



Centennial Middle School Instrumental Music Department

<http://www.centennial.k12.mn.us/cms/dept/music/band/begband.htm>

How to Join 6th Grade Band !!!

Band Information Night

APRIL 10, 2006

6:30 PM

CMS Auditorium



Band Instrument Display Night

May 4, 2006

4:00-7:00 PM

CMS Bandroom

OUR MISSION

“PROVIDING ALL STUDENTS WITH A UNIQUE OUTLET FOR HIGH QUALITY AESTHETIC EDUCATION; THE INTERNAL ABILITY TO ASSESS BEAUTY FOR THEMSELVES, THEREBY PROMOTING A LIFE-LONG APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS”

Dear Parents:

Your child has the opportunity to embark on a new experience. During the 6th grade year in Centennial, we are able to offer instrumental music to any and all students who would like to participate. Sixth graders must take a music performance class, so why not choose band? As directors we look forward to the energy and enthusiasm of these band members.

The Centennial Band Program currently serves about 1000 students in grades 6-12. We are proud of the immense popularity of the program as it has tripled in size over the past 10 years. We offer many varied opportunities including small chamber groups, jazz band, Honor Symphonic Band, and percussion ensembles at the middle school. As you look ahead to your child's high school band career, it will include an opportunity to travel to Europe if your child desires.

Playing a band instrument can be a life long joy. These new beginnings will have some days of success and some days of struggle. Tests have continued to prove that students who play a musical instrument do better on standardized testing and have better coordination. Please encourage your child to grow and develop into a quality musician.

Sincerely,

The Band Directors of Centennial

Mark Kusche, MS, HS

Christine Ringen, MS

Gina Wolleat, MS

Mike Lien, MS, HS

Becky Weiland, HS

Questions? Call the Band Registration Hot Line #(763)792-5557



Band Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

April 6 and 10—Band Performances for 5th Graders

5th graders will attend a concert at the HS Performing Arts Center during the school day to hear performances by a Middle School Band and the High School Wind Ensemble.

Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.—Band Information Night

Parents of any 5th grader and child interested in joining band should attend this meeting in the Middle School Auditorium. We are asking that any completed registration forms be turned in at this time.

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.—Percussion Meeting / French Horn Meeting / Bassoon & Oboe Meeting

All students who are interested in playing Percussion, French Horn, Bassoon and Oboe are asked to meet with one of the band instructors in the band room immediately following the Band Information meeting.

Wednesday, April 19—ALL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE

Registrations received after April 19 will only be eligible for those instruments with space available.

Interviews

Depending upon the number of requests to play the more popular instruments, students may be asked to meet with a band teacher to discuss other options. *Again, please note that students who are interested in playing percussion, French horn, bassoon and oboe are asked to meet with a band instructor after the parent Information Night on April 10.*

April 28—Confirmation Letter

Students must put three instrument choices on their registration form. They will then be placed with one of those instruments and a confirmation letter will be sent via mail by **April 28**. If the registration form is turned in late, the confirmation letter may be picked up at the main information table the night of the Band Display (May 4).

Thursday, May 4, 4-7 p.m. —Band Instrument Display

Drop-in between 4:00-7:00 p.m. for the instrument display held in the MS band room. Four music companies will be offering instrument rental and purchase programs.



Instrument Selection

Flute



Alto

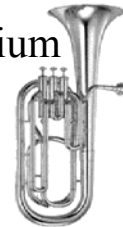
Saxophone



Trumpet



Euphonium



Oboe



Tenor

Saxophone



French
Horn



Tuba



Clarinet



Bassoon



Trombone



Bass

Clarinet



Percussion

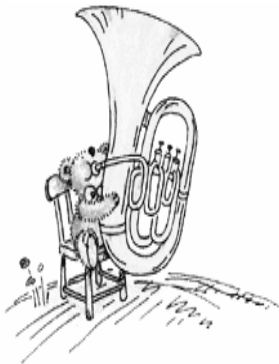


School Owned Instruments

Due to the high cost of certain band instruments, CMS has a rental program available to students who play the *Bassoon*, *Bass Clarinet*, *French Horn*, *Euphonium*, or *Tuba*. Students/Parents are required to pay a \$48 per year rental fee and sign a user agreement stating that they are responsible for any loss or damage beyond reasonable wear. CMS should have enough *Euphoniums*, *Tubas*, and *French Horns* to provide one for school use and one for home practice. This means that students only need to transport their mouthpiece back and forth to school. We feel this encourages students to practice no matter what instrument they play!

