

# A Guide to Band Instruments

Picking the right instrument for your student is a big decision. Use the descriptions below in choosing your top 3 instrument choices! *If you've never played an instrument before, you should pick an instrument from this side*

**Flute:** One of the highest sounding instruments in the band. Very small, and can often fit into a student's backpack! Despite its size, the flute takes as much air to play as the tuba.



**Clarinet:** Sometimes called the violin of the band. Also very easy to carry! Clarinet players need to be aware that they will need to purchase a supply of reeds. We can never have too many clarinets in the band! Clarinetists can easily switch to saxophone and bass clarinet once they have played clarinet for a year.



**Alto Saxophone:** a higher sounding instrument in the band. They play some melody and some harmony in the band. Alto sax cases are about the size of a trumpet case. Please remember all saxes will need to buy a supply of reeds.



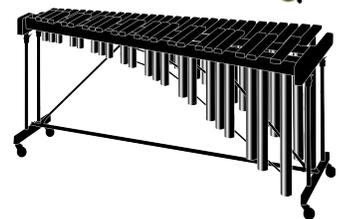
**Trumpet:** The highest sounding brass instrument. The sound is made by the students buzzing their lips in the mouthpiece. Trumpet players can switch to the French Horn later on in band.



**Trombone:** a low brass instrument and easily carried home for practice! It might be the coolest instrument in the band, being the only one that changes notes using a slide!



**Percussion:** *Students begin by learning bells and music reading*, and later learn snare drum, bass drum, timpani, cymbals, and many other percussion instruments. This is not a section where drumset is taught. Students will need to buy their own drumsticks, xylophone mallets, and stick bag, as well as rent a percussion kit for home practice. Percussionists need to be self-disciplined, patient students who can manage themselves as they *stand* in the back of the room to play their instruments.



**\*\* Two more instrument options on the back if you've never played an instrument before (over)**

