



IROQUOIS CENTRAL BAND

INSTRUMENT CHOICE

WHAT IS A CONCERT BAND?

- Ensemble of wind and percussion instruments
- Play a variety of styles of music pop, rock, classical, marches, patriotic, holiday, jazz and MORE!
- A Wind Ensemble is a smaller version of a concert band



WHAT INSTRUMENTS CAN I PLAY?

Woodwinds

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Brass

Trumpet

French Horn

Trombone

Baritone

Tuba

Percussion

All percussionists play **all** percussion instruments including Snare, Bass Drum, Mallets, and Auxiliary percussion. There are NO "drummers" in the Iroquois Bands ;-)



FLUTE



The Flute is a high-pitched woodwind instrument. Flutes often play melody lines and lots of fast-moving notes. Flutes are best suited for people who like a challenge of fast parts and have strong coordination. Challenges for the flute can include a large overbite or teardrop lip. Flutes can also be found in Full Orchestra and occasionally in Jazz groups.

OBOE

- The oboe is a high-pitched instrument that also plays mostly melody in band music. There is usually only 1 or 2 oboists in a band. The oboe is unique in that instead of a mouthpiece it makes its sound through a double reed. Oboe is well suited for a person who seeks a challenge, has a high level of coordination, who is not shy to possibly be the only player on your instrument and who is a very meticulous and organized person- oboe reeds are fragile and expensive so they need careful care! Oboes can also be found in a full orchestra.



CLARINET

- The clarinet is a medium-high sounding instrument. It plays a good mix of melody, harmony, and background parts and fast parts and slow parts. The clarinet section usually has multiple people on one part. Clarinet is a good fit for anyone looking for a well-rounded instrument with variety. Some coordination is required for success on clarinet. Clarinet can also be found in a full orchestra and occasionally is featured in Jazz Bands.
- If you are interested in sax, clarinet can be a **REALLY** good place to start, then saxophone is an easy addition for later in your music career.



BASSOON

- The Bassoon is a unique instrument that has a very low sound. It is the lowest instrument in the woodwind family. Occasionally the bassoon will be featured on the melody but most often the bassoon plays harmony and bass lines in the band. Usually, bassoon parts don't have many fast notes like some of the other woodwind instruments. There usually is only one or two bassoons in a band. Students with long fingers, bigger hands, high coordination, and who are not shy to be the only one on their part have the most success with the bassoon. The Bassoon is also found in an orchestra



SAXOPHONE

- The saxophone is normally a medium sound instrument. There are different sized saxes that can be really high or really low but most students begin on the alto sax and can learn tenor, bari, or soprano later in their music career. Saxophones occasionally play the melody in a concert band but more often play harmonies and counter-melodies. Saxophone parts are usually a mix of slow and fast notes. Students with big enough hands to reach around and strong shoulders and neck have the most success on the sax. The saxophone is also found in jazz bands, and occasionally rock bands, but usually NOT the full orchestra.



TRUMPET

- The trumpet is the highest sounding brass instrument. Trumpets often get the melody but do occasionally play harmony and accompanying parts. A trumpet uses only three valves. Students with a thinner set of lips and fairly even dental structure have the most success with the trumpet. The trumpet is one of the most versatile being found also in full orchestra, jazz bands, and mariachi bands.



FRENCH HORN

- The French horn is a medium sounding instrument. The French horn is a beautiful instrument that gets melody, harmony, and everything in between. The most successful French horn players are those who can match a pitch by ear very easily, have a good memory, and stick-to-itiveness. The French horn can take a little longer to learn than some other band instruments, but the pay-off is more interesting parts down the road. (Next time you watch a blockbuster movie, listen closely to the horns in the soundtrack- they get all the BEST parts!) French Horn can also be found in the full orchestra.