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Considerations in Instrument Selection: *How to Set Your Child Up For Success*



Several criteria are important in determining what instrument a child should play:

- ‰ The child's physical characteristics
- ‰ How musically suited each child is to a particular instrument
- ‰ The need for balanced instrumentation
- ‰ The interest of the child

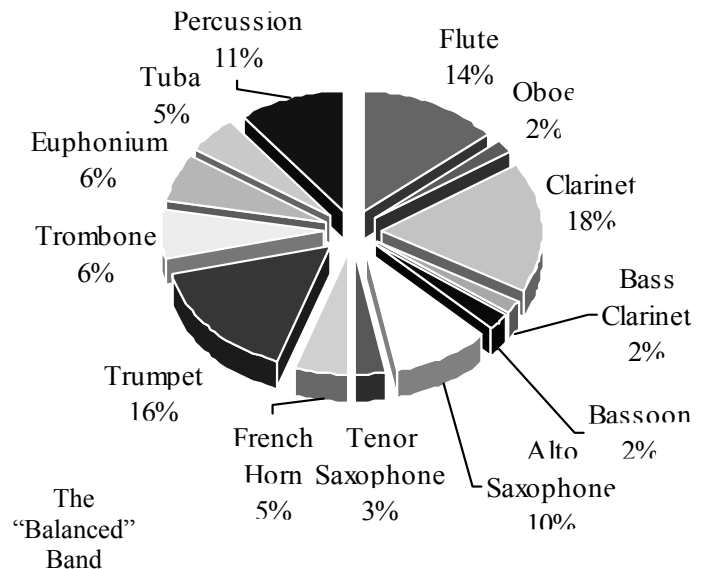
Begin by making an assessment of your child's *physical characteristics*-overbites, teeth structures, mouth shapes, hand size, fingerlength, and overall physical stature. If your child has an unusual physical characteristic which you feel may need to be considered in choosing an instrument, please contact a band director. Also, note that students with braces can be successful on any brass or woodwind instrument.

Consider your child's *musical aptitude*. Children who are able to perceive differences in pitch, and who are able to sing well in tune should be encouraged to play the more difficult instruments like oboe and French horn. In addition, students choosing to play these two instruments should be hard working and able to work independently. Playing percussion requires strong rhythmic aptitude and also the ability to work independently. A piano background is very helpful in learning to play percussion.

In recent years, percussion and saxophone interest has been greater than our instrumentation needs. A *balanced instrumentation* is very important for our band students if they are to have the best possible musical experience. Children well suited for some of the less popular instruments must be encouraged to study them. Given a choice of playing the saxophone which has too many players and the euphonium or trombone which has too few players, some children and parents will choose the less popular instrument because it allows the child to feel more important and special.

The *interest* of your child is very important. Children highly motivated to learn a particular instrument are likely to succeed. Your child may also need to be encouraged to practice. Many children are not able to schedule practice time and stick to it on their own. They do need help!

Hopefully, these suggestions will help you and your child in making your instrument choices. The music instructor can be of assistance to you and your child weighing the criteria and choosing an instrument with which they can be **SUCCESSFUL!**



Good Luck!

Questions? Call the Band Registration Hot Line #(763)792-5557

Frequently Asked Questions



⇒ Besides rental, where can I get an instrument?

There are many good quality, used instruments for sale. These are best found at music stores, in the classifieds, and through word of mouth. Please make sure you have the instrument checked over by a band director or an instrument repair person prior to summer lessons. Additional supplies are needed for the instrument as described on the back of the confirmation letter.

⇒ Do you recommend getting an instrument through one of the music stores?

Absolutely! Take advantage of the 3 month trial period! It is relatively inexpensive and the instrument is guaranteed to be in good working condition.

Are the instruments from Sam's Club and Walmart quality instruments?

These instruments are very poor quality. Many local repair shops will not work these instruments.

⇒ We already own an instrument and I want to take lessons on it. Do I still have to put down 3 choices?

Yes, but be sure to indicate on the registration form that you already own the instrument. (If you have already had lessons on the instrument, please indicate that as well.) Please make sure the instrument is in proper working order. Haas Repair in New Brighton may be of help (651) 631-8820.

⇒ When will I know which instrument I have been assigned?

Confirmation letters will be sent out by April 28. Students who register late can pick up their confirmation letter at the main registration table the night of the Band Display (May 4).

⇒ Is there an advantage to attending the August Band Beginner Program?

Yes! Summer lessons are very concentrated, being an hour in length, four days a week. Daily contact with an instructor promotes good skill development.



⇒ How much do the summer lessons at CMS cost?

\$10 for eight one-hour sessions.

