

Band Information!

Check out the 4th gr. band powerpoint presentation at:

slpbands.com

- Apr. 24, 27, 28 & 29:** Music class instrument demonstrations during school day by Mrs. Seiler.
- Tues., May 5:** 8th gr. band demo concert in morning for 4th graders at WMS cafeteria.
- Tues., May 5:** Parent/child demonstration of instruments & band signup: 6:30 pm, WW cafeteria.
- Fri., May 8 :** **Deadline** for choosing an instrument and returning band registration form, choices 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
- Thurs., May 21:** Confirmation letters mailed home this week with instrument assignment.
- Thurs., May 27:** 5th Gr. band concert for WI student body and teachers, WW cafeteria, 2 p.m.
- Thurs., May 28:** Schmitt Music display night, WI band rm 100, 5-7 p.m.
- Sept. 2009:** 5th gr. band lessons begin 2nd week of September!
(Band is a full school year commitment)



WI/WMS Band Teachers

Mrs. Julie Seiler

(763) 795-6361

jseile@isd16.org

Mr. Chris Assimacopoulos

Mr. Jeremy Mann



Instrument Choices

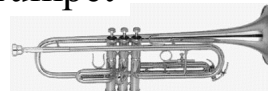
Flute



Alto
Saxophone



Trumpet



Oboe



Tenor
Saxophone



*French
Horn



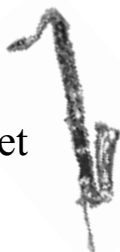
*Bassoon



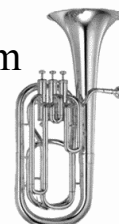
Clarinet



*Bass
Clarinet



*Euphonium



*Tuba



Trombone



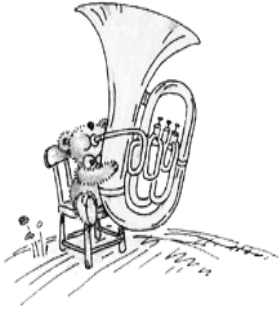
Percussion



*Indicates school rental instrument



Considerations in Instrument Selection: *How to Set Your Child Up For Success*



Several criteria are important in determining what instrument a child should play:

- The need for balanced instrumentation
- The child's physical characteristics
- How musically suited each child is to a particular instrument
- The interest of the child

In recent years, flute & alto saxophone interest has been greater than our instrumentation needs. A *balanced instrumentation* is very important for our band students if they are to have the best possible musical experience. This is why students need to make a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice instrument.

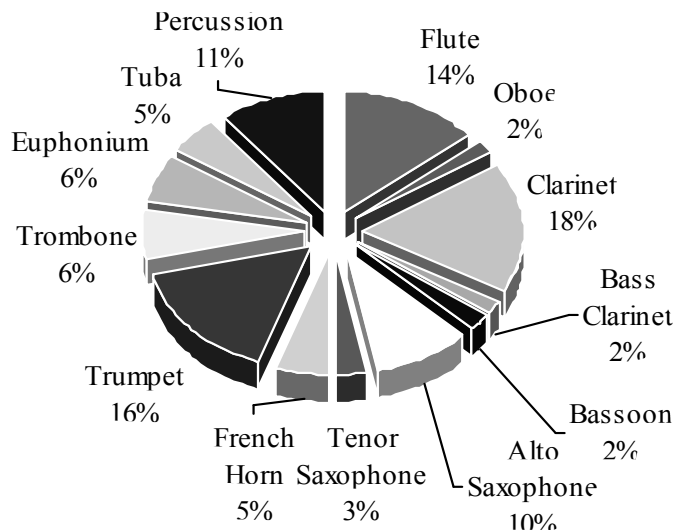
Begin by making an assessment of your child's *physical characteristics*-overbites, teeth structures, mouth shapes, hand size, finger length, and overall physical stature. If your child has an unusual physical characteristic which you feel may need to be considered in choosing an instrument, please tell a band director. Also, note that students with braces can be successful on any brass or woodwind instrument.

Consider your child's *musical aptitude*. Children who are able to perceive differences in pitch, and who are able to sing well in tune should be encouraged to play instruments that require a strong ear such as oboe and french horn. Playing percussion requires strong rhythmic aptitude, knowledge of both treble & bass clef notes, and the ability to work independently & be organized. **Previous piano lessons are highly recommended for percussion students.**

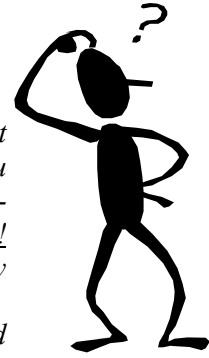
The *interest* of your child is very important. Children highly motivated to learn a particular instrument are more likely to succeed. Your child may also need to be encouraged to practice. Many children are not able to schedule practice time and stick to it on their own. They do need help!

Hopefully, these suggestions will help you and your child in making your instrument choices. The band teachers can be of assistance to you and your child weighing the criteria and choosing an instrument with which they can be **SUCCESSFUL!**

Good Luck!



