WOODWINDS

_____ Flute
_____ Clarinet
_____ Alto Saxophone

BRASS

_____ Trumpet / Cornet
_____ Trombone

PERCUSSION

_____ Percussion — bells & snare

MEET THE INSTRUMENTS

Use these descriptions to learn a little about each instrument. Your final instrument assignment will be based on your interests, the fitting process, and what gives you the best opportunity for success.



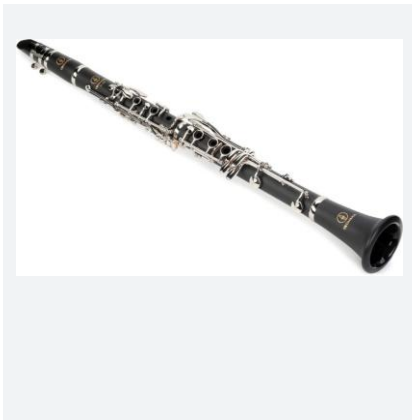
FLUTE • WOODWIND

A small, lightweight instrument with a beautiful, bright sound.

What students often like:

- Small and easy to carry
- Great for melody and expressive playing
- First sounds can take patience
- Finger coordination develops with practice

Good fit for: Students who enjoy melody, detail, and a lighter instrument.



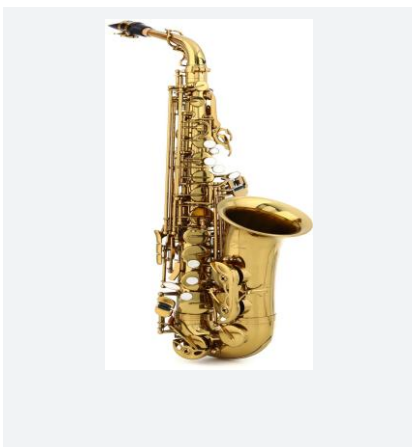
CLARINET • WOODWIND

A comfortable-size woodwind with a warm, beautiful sound.

What students often like:

- Good instrument for melody and harmony
- Relatively easy to transport
- Uses reeds that need periodic replacement
- Proper reed and instrument care is important

Good fit for: Students who enjoy melody, harmony, and a warm sound.



ALTO SAXOPHONE • WOODWIND

A bold, expressive instrument used in many styles of music.

What students often like:

- Fun and approachable for beginners
- Strong, expressive sound
- Larger and heavier than a clarinet
- Uses reeds that need periodic replacement

Good fit for: Students who enjoy a bold sound and expressive playing.



TRUMPET / CORNET • BRASS

A compact brass instrument with a bright, projecting sound.

What students often like:

- Important melody and harmony instrument
- Used in many musical styles
- Requires coordination of lips, air, and tongue
- Valve oil is needed for maintenance

Good fit for: Students who enjoy melody, energy, and a bright sound.



TROMBONE • BRASS

A larger brass instrument with a big, expressive sound.

What students often like:

- Uses a slide rather than valves
- Important low and harmony instrument
- Requires arm reach and coordination
- Slide lubricant is needed for maintenance

Good fit for: Students who enjoy a bigger sound and the challenge of a slide.



PERCUSSION • PERCUSSION

Percussion students learn both drums and keyboard instruments such as bells.

What students often like:

- Lots of variety
- Learn snare drum and keyboard percussion
- Requires coordination and concentration
- Practice equipment will be needed

Good fit for: Students who enjoy rhythm, variety, and learning multiple instruments.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Your child's first choice matters—but so does the right fit.

Students are often more motivated when they have an instrument they are excited about learning. However, the first-choice instrument is not always the instrument on which a student will have the greatest success. Mr. Williams will work with students during the fitting process to help determine which instrument is likely to be the best fit.

“Find the instrument that gives each student the best opportunity to succeed and enjoy making music.”

Renting vs. Buying

1. For beginning students, renting an instrument is generally recommended rather than purchasing one immediately.
2. Students sometimes change instruments after their first year.
3. Rental programs may include maintenance or repair services.
4. Some rental programs allow rental payments to be applied toward eventual purchase.
5. Quality instruments can be expensive, and poorly made instruments can make learning unnecessarily difficult.

Please contact Mr. Williams before purchasing an instrument, particularly if you are considering a used instrument or an unfamiliar brand online.

Taking Care of Your Instrument

Every instrument is an investment. Students will be taught how to properly assemble, clean, store, and transport their instruments. Students are expected to treat their instruments with care at all times.

Take care of your instrument and it will take care of you!

Instrument Fitting — For Mr. Williams' Use

Student: _____

Recommended Instrument: _____

Alternate Instrument: _____

Student's First Choice: _____

Student's Second Choice: _____

Student's Third Choice: _____

Fitting Notes:

Additional Considerations:

- ☐ Comfortable producing beginning sound
- ☐ Appropriate physical fit
- ☐ Demonstrates good initial coordination
- ☐ Strong interest in instrument
- ☐ Recommended for balanced ensemble needs
- ☐ Additional consideration needed

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I understand that my student's instrument preference is an important part of the selection process, but that the final instrument recommendation may be based on the student's individual fit, ability to produce a beginning sound, physical characteristics, and the needs of the JCCS Band.

I understand that beginning students should have a quality, properly functioning instrument and that I should consult with Mr. Williams before purchasing an instrument if I am uncertain about the quality or suitability of an instrument.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

JCCS BAND

Learn • Grow • Perform • Serve

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