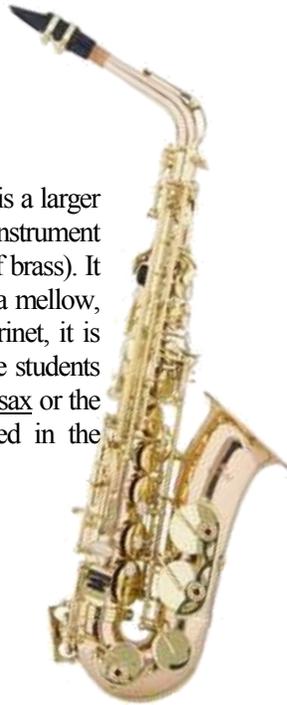


What Instruments are Taught in Beginning Band?

The Woodwind Family



Flute – Even though this instrument is made of metal, it is a woodwind instrument. It is silver in color, and has many keys. It has the highest sound of any instrument in the band (besides piccolo, which is really a small flute). We like to start a fairly large number of students on flute.



Alto Saxophone – This is a larger and heavier woodwind instrument (even though it's made of brass). It is gold in color, and has a mellow, dark sound. Like the clarinet, it is played with a reed. Some students eventually play the tenor sax or the bari sax. Space is limited in the saxophone class.



Oboe – The oboe, like the clarinet, is a black instrument made of wood that has many keys. It, however, is played with a double reed rather than a single reed. The oboe has a higher sound, and often plays the melody in band music. Space in the oboe class is very limited.



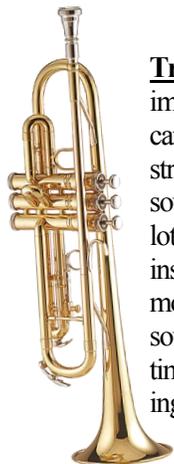
Clarinet – The clarinet is a black instrument made of wood that has many keys. It is played with a reed, and can play a wide range of sounds from high to low. The reed is attached to a mouthpiece and goes into the mouth. We need to have a large number of students start out on clarinet. Later in the year, we sometimes switch clarinet students to playing the bass clarinet or contra clarinet.



Bassoon – The bassoon is one of the larger instruments in the woodwind family. It is made of wood, and has more keys than any other instrument. In order to reach all of those keys, bassoon players should have long fingers. The bassoon makes low sounds, and often plays the bass line in band music, but it is also capable of playing beautiful melodies. Like the oboe, the bassoon is a double reed instrument. Space in the bassoon class is very limited.

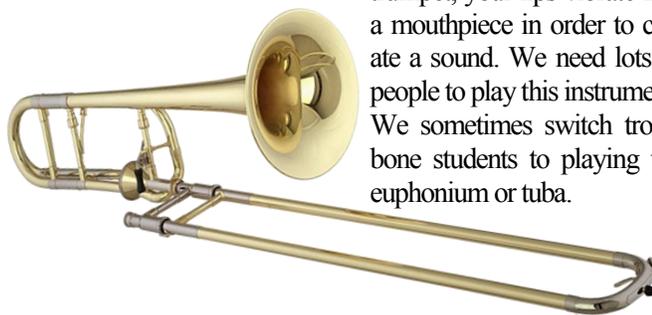
What Instruments are Taught in Beginning Band?

The Brass and Percussion Family



Trumpet (or Cornet) – This is an important instrument in the band. It carries many melodies, and plays strong and loud. It has a higher sound, and we always like to have a lot of people play this important instrument. Your lips vibrate into a mouthpiece in order to create a sound. From trumpet, we sometimes switch some students to playing the French horn, euphonium, or

Trombone – This instrument has a deeper, low sound, and has a slide for the hand. This slide makes the instrument longer and shorter. Like the trumpet, your lips vibrate into a mouthpiece in order to create a sound. We need lots of people to play this instrument! We sometimes switch trombone students to playing the euphonium or tuba.



Tuba – This is the largest and lowest sounding instrument in the brass family. The tuba usually plays the bass line since it has such a low sound. The tuba requires lots of air and energy. Space is very limited on tuba .



Euphonium– This instrument has a deep low sound like the trombone. But rather than having a slide to change notes, it has valves like the trumpet. The Euphonium uses the same mouthpiece as the trombone, and is played very much the same way. Space is very limited in the euphonium class. Any student who is interested in the euphonium should also consider the trombone.



Percussion – Our students learn to play many different percussion instruments such as snare drum, xylophone, marimba, tympani, accessories, etc. The main emphasis in the beginning percussion class is on snare drum and keyboards. Percussion requires excellent rhythmic skills. Also, most successful percussionists have also had several years of piano instruction. Space is limited for this instrument.

French Horn –

This is one of the most unique instruments in the brass family. The French horn has a small mouthpiece and a large bell. This unique design allows the French horn to have a wide range. It can play low like the euphonium, or high like the trumpet. French horn players must have a good ear for pitch recognition. Space is also limited on French Horn. Students who are interested in the French Horn should also consider the trumpet.