⇒ What if my child can't attend the August lessons?

We would ask that you make every effort to attend the lessons. Students who are not able to start in the summer will be started in the fall. These students will need to practice extra hard to catch up to the summer beginners.

⇒ How often and how long are the regular school year lessons?

Currently students receive a 20 minute small group band lesson once every 8 school days.

⇒ Are lessons during the school day?

Currently, all students are scheduled to come out of their band rehearsals to attend lessons.

⇒ How many bands are there at CMS?

Currently, there are 8 concert bands, 4 at the 6th grade level and 2 at the 7th and 8th grade levels. There are also many ensembles that rehearse outside of the school day. They include Jazz Band, Percussion Ensembles, and an Honor's Symphonic Band.

⇒ What do students need besides an instrument in order to begin lessons?

Each instrument requires different supplies. See the back of the confirmation letter to determine supplies needed for your specific instrument. Students should always include a pencil with their band materials.

⇒ How much should students practice?

*It takes at **least** 20 minutes of good practice, 5 times per week, to progress satisfactorily on a band instrument.*



Centennial Middle School Band on the WEB



The resources in this packet and the presentation given at Band Information Night have been duplicated on the Centennial Middle School Band Website, along with many other useful links. If you want to further research this band program we encourage you to visit and explore. Use this link to access the main index ...

<http://www.centennial.k12.mn.us/cms/dept/music/band/index.htm>

Or go directly to the 5th grade information area ...

<http://www.centennial.k12.mn.us/cms/dept/music/band/begband.htm>



Centennial Middle School Summer Lesson Schedule

As of the printing of this newsletter the start of next school year has yet to be decided. The summer sessions will be four days a week, tentatively scheduled from August 14th - 24th . We will have a definite start time at the first of our parent meetings in April.

Woodwind Sessions

8:00-8:50 a.m.	Flute
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Clarinet/Bass Cl.
10:00-10:50 a.m.	Alto Saxophone
11:00-11:50 a.m.	Oboe
12:00-12:50 p.m.	Bassoon
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Tenor Saxophone
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Flute
3:00-3:50 p.m.	Clarinet

Brass Sessions

8:00-8:50 a.m.	Trumpet
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Trombone
10:00-10:50 a.m.	Trumpet
11:00-11:50 a.m.	Euphonium
12:00-12:50 p.m.	French Horn
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Tuba
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Trumpet
3:00-3:50 p.m.	Trombone



Percussion Sessions

10:00-10:50 p.m.
11:00-11:50 p.m.
12:00-12:50 a.m.
1:00 - 1:50 a.m.

Meeting times are tentative, but relatively close to what will actually occur this summer. Confirmed lesson times will be announced when instrumentation numbers are determined. Lesson times for each student will be verified on the Confirmation Letter (mailed to homes by April 28). Please plan on attending summer lessons. They are an integral part of beginning a new instrument and setting students up for success once they enter the middle school.



INSTRUMENT RENTAL

All students who plan to begin this summer must have an instrument and be registered in band prior to the first summer lesson. The following music companies service the Centennial Schools and we highly recommend any of them for your instrument rental business:

Trestman Music

5600 Excelsior Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-920-8622

Eckroth Music

Wildwood Shopping Center
951 Wildwood Road (Hwy. 120)
White Bear Lake, MN 55115
1-800-543-8255

Schmitt Music

2400 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
763-566-4560

Groth Music

8056 Nicollet Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55420
952- 884-4772

(Also a store available in Roseville)

Renting an instrument may be the best way to begin as it does not involve a large financial investment. Rental of Flutes, Clarinets, Trumpets and Trombones run about \$35 for 3 months. Alto and Tenor Saxophones, and Oboes run about \$75 for 3 months. Percussion start-up is somewhat higher. Reeds, books and oils are an additional cost. The instruments rented from the music stores will be of various makes and models and are what we call “student line” quality. ***Instruments which are rented from the stores listed above will be delivered to CMS in time for the first summer lesson.***

Some families have access to an instrument which was used in the past. We highly recommend that it is checked over by an instrument repairman or band director prior to the first lesson. There is nothing more frustrating to a beginning instrumentalist than trying to learn on an instrument in poor playing condition.

Sam’s Club and Walmart have recently started selling instruments in their stores. We do not recommend these instruments because they are very poor quality. We have found that most local repair shops will not work on these instruments if there is something wrong. A better solution is to rent for the 3 months and then look for a used quality instrument.

In addition to having the instrument for the first lesson, there are specific supplies needed. These supplies will be listed on the back of the Confirmation Letter.

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