



Welcome to the 2019-20 Instrumental Music Program!

Dear Students and Parents,

Now is the time to decide to join the *orchestra* or *band* program! We have a lot of fun as we learn to play music together.

Key point: you do not need to know exactly what instrument you want to play yet. But, you do need to know if you want to be in the orchestra OR the band.

Orchestra instruments

Violin
Viola
Cello
String Bass

Band Instruments

Flute Baritone and Euphonium
Clarinet Tuba
Trumpet Percussion
Trombone

*We also start kids on oboe and French horn, but these are very challenging and usually require private lessons.

We will go over the instruments in the fall during class, and will have an instrument try out night right after school starts next year where you can try each of these instruments out and really decide which one is for you. *The important thing now is to get registered so you are set for the fall.*

We would LOVE to have you join us next year! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mr. Paul Johnson
pjohnson@tahomasd.us

Frequently Asked Questions

I have not played any instrument before. Can I join band or orchestra next year?

Of course! This is the perfect time, and we have a beginning band or orchestra class for you! If you have any questions about registration, please contact your counselor, based on your last name:

A-L: Mrs. Bernstein, BBernste@Tahomasd.us M-Z: Mrs. Thibert, lthibert@tahomasd.us

Do I need to bring an instrument the first day of band or orchestra?

No need for instruments on the first day. We'll be going over how we run things here, trying out instruments, finding out where to store our instruments and things like that.

I'm not sure what instrument I should play and need help choosing. Can you help?

I really recommend playing an instrument you like the sound of when it is played well. You are going to spend quite a bit of time with your instrument as you learn to play it, and if you like the sound of it, you will enjoy that time a lot more.

Here is a very helpful website, with demonstrations of all of the band and orchestra instruments:

Visit www.bepartofthemusic.com, then click on the group you want to explore (band or orchestra).

From there, scroll down to the videos and listen to the various demonstrations.

Should I rent or purchase an instrument?

My quick answer is to rent, especially if you are new to playing an instrument. However, if you are in your 2nd or 3rd year of playing, it may be a good idea to purchase a quality instrument at this time.

Where should I rent or purchase an instrument?

I highly recommend you visit a local music store for this. I can give you a list of all the music stores in our area. Also, be wary of cheap, pretty instruments available online, as many of these instruments look very nice, but often are not built well and can cause frustration for the new student.

Does the school have an instrument for me to use?

Possibly. We have a few instruments, primarily based on financial need. We also have larger instruments (bass clarinet, euphonium, tuba, cello, string bass) available for students who want to play them. Information on applying for a TSD instrument will be in a Handbook given out in the fall.

I've already played in band or orchestra in 5th grade at another school. Is beginning band or orchestra just a repeat?

We will definitely review things, as I want to be sure I know your skill level, but we will be moving forward from where you are. Also, there are many additional opportunities for kids ready for them: Playing solos at concerts, playing in the jazz band, playing for Solo and Ensemble contest, and even performing with the Intermediate groups if you are good enough!