TROMBONE

- The trombone is a lower sounding instrument. The trombone is especially unique because it has NO KEYS. It can do what no other band instrument can because it uses a SLIDE for different notes. Occasionally trombones get the melody in band, but they play A LOT of harmony and bass lines. Trombone parts typically don't include a lot of fast notes. Most students have good success on the trombone, occasionally a shorter right arm or too thin of lips will present a challenge. The trombone is another very versatile instrument that is found also in full orchestras and jazz bands.



BARITONE/EUPHONIUM

- The Baritone/Euphonium is a lower sounding instrument. It sounds very similar to the trombone and often plays the same parts but does use three valves. Occasionally baritones get the melody in band, but they play A LOT of harmony and bass lines. Baritone parts typically don't include a lot of fast notes. Most students have good success on the baritone, occasionally too thin of lips will present a challenge. The Baritone/Euphonium is also found in full orchestras.



TUBA

- The tuba is lowest instrument not only in the brass section, but in the whole band. The tuba rarely gets the melody (but when it does, it's pretty awesome and usually a solo!) occasionally plays harmonies, but most often plays the bass lines for the band. The tuba rarely has to play fast parts with a lot of notes. Students who are bigger in size, including their lip structure usually have the most success with the tuba. If a student is interested in the tuba but isn't quite tall enough to reach the mouthpiece yet, s/he can start on a baritone or euphonium and easily switch to Tuba later when they've grown taller. The Tuba is also found in full orchestra and traditional Dixieland type jazz bands.



PERCUSSION

- The percussion section keeps the beat and the pulse of the band. Iroquois percussionists play all the mallets, snare, bass, and auxiliary percussion so they play melody and rhythm parts for the band. The percussion section holds a lot of responsibility for keeping the band together. Students have most success with percussion in band who: don't mind standing for all of a rehearsal and concert, are responsible-there's a lot of instruments & pieces to keep track of, who have a strong sense of beat, and who have a good memory-percussionists are often running from instrument to instrument during one piece! Students with a piano background also usually have an advantage. Percussion is found in full orchestras and jazz bands as well.



IROQUOIS CSD BANDS

4th Grade Band

5th Grade Band

6th Grade Band

7th/8th Grade Band

7th/8th Grade Jazz Band (by audition)

High School Bands

Wind Symphony (by audition)

Symphonic Band

High School Jazz Band (by audition)

High School Marching Band

High School Full Orchestra (strings, winds, percussion combined)

Pit Orchestra-for the HS Musicals

Chamber Ensembles

WHAT DO OUR IROQUOIS BANDS DO?

- Students 4-12 receive a small group lesson once an A-F cycle on a rotating pull-out basis
- Concert bands rehearse during the school day in a large group. 4th grade 1x a cycle starting in March, Middle School 3x a Cycle, and HS every day, in addition to the small group lesson.
- 2-3 Concerts per year: Winter (in Dec), Spring (in May/June), District Band concerts in February on a rotating basis
 - 4th grade band doesn't perform on a winter concert, but performs in a Spring in School assembly
- Darien Lake or similar music competition/performance field trips (MS)
- Larger trip to big cities like Boston, Cleveland, NYC, Chicago (HS)
- Small groups play for school events as needed
- ECMEA (county) & NYSSMA (state) Solo Festivals and honor bands
- Come bring YOUR ideas for what else we can do!

HOW DO I JOIN!?!?

- 3rd grade general music class: You have been learning and studying about the various instruments and their families during music class throughout the year.
- Early to Mid-May: Ms. Ingrao (Orchestra Teacher) and I will visit your 3rd grade music class to demonstrate the various instrument choices you have.
- Late May-Early June: Each student will have a chance to try the top three instruments of their choice
- Before you leave for the summer: You will receive an instrument acceptance note outlining the instrument we collectively arrived at for your best fit with information on what items you need to obtain for beginning that instrument next fall.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!

- Joining band can be one of the most important choices you make as you enter 4th grade. It is a lot of fun and is very rewarding to learn an instrument and play in an ensemble. As with all things that are worthwhile, it *does* take a level of dedication and practice.
- Band is where you will make some of your best and longest lasting friends. Whatever your school schedule brings you, you can always be together again in band!

