

# The Instruments in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band

SFMS Band  
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Director of Bands

"I owe it all to my music teacher!" Dr. Thomas Sudof  
2013 co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

- This is a big decision. It is very hard to join the band after sixth grade. If you have any thought you may want to learn to play an instrument, this is the year to try it.
- Please check out the videos in this presentation and read the information at the end.
- Email Dr. Poor at [Apoor@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:Apoor@forsyth.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

## Joining the Band

- Flute
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAJ4i1L3y5M>
- Oboe
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WJhax7Jmxs>
- Bassoon
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZXippwOh8Q>
- Clarinet
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8ye2xFOV8E>
- Saxophone
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nej48p1dfd8>

## The Woodwinds

- Trumpet
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1eyZAedhY4>
- Horn
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnFl1q0IYTA>
- Trombone
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRSA48Njh7o>
- Euphonium
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=638RTGkAcjo>
- Tuba
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndCcKNTOC7I>

## The Brass

- **Who is a good candidate?** Students who can **persevere**, who are **patient**, have a **good work ethic**, and who can quickly make a sound at the audition and demonstrate good finger coordination. This is an instrument that is **extremely competitive** in honor bands and chair placements as the student progresses, so students who enjoy that type of challenge will love this instrument.
- **Who may struggle?** Students looking for instant success, who want to do the minimum amount of work, and who are unable to initially make a sound or handle complicated fingering patterns. Certain lip shapes have a hard time on flute.
- **Cost:** Avg. of \$15-20 for 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months
- **Other:** Due to popularity of the instrument, **we limit the number of flute players** to balance the overall instrumentation of the band program. Students will need to show clear potential to be selected. This is a **challenging instrument to begin to learn** and requires a great deal of **patience** and an **extremely dedicated** student.

# Flute

- **Who will like this instrument?** Students who are extremely **hard workers**, who are very **bright**, who love a **challenge**, who would enjoy playing a **unique** instrument, and can make a sound on the reed and handle complicated fingering patterns.
- **Who may struggle?** This is one of the hardest instruments to start on. Students who want instant success or are unwilling to put in the needed practice time will struggle.
- **Cost?** Avg. \$40 per month for initial rental plus reeds, if not taken care of, can be an additional \$8 or more per month.
- **This is an instrument in high demand for the band.** Students on this instrument have access to more college scholarships than most. **This is an instrument that will require private lessons during the 5th grade** in order to succeed. There will be a list of approved teachers in the area. Lessons run from \$5-20 per lesson.

Oboe

- **Who will like this instrument?** This instrument is from the same instrument family as the **oboe (Double Reeds) and shares many of the same challenges and rewards.** (See above)
- **Who may struggle?** See Oboe
- **Cost? This instrument is provided by the school** but is in limited quantity. Reeds run about \$15 per reed.
- **Other:** The student chosen for this instrument will need private lessons in order to succeed. A list of private teachers will be provided.

**Bassoon**

- **Who will like this instrument?** This is an instrument with lots of keys. Someone who is very **detailed** and **enjoys complex tasks** will enjoy this instrument. This is also an **extremely competitive** instrument as the student progresses. Students who love a challenge will love this instrument.
- **Who may struggle?** Students with small hands will struggle with certain aspects of playing this instrument until they grow. This instrument requires a certain amount of **patience** as the year progresses because **it starts easy but gets increasingly more difficult.**
- **Cost?** Minimal, Avg. of \$15-20 for 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months
- **Other:** The clarinet section is the largest section in most bands. To maintain this balance, we will need to start numerous clarinet players. **This is an easy instrument to start on but very difficult to master.** There will be an on-going expense of reeds that can be minimized if students take proper care of them.

# Clarinet



- **Who will like this instrument?** Students who need a quick start at something. Someone who is **very detailed and enjoys complex tasks** will enjoy this instrument. Students will need to make a sound on the instrument at the audition. This instrument plays an important role in our **jazz band**. Students who want to play jazz will like this instrument.
- **Who may struggle?** While some success on this instrument comes quickly, to progress on this instrument the student must give a great deal of attention to details and practice regularly.
- **Cost?** Avg. \$40 per month for initial rental plus reeds.
- **Other:** Due to popularity of the instrument, **we limit the number of saxophones players** to balance the overall instrumentation of the band. This instrument is easy to begin to learn but is one of the hardest instruments to make honor bands on. Students will have the chance to switch to tenor or baritone saxophone in middle school.

