

Beginning Band Information

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Did you know that playing a musical instrument is amazing for your brain? Before reading through the information below doing, please watch this video to find out more!

[How Playing an Instrument Benefits your Brain.](#)

**For Listening Examples
To Help In Instrument Selection,
Please scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.**

Frequently asked Questions:

My child has never played music before. Can he or she take band?

Absolutely. Most new band students are absolute beginners when they come to Lincoln. Your child will not be the only student with no musical instrument experience. Encourage your student to take this opportunity to learn something new and wonderful.

Does my child need to have an instrument on the first day of school?

No, however we hopefully will know what instrument each student is playing before the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The first time you would need to bring your instrument to school would be for our first lesson night which happens usually in the 2nd or 3rd week of September (of course COVID could delay the start of band as we won't know how the next school year will start until much closer to that date. The information contained here is based on previous years when COVID was not an issue). We encourage families to visit the following webpage ([Be Part of the Band \(bepartofthemusic.org\)](http://bepartofthemusic.org)) to research the different instruments that are played in concert band.

My child said that you only allow a certain number of a certain instrument. Why?

Your child is correct. In the process of helping your student choose an instrument, I must also be

sure to keep a balanced instrumentation for the band. Having an appropriate number of each instrument for the group that is playing makes for an improved sound and variety in pieces that can be played. A band with 46 clarinet players and 3 flute players would have limited success. To help solve this problem and still ensure students play an instrument of choice, a survey has been created that everyone will complete stating their first 3 choices of instrument. Once everyone has submitted their requests, I do my best to make sure everyone receives their first instrument choice, with some being asked to consider their 2nd choice as an option. I have never needed a student to play their 3rd choice, this option is there as a last resort. A band balanced in instrumentation is a successful band!

How much does an instrument rental cost?

Instrument costs can vary. Here is a link to the most recent rental information from Long & McQuade music to consider as a reference ([School-Band-Rental-Brochure_2020-EN.pdf \(long-mcquade.com\)](https://www.long-mcquade.com/School-Band-Rental-Brochure_2020-EN.pdf)). Please note that Lincoln Middle School owns a limited number of tubas, euphoniums and French horns and rents these instruments out to families for \$120 per year to help offset the costs of these larger instruments as they typically carry a more expensive rental rate through at our local music stores. We believe every student should have the opportunity to play music and to take part in the Lincoln band program. If the rental fees are limiting your child's ability to participate in band, please contact Mr. Kehler (Jason.kehler@sjasd.ca) or Mr. Lizotte (kyle.lizotte@sjasd.ca) directly. As a school, we will do our post to support your financial needs to ensure your child can participate.

What about instruments from Wal-Mart, Costco etc.?

I can only comment based on my personal experience with these instruments, which has not been positive. I advise you to avoid instruments purchased from box-stores that don't specialize in music given the general quality and availability of repair and replacement parts. If ever a repair is needed, the technicians and service department of our local music stores and repair technicians cannot get replacement parts for these instruments, and for that reason, most repair technicians will not work on the instruments because they can't guarantee their work. At some point, your child's instrument WILL need repair. It is inevitable. A quality instrument is essential for the success of a beginner. I encourage you to consider going to a qualified music store for your instrument.

What about purchasing an instrument on the internet (Kijiji, Ebay etc.)?

Often, very high quality instruments can be found on the internet, but these instruments do not usually come with a warranty. If you choose to purchase an instrument in this fashion, I encourage you to have it checked out immediately with a qualified repair technician to make sure it is in playing order. If the person really wants to sell it, they will allow someone to inspect it prior to purchase.

Does my child really need a music stand at home?

No. A music stand is not required. Know that the use of a music stand is encouraged as it's use promotes correct posture, hand position, and breathing. If you choose to purchase a music stand for your child know that they will never need to bring their stand to school and that this item can stay at home. As an option, low cost wire folding music stands can be purchased from the majority of our local music stores.

Should my child start playing the instrument when they first get it home from the store?

No. Though exciting, please have your child wait until we begin our classes here at school.

Poor habits are established early with instrument use and the first few classes are crucial in long term instrument maintenance and use. Know that we will be spending a considerable amount of time learning about the correct assembly, care and use of each instrument. Please have your student wait to assemble and play their instrument until they have learned how to do this properly during class at school.

If you have ANY other questions, please contact Mr. Kehler

[837-8397](tel:837-8397) ex 4511

jason.kehler@sjasd.ca

What Instrument Do You Want To Play????

One of the first questions I ask my Beginning Band Students is do they know what instrument they would like to start on? It is important that students make a well informed decision. Many of our students don't even know what some of these instruments look or sound like. Below is a list of the band instruments we use to start our students in band classes here at Lincoln. Each one is a link and will take you to a video of a professional musician playing the instrument.

Please remember that you are listening to the sound of the instrument, **NOT IF YOU LIKE THE SONG** 😊. You can play any song on any instrument. Choose a minimum of 2 sounds that you like and then complete the instrument selection survey based on your preferences.

Woodwind Instruments

[Flute](#) [Clarinet](#)

Brass Instruments

[Trumpet](#) [Trombone](#) [Baritone/ Euphonium](#) [French Horn*](#) [Tuba](#)