

BEGINNING BAND INSTRUMENT CHOICE FORM

Student Name (print clearly): _____ Grade in school: _____

In order to achieve a well balanced band experience, it is good to have all of the instruments represented in the band. Also, some students find their first choice instrument to be more challenging than expected, but the second or third choice instrument turns out to be the best.

Please indicate first choice, second choice and third choice by writing a "1" "2" and "3" on the line before the instrument name. See below for additional information about instruments.

WOODWINDS:

_____ Flute
_____ Oboe (contact Mr. McKenzie)
_____ Clarinet
_____ Saxophone
_____ Bassoon (contact Mr. McKenzie)

BRASS:

_____ Trumpet / Cornet
_____ French Horn
_____ Trombone
_____ Baritone Horn
_____ Tuba (contact Mr. McKenzie)

STRINGS: (contact Mr. McKenzie)

_____ Electric Bass, String Bass

PERCUSSION:

_____ Snare Drum and others.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

* Students are often more motivated to learn the instrument they are most interested in.

* Usually it is better to rent than to buy.

- 1) Some students change their minds after the first year and either switch or quit.
- 2) The market is flooded with cheap, inferior instruments which work poorly and break often.
- 3) Many music stores handle maintenance and minor repair at no additional cost to the renter.
- 4) Some music stores have a rent to own, or apply paid rent toward purchase policy.

• ALL INSTRUMENTS: MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE AND TREATED LIKE A BELOVED PET.
REPAIRS CAN BE VERY COSTLY.

FLUTE: small and easy to transport. Not too loud and makes a very pretty sound. Very enjoyable to play.
Tricky at first to generate a tone, some challenges at first with fingerings. Some private lessons at first help.

OBOE: relatively small to transport. Expensive to rent or buy. Reeds cost about \$15
Requires strong blowing, maybe not for those with asthma. Private lessons are very helpful at first.
I recommend learning clarinet first, but a determined student will enjoy playing the oboe.

BASSOON: the big brother of the Oboe. There is one for rent at the Music Connection. More expensive, Super Cool.
A larger instrument, definitely private lessons to help get started. Several good teachers in Chico.

CLARINET: relatively small to transport. Very pretty sound, and not loud. Very easy to start on.
Must purchase reeds to replace broken ones (with care, not very often), about \$2.00 each.

SAXOPHONE: bigger and heavier than the clarinet. Easy to learn and play, very fun. Feels heavy at first.
Has a big, bold sound. Perhaps not the best where quiet practice is essential. Reeds cost \$3.00.
Comes in 4 sizes! Most start on Alto Sax. Some on Tenor (bigger/heavier). Learn one, you've learned them all.

BRASS INSTRUMENTS: Trumpet & French Horn are medium size. Trombone and Baritone Horn are bigger.
All are on the louder side, though they can be played softly with experience.
Can be very problematic for students with braces. Require valve or slide oil (\$8)
Trombone requires a long reach and is not appropriate for small students.

STRINGS & TUBA: These instruments are large, especially Tuba and String Bass.
Both String Bass (violin) and Electric Bass (guitar) come in small sizes for smaller students.
Electric Bass is probably the easiest to start on and is not too big. A practice amp at home is a plus.

PERCUSSION: Requires drum sticks (\$5). A practice pad is a good investment (\$15,) but a phone book works.