



B. McDaniel Intermediate School
Beginner Band
400 N Lillis Ln
Denison, TX 75020

Here are some general guidelines we use in making the best selection for a student musician. A few of them are listed below to help you in your selection.

Flute (Woodwind Family)

The flute plays the highest notes in the woodwind family and is the only one played by blowing across a hole. The earliest flutes were hollow bones used by cavemen. Today's flute is made of silver alloy. The best flute players have a rather flat upper lip with no tear drop in the center. This instrument must be rented or purchased from a music company.



Oboe or Bassoon (Woodwind Family)



Both the oboe and bassoon have two thin flat pieces of wood sewn together (double reed) that goes into the instrument. The instruments themselves are made of either plastic or wood. They have a unique sound and are some of the more challenging instruments in the band. These instruments are provided by the school for a small rental fee, but there is very limited availability. Students must have a good ear for music and an outstanding academic record. Piano experience is helpful. Due to the unique nature of these instruments, students playing these instruments are required to take weekly private lessons. It is nearly impossible to be successful on these instruments without private lessons. Enrollment is limited and selection is based off a lottery system.



Clarinet (Woodwind Family)



The clarinet has a single, flat piece of wood (reed) attached to a hollow mouthpiece. The instrument itself is made of wood. It has a remarkable range from low to high sounds and from loud to soft. This instrument must be rented or purchased from a music company. This is a good instrument for those students who did well with the recorder. Students who are double jointed are NOT good candidates for the clarinet.

Saxophone (Woodwind Family)

A relatively recent invention (1840) compared to the other instruments, the saxophone combines the single reed of the clarinet and the metal body of the brass instruments. Its mellow sounds blend well with both woodwinds or brasses. The saxophone is an important member of the jazz band. Saxophones must be rented or purchased from a music company. Students who are double jointed are NOT good candidates for saxophone. Enrollment is limited and selection is based off a lottery system.



Trumpet (Brass Family)



The trumpet, with its high-pitched brilliant tone, is the leader of the brass family. A trumpet player can produce all the notes of the instrument by pressing the valves and changing the lip vibration speed. The best trumpet players tend to have smaller sized lips but this is not a rule. The trumpet is an important member of the jazz band. The trumpet must be rented or purchased from a music company.

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French Horn (Brass Family)

The French Horn is made from 12-16 feet of brass tubing circled around and around. The tone is very mellow. In addition to using the lips and valves to change the pitch, the player places a hand in the bell to sometimes give a muted effect. This instrument is provided by the school for a small rental fee, but there is very limited availability. Students must have a good ear for music and an outstanding academic record. Piano experience is helpful. Due to the unique nature of this instrument, students playing this instrument are required to take weekly private lessons. It is nearly impossible to be successful on this instrument without private lessons.



Trombone (Brass Family)



This instrument sounds very brassy like the trumpet, but it makes a lower sound. The player changes tones by sliding one tube in and out of the other, rather than by pressing valves. The trombone is an important member of the jazz band. This instrument must be rented or purchased from a music company.

Euphonium (Baritone) (Brass Family)

Like a mini-tuba, the euphonium plays the same notes as the trombone, but has buttons like a trumpet (valves). It has a beautiful and mellow sound. This instrument is provided by the school for a small rental fee, but there is very limited availability.



Tuba (Brass Family)



The tuba is the largest and the lowest of the band instruments. Its bass voice gives the deep, low tones that are the foundation of the band. When unwound, a tuba is 16 feet long. This instrument is provided by the school for a small rental fee, but there is very limited availability. You do not have to hold the tuba; it sits on the seat of the chair. We have smaller tubas for beginners.

Percussion

The percussion section of the band keeps the beat, builds excitement and adds color to the band. A percussionist does not just play the drums; he/she plays bells, xylophone, timpani, cymbals, triangle, and many other instruments (all school owned). Piano experience is helpful. A 6th grade Percussion Kit must be rented or purchased from a music company. It consists of two practice pads, a stand, books, sticks, and mallets. A small annual Percussion Fee helps cover the costs of school owned equipment used by all students. Enrollment is limited and selection is based off a lottery system. Due to the unique nature of these instruments, students playing these instruments are required to take weekly private lessons. It is nearly impossible to be successful on this instrument without private lessons.



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