

Instruments of the String Orchestra

5th Grade Beginning Program

Violin

The violin is the smallest member of the string family. Sound is produced by drawing the bow across one of the four strings or by plucking the string with a finger.



Viola

The viola is slightly larger than the violin. Like the violin, sound is produced by the drawing the bow across one of the four strings or by plucking the string with a finger.



Cello

The cello (pronounced like ‘chello”) is the second largest member of the string family. Like the other string instruments, sound is produced by drawing a bow across the strings or by plucking.



String Bass

The string bass (pronounced like ‘base”) is the largest member of the string family. Other names for this instrument include the bass viol, the stand-up bass or frequently simply the bass. Like the other string instruments, sound is produced by drawing a bow across the strings or by plucking the strings.



Instruments of the Concert Band

5th Grade Beginning Program

Flute

The Flute is a member of the woodwind family even though it's made of metal. It's the smallest instrument in the band and easily fits into backpack or locker.



Clarinet

While most Clarinets are made of plastic, professional clarinets are made of wood. The clarinet is slightly larger than a flute but it is still a small instrument to carry. Making a sound on the clarinet is fairly easy. It's also a good instrument for students who haven't developed a strong sense of pitch or have difficulty singing the correct notes.



Saxophone

The largest member of the woodwind family is the Saxophone. Saxophones, which are made of metal, come in four sizes. The appropriate size for beginners is called the "alto" saxophone. The sound is produced by a vibrating single reed which is the same sound producing method as a clarinet.



Trumpet or Cornet

The trumpet and Cornet is the smallest and highest member of the brass family. As with all brass instruments, the sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece. The difference between a trumpet and cornet is very minor. They both play the same notes and they sound virtually the same.



Trombone

The trombone is a member of the brass family. As with all brass instruments, the sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece. A unique feature of the trombone is the slide. While other brass instrument change pitches by pressing valves to change the length of the air flow, the trombone player simply moves the slide in and out to change the length of the instrument.



Percussion

The Percussion family family is an interesting case, because every member of the percussion section in band must play every instrument in the section. In elementary band, there are usually only two instruments played; the Bells and the Snare Drum. The percussion instruments are a part of the band, along with the brass and woodwinds families.



Detach here and return Wednesday morning to Ballmer/Barbaro

My child is interested in playing: _____

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

We will be at the meeting Thursday evening at 6:30PM. Yes _____ No _____