Frequently Asked Questions



⇒ Besides a music store rental, where can I get an instrument?

There are many good quality, used instruments for sale. They can be found at music stores, in the classifieds, and via word of mouth. Please make sure you have the instrument checked over by a band director or an instrument repair person prior to Sept. '09. If web shopping, please check with a band teacher first! You need to be careful when making web purchases, as there is are lot of "low quality", and just plain "junk" instruments for sale via web. (Percussionists will need to rent or purchase a practice marimba or bell set and practice pad).

⇒ How will I know what instrument to play?

You will get a better idea of your choices at the band information/demonstration evening (Tues., May 5), and from in-class demonstrations with Mrs. Seiler. Students will select instrument choices 1, 2, and 3.

⇒ We already own an instrument my child wants to play. Do I still have to put down three choices?

Yes, but be sure to indicate on the registration form (pink) that you already own the instrument in the "additional comments" section. (If your child has already had lessons on the instrument or another instrument, please indicate that as well.) Please make sure the instrument is in proper working order. Schmitt Music's repair shop in Brooklyn Center may be of help (763)566-4560 in checking the instrument.

⇒ When will I know which instrument I have been assigned?

Mrs. Seiler will contact you if you didn't receive your 1st choice after Fri., May 8 (the last day for registrations).

⇒ Do you recommend getting an instrument through one of the music stores?

Absolutely! "Renting to purchase" is affordable and the instrument is guaranteed to be in good working condition.

⇒ Where can I rent/buy an instrument?

Schmitt Music, Coon Rapids (763) 421-4430, will be at WI for display/contract night, Thurs. May 28, from 5-7 pm, to provide additional information. Schmitt Music will be delivering rental instruments to WI by the 1st week in September '09 unless directed otherwise by parent(s)/guardian(s).

⇒ How often and how long are band lessons during the school day?

Approximately 20 minutes, on a 7 or 8 day rotation, in a group of like instruments. Large band rehearsal (once a week for approx. 20-30 min.) will begin later in the school year when the students are ready, possibly Feb. Large band rehearsal will be held during morning time from 8:40-9:20 am.

⇒ When do lessons begin?

The second week of September. Schmitt Music rental instruments will be delivered to WI by the first week of September if requested by parent(s)/guardian(s).

⇒ Are private lessons required?

No, but they are highly recommended any time a student begins playing. Oboe students are strongly encouraged, and bassoon players are required to take outside private lessons.

⇒ What books do students need?

“Musical Magic, Book I” & “Rehearsal Preps & Pieces” both by Rita Jarrard.

⇒ How much should students practice?

It takes 20-30 minutes of practice, 4-5 times per week, to progress satisfactorily on a band instrument.

⇒ Does the school have instruments for rent?

Yes, Westwood Intermediate has some instruments for rent, but the numbers are limited due to the large numbers of student in the band program. Rentals include: French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Clarinet, and possibly Bassoon.

⇒ Besides an instrument, what books & supplies does my child need for band?

2 Books: “Musical Magic, Book I” & “Rehearsal Preps & Pieces” both by Rita Jarrard.

A folding stand for home practice.

Brass: valve oil & tuning slide grease, polishing cloth

Woodwinds: swab for cleaning, cork grease.

Instrument Rental Information!!

Spring Lake Park’s District 16 “Exclusive” Music Representative is:

**Schmitt Music
Coon Rapids Store
(763) 421-4430**

Rental details available from Schmitt Music during display night (Thurs. May 28) . Rental instruments will be delivered to WI unless requested otherwise.

With an instrument rental you receive:

1. 6 FREE private lessons at a Schmitt Music store.
2. A quality, band director approved instrument.
3. Upgraded mouthpiece & reeds for woodwinds.

**Questions?? Call or email Mrs. Seiler at (763) 795-6361 or
jseile@isd16.org.**

*****Bring this page with you to Registration Night!***
(Tues., May 5)
Westwood Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.**

Student's Name _____ Homeroom Teacher _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Phone(s) _____

_____ Email _____

I would like to play: (number choice 1, 2, 3)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ___ Flute | ___ Clarinet | ___ Euphonium*
<i>(rental through WI)</i> |
| ___ Oboe
<i>(band teacher approval needed)</i> | ___ Trumpet | ___ Trombone |
| ___ Bassoon*
<i>(outside private lesson required)</i>
<i>(rental through WI if available)</i>
<i>(band teacher approval needed)</i> | ___ Tenor Saxophone | ___ Alto Saxophone |
| ___ French Horn*
<i>(rental through WI)</i> | ___ Tuba*
<i>(rental through WI)</i> | ___ Percussion
<i>(band teacher approval needed)</i>
<i>(Previous piano lessons recommended)</i>
<i>(Must take aptitude test at band signup)</i> |
| ___ Bass Clarinet*
<i>(rental through WI)</i> | | |

I have had music lessons on _____ . How long? _____

A \$95.00 rental fee for *school rental instruments will be required in Sept. '09.

Additional Comments