## Saxophone (Alto or Tenor)

- **Who may succeed?** This is an instrument that **requires regular practice**. A great deal of demand is placed on the muscles around the lips that help make the sound. A **good work ethic** is a necessity. Students will need to be able to demonstrate an ability to create a buzz that is both **high and low** at the audition. Some **patience** is required as higher notes can be a struggle for many beginners.
- **Who may struggle?** Students who will be **getting braces** in the first year will have a difficult time. Once the student has progressed some, having braces is less of an issue. Progress can be slow with this instrument, so a **great deal of patience** is required. Certain mouth and lip shapes can present obstacles to the student.
- **Cost?** Avg. of \$15-20 for 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months.
- This is largest section in the brass family and **we will need to start numerous** students on this instrument to maintain proper balance. This is **Dr. Poor's** primary instrument.

# Trumpet

- **Who may succeed?** Students who have a **good ear** will be more successful on this instrument. **Singing experience is a plus.** Students will need to be able to demonstrate the ability to match pitch in the audition. Students who are **bright, hard workers, patient,** and who love a **challenge.**
- **Who may struggle?** Students unable to match pitches will struggle on this instrument. Students who want instant success or do not enjoy a challenge will also struggle.
- **Cost?** Avg. \$40-60 per month for initial rental. We do have some school instruments that can be assigned.
- **Other: This is an instrument in high demand for the band.** Potential for **future scholarships** is greater on this instrument. **Private lessons are not required but strongly encouraged** for this instrument.

## French Horn

- **Who may succeed?** This instrument requires a **good ear** because there are no keys, just a **slide**. Students will need to make a sound on the mouthpiece and match pitch. Students with **some previous singing** experience are more likely to succeed. Students who are patient and willing to work hard are also more likely to succeed.
- **Who may struggle?** Students with difficulty hearing different pitches will also struggle. Progress can also be slow, so patience is required.
- **Cost?** Avg. of \$15-20 for 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months.
- Other: **This is an instrument in high demand for the band** The Middle School and High School bands need more trombone players and we will be encouraging as many players as is reasonable to play this instrument.

# Trombone

- **Who will succeed?** Students will need to make a sound on the mouthpiece and match pitch. Students who might not be ready for tuba—this is basically miniature tuba. Students who are patient and willing to work hard are also more likely succeed.
- **Who may struggle?** Progress can also be slow, so patience is required.
- **Cost?** Avg. \$40-60 per month for initial rental. There are some school-owned instruments. You will need your own mouthpiece.

## Euphonium (Baritone)

- **Who will succeed? This instrument is the most important sound to the band.** So we need students who are **reliable, dedicated**, and can **push lots of air** into the instrument.
- **Who may struggle?** This is the largest of the brass family. Students may struggle until they grow because it requires a great deal of air.
- **Cost?** Purchase a mouthpiece, school provides the instrument.
- **Other: This is an instrument in high demand for the band** Potential for future scholarships is almost limitless on this instrument to a good player. We have two-four instruments and would like to fill both slots.

**Tuba**

- **Who may succeed?** This requires an extremely **organized and dedicated** student. **Previous piano experience is very helpful.** Percussion students will learn **two instruments (snare and bells) and 2 clefs.** Students must also demonstrate good, coordination, rhythm and tempo.
- **Who may struggle?** Students must be able to manage time and **practice twice as much** as all other band members. Students who want to only play drums will not enjoy learning both instruments.
- **Cost?** Avg. of \$15-20 for 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months. There are added expenses for mallets and extra supplies.
- Other: **Students selected should have previous piano experience.** Students without piano experience have shown in the past to not be able to keep up with learning two instruments. **We limit the number of percussionists to insure proper instrumentation for the band.**

## Percussion

- Perform at concerts
- Perform at school events
- Go on fun trips
- Attend honor band events
- Be a member of the largest activity at SFMS.
- Perform with the jazz band
- Perform in small groups at Solo and Ensemble.
- This is the year to learn an instrument.

**Things to do in band**



- Research findings suggest:
  - that children who are in band see significant benefits in reading, math, and logical-sequential thinking.
  - high school students who remain in a quality band program also average 20 to 40 points higher on the SAT on both the math and verbal portions.
  - Music majors consistently have the highest rate of acceptance to medical schools.
  - Annually, more National Merit Scholars are in music programs than any other school activity.
  - Other benefits are: a development of cooperation, self-expression, responsibility, self-esteem, listening skills, and a potential life-long enjoyment of music.

## Why Band?

- 15 students in the UGA Honor Band
- 11 students in the District Honor Band
- 1 student in the All-State Band
- 56 Students participating in the Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Straight Superior Ratings (the highest rating) at our Evaluation Festival.
- Next year, close to 25% of the school will be involved in band.

**Band at SFMS**