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## SCHOOL BAND

Spring 2011



### Dear Parent:

In September, your child will have the opportunity to join the school band. Students will see and hear the instruments at a school assembly in the fall. Your child will come home with all of the information necessary to join the program and obtain an instrument.

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### Why is band important?

Although some view band as simply another club, it is much more than that.

- Band students average higher scores on SAT tests than other members of the student body.
- In a 1999 Columbia University study, students in music were found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident, and better able to express their ideas.
- College admissions officers cite participation in music programs as an important factor in making admissions decisions.
- Band is an investment in your child's future. A common remark from parents following a wonderful school concert is, "I wish my parents would have encouraged me to play an instrument and stick with it."

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There is nothing you need to do at this time. Lesson fees will be approximately \$51 per month (October thru May). All information regarding participation and instrument rental/sales will be distributed in the fall.

The instruments offered are on the reverse side. Please visit our website ([www.pauleffmanmusic.com](http://www.pauleffmanmusic.com)) for more pictures, videos, and sound clips. I hope this information will assist you.

Sincerely,

Paul Effman

Paul Effman Music Service (est. 1980)



Participants in our programs have the opportunity to rent or buy all major brands of instruments at a substantial discount. As an experienced teacher, performer, and technician, I urge you not buy instruments from mail order catalogs, e-bay, or non-music retail stores. These instruments may look shiny and seem like a good deal, but they are often poorly constructed and unplayable. Band students can become frustrated if they have a poor quality instrument.

Please note that your instrument decision is reversible. With input from parent, child, and teacher, switching instruments is not a problem. The choices shown below represent the instruments which are ideal for beginning elementary students.

### **THE WOODWIND FAMILY**



The flute is the smallest and highest pitched beginning band instrument. It is a member of the woodwind family even though it is made of metal and doesn't use a reed to create the sound. In order to produce a tone on the flute, the player blows across the hole of the mouthpiece. Aiming a thin air stream at the edge of the hole to make a sound can be a bit challenging at first but it gets much easier with time and practice.



The Clarinet is slightly larger than the flute, but is still a small instrument to carry. The clarinet has the largest pitch range among common woodwind instruments. While most clarinets are made of plastic, professional models are made of wood. Sound is produced by a vibrating a reed which is the same sound producing method as the saxophone. Producing a sound on the clarinet is fairly easy.



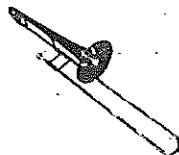
The Saxophone is the largest member of the woodwind family. Saxophones are made of metal and come in four sizes. The appropriate size for beginner students is the "alto" saxophone. Like the clarinet, the saxophone is a single reed instrument.

The clarinet and saxophone are similar in many ways. Some beginning students may not have hands large enough to fit around the saxophone keys. Those students may start with a clarinet and switch to the saxophone at a later date. You will receive information in the fall which will help you determine if the student is large enough to play the sax.

### **THE BRASS FAMILY**

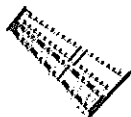


The Trumpet is the smallest member of the brass family. It is made of brass. As with all-brass instruments, sound is produced by buzzing your lips into the mouthpiece. The trumpet's bright and lively sound carries many of the melodies in the band. The trumpet is one of the most popular instruments for young players.

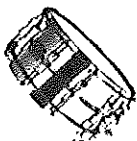


The Trombone is made of brass and plays many of the low notes and harmonies in the band. Like the trumpet, sound is produced by buzzing your lips into a mouthpiece. While other brass instruments change pitches by pressing valves to change the length of the air flow, the trombone player simply moves the slide in and out. Students who play the trombone should have a good ear and be able to sing in tune. Students who have an ability to match pitches will know when the slide is slightly too far in or out. But other than that, it's a relatively easy instrument to start with.

### **THE PERCUSSION FAMILY**



The Bell Lyre (also known as the glockenspiel) is a member of the percussion family. It produces sound by striking metal keys with a plastic or wooden mallet. The notes are configured like a piano keyboard, and usually the names of the notes are printed on each metal bar. When struck, the bars create a very pure, resonant sound.



The Drum is played by striking the drum head with two wooden sticks. Drummers have the important job of keeping the beat for the band. A common misconception about the drums is that they are easy. Actually, playing drums requires a great deal of focus and practice. The many instruments included in the percussion family include any instrument that is struck, shaken or scraped in order to produce the sound.