

Be a part of the music!

SUSD BEGINNING BAND DEMO & ORIENTATION NIGHT



Resiliency, Creativity, Collaboration, Perseverance and Mutual Respect. Naturally.

Come join the fun! Check out Beginning Band at our demo presentation and orientation!

(Please note: There are currently no beginning band/string classes at Redwood. Don't miss out on getting your musical path started today!)

SUSD Instrumental Music: redwoodmusic.us

Saratoga Music Boosters: saratogamusicboosters.org



Tuesday Evening, September 17

Saratoga High School Music Building

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Learn to play one of the Year 1 “Big Four”!

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet or Baritone

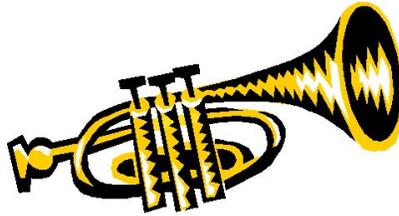
(The “Big Four” establish important fundamental skills in learning other instruments of band:

Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba!)



See demonstrations! Rent instruments! Register for class!

It all happens here!



Band Instruments: The Year 1 “Big Four”

Flute

Clarinet

Trumpet

Baritone

The “Big Four” establish important fundamental skills in learning
other instruments of band:

Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn, Trombone, and Tuba!

SUSD Instrumental Music: redwoodmusic.us
Saratoga Music Boosters: saratogamusicboosters.org



CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT

THE PROS & CONS OF EACH BEGINNING BAND INSTRUMENT

We hope that this document helps to introduce the different beginning “Big Four” instruments of the band and to help inform you about the selection process!

For each instrument, there is a listing of “pros” and “cons.” There is also an indication of whether each instrument can participate in traditional Jazz Bands and Orchestras at the more advanced levels.

Finally, we have indicated which instruments are best suited to start on for future instrument switches following 5th grade band, ***if*** a student wants to switch (staying on the same instrument is perfectly fine, too)!

Please do not go out and get an instrument until the fitting process is complete! There are many considerations and important pieces of information to know in order to make a good choice and smart investment! More information will be reviewed at our orientation night.

Very much like any sports team, we need each position filled in order to have a complete team. A great band must have a balance of all instruments to be successful!

5TH GRADE WOODWINDS

FLUTE

The smallest and highest-sounding instrument in the band

Characteristics:

Flute players should have a slight “frown” to the upper lip while playing with **no** teardrop shape in the middle of the upper lip. Flute tones are produced by being able to focus an extremely small airstream to an exact location on the tone hole. The teardrop-shaped lip makes it difficult to direct the air so precisely. Students will be tested for their ability to produce both low and high tones. Flute players should also have agile fingers for moving this multi-keyed instrument. Out of the selection of band instruments, this instrument actually requires the most air capacity to play.

Students with overbites (receded jaw) can often get a great sound, though extreme overbites should avoid playing the flute as this makes it difficult to produce quality sounds. Flute players should be highly motivated and resilient as competition in the flute section is very intense and only the better ones will stick out.

PROS

Small, easy to carry when in case. Relatively inexpensive to rent. Many private instructors available in the area.

CONS

This is the most difficult instrument to start on in beginning band. Some students cannot play this instrument well due to facial characteristics (lip size, etc.). Difficult to hold, especially with small hands. Many students play flute, so much more competition to get into advanced groups, honor bands, youth orchestras, etc. in the future.

Traditional Jazz Instrument:

No

Orchestral Instrument:

Yes

Good for switching to:

(exists relatively on its own)

CLARINET

A single reed instrument, similar in size to flute and oboe when assembled.

Characteristics:

One necessity of clarinet tone production is the ability to make the chin flat. The clarinet will take a few weeks to produce a pleasing tone when starting out with consistent practice (squeaks to start out are normal!). Students with different mouth, lip and teeth formations can be successful. Braces and orthodontics are okay. Fingers should be large enough to cover all of the tone holes in order to be successful. Some clarinet students can make a direct switch to play the bass clarinet in 6th grade.

PROS

Small, easy to carry when in case. Relatively inexpensive to rent. Easily transferable to other instruments (bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone). Many private instructors available in area.

CONS

Somewhat difficult to play at times. Students must have large enough hands to cover tone holes with all fingers. Many students play clarinet, so much more competition to get into advanced groups, honor bands, youth orchestras, etc. in the future (though often not as much as flutes).

Traditional Jazz Instrument (J):

No

Orchestral Instrument (O):

Yes

Good for switching to:

Bass Clarinet (O)

Oboe (O)

Bassoon (O)

Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, Bari) (J)

5TH GRADE BRASS

TRUMPET

The smallest of the brass instruments. It is also the highest-sounding and "brightest" sound of the brass.

Characteristics:

Thin lips often lead to the most success in producing the necessary range and tone on the trumpet. A slight overbite is okay, but an underbite can severely hinder progress. Trumpet parts often have the melody and therefore students who play the trumpet should be confident and have a high level of self-motivation. While being successful with braces and/or orthodontics is not impossible, **students who currently wear braces or who will wear braces in the future should consider a different instrument (or switching in the future) because playing on the trumpet with braces can sometimes be very painful!**

PROS

Smallest of brass instruments. Relatively inexpensive to rent. Few supplies needed for purchase. Easily transferable to other brass instruments (French Horn, trombone, baritone, tuba). Trumpet is one of the most important instruments in the band. Is BOTH a jazz and orchestral instrument.

CONS

Difficult for some students to hold/play. Has a lot of resistance when blowing through. Most difficult of brass instruments to play well.

Traditional Jazz Instrument:

Yes

Orchestral Instrument:

Yes

Good for switching to:

French Horn (O)

BARITONE

One of the several instruments classified as "low brass." It is similar to trombone, except with valves.

*Low brass instruments are **THE MOST IMPORTANT instruments in a band!***

Characteristics:

Baritone players should have a full embouchure. The baritone and low brass often have those great bass lines in our music! A slight overbite is okay, but an underbite will hinder good sound. Students should have good lung capacity. Braces and orthodontics are easier to accommodate than trumpet due to the larger mouthpiece. High success rate!

PROS

One of the easiest instruments to produce a sound on for almost all students. Easily transferable to other low brass instruments later on. Very important to the success of a band, making players in high demand at every level.

CONS

Expensive to rent/purchase (which is why we offer ones to rent through Redwood!). Not used in traditional jazz bands or orchestras. Somewhat large.

Traditional Jazz Instrument:

No

Orchestral Instrument:

Not traditionally

Good for switching to:

Trombone (J, O)

Tuba (O)