

INSTRUMENTS IN JUNIOR BAND

The Woodwind Section

Flute



The flute is the highest instrument in the Concert Band. It is a quiet and sweet-sounding instrument. Students with smaller lips and competent fine motor/dissociation skills suit the flute. The flute requires a strong air capacity. Flute music is in the treble clef.

Clarinet



Clarinet is a reed instrument and make up the largest section in a concert band. They have a large range, their lowest notes being lower than the alto saxophone and their highest notes almost reaching the highest note of a flute. Clarinets require considerable fine motor/dissociation skills but slightly smaller air capacity than the flute. The sound is rich and sonorous.

Saxophone



The saxophone comes in four types: soprano, alto, tenor and baritone. At a primary school level, we use the alto and tenor saxophone. The saxophone sound is produced by a vibrating reed (like the Clarinet) and is similar in pitch to the French Horn but has a more metallic jazz sound. It is suitable for all students, but is difficult to play if they are small.

The Brass Section

Trumpet



The trumpet is the playground of the energetic and exuberant. It can be a sweet melodious sounding instrument or an edgy/punchy sounding instrument making it one of the most versatile instruments in the band. It is commonly used in all ensemble types from jazz and rock to classical and film music. Students must have the ability to produce a 'buzz' and good 'tummy power' (diaphragmatic air support).

French Horn



The French Horn is one of the most glorious sounding instruments. It has a sweet and mellow sound but when played loudly, has extraordinary power, making it very popular with orchestral writers such as John Williams (of Star Wars fame). Students need good listening skills and ability to create a small 'buzz' with their lips. There is a persistent shortage of good French Horn players meaning as students improve, there are frequent opportunities – especially in high schools.

Trombone



The trombone is the only instrument that uses a slide system to change its pitch. Students need to have good listening skills. Like the trumpet, the trombone is incredibly versatile. Because it has the capacity to play classical, jazz and rock, it is a very popular instrument. What's more, it is the only instrument that can produce a 'glissando' and a very cool car racing noise.

Euphonium/Baritone



The Euphonium is part of the most important section in the band – the basses. However, it has the versatility to play fast and furious melodic passages as well as a low enough range to form part of the bass line. Its mouthpiece is large making it easy to play and immediately produce a large, rich and warm sound. [Note, we also have Baritones, a slightly smaller version of the Euphonium. Students in Junior Band are often placed on Baritone and progress to Euphonium as they grow]

Tuba



At LPS we play the smallest Tuba, specifically designed for young musicians. It is the lowest pitched instrument in the band, and as such provides the foundation for every piece of music ever composed. It is suited to students with good listening abilities. Its sound is both rich and powerful. **At LPS, we are fortunate to own enough tubas to allow students to keep one at home, and have another one of their own at school. This way students just need to carry their mouthpiece to school for rehearsals.**

The Percussion Section

Percussion requires constant flexibility and multi-tasking. Students allocated to Percussion will learn all the following instruments:

Drums

The drum kit forms part of the percussion section. Students undertaking to learn drums need to have excellent coordination and most importantly, a very steady sense of beat.



Auxiliary Percussion

Percussionists are required to juggle up to 30 different percussion instruments, including cymbal, cabassa, vibraslap, maraca, gong, bass drum, bongo, conga, wind chimes and claves to name a few.

Timpani

Timpani are large drums with different pitch, used to support the bass line and punctuate dramatic parts of the music.



Glockenspiel/xylophone

The Xylophone and Glockenspiel are constructed similarly to a piano. They require excellent coordination. The glockenspiel is made of small metal keys making a high-picked bell-like sound whilst the xylophone is a larger instrument made with wooden keys.