

## SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS IN BAND

Switching instruments not only helps the band, but it is also a fun opportunity for you to gain new skills! It can be even more fun if you learn a less common, more needed instrument. Having skills on a less common instrument may make you an “in demand” player in the future. Being an excellent trombone, baritone horn, bassoon, tuba, or French horn player might even help you get a **scholarship for college!** All bands always need more excellent low brass players! Beginning Band members, seriously consider learning one of the more “needed” instruments (i.e. low brass, bassoon).

***For those in Blue and Gold Band, you must have solid skills on your first instrument in order to succeed on a new instrument, and you must be willing to put in extra practice time in order to catch up. Students in Blue and Gold Band who switch to new instruments will be expected to be able to play (on the new instrument) the Bb, Eb, F, Ab, and C concert major scales, as well as the chromatic scale, by the end of the first semester. All Blue and Gold Band students will be tested on those scales by or before that time.***

***Student will NOT BE ALLOWED to switch to the Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, or Percussion in Blue and Gold Band.***

If we need:	Consider switching if:	Comments:
Tuba	You play FLUTE, Saxophone, or brass	Very loose embouchure; fairly easy parts in band; vital for good band sound. Good tuba players are always in demand – could lead to college scholarships (you don’t have to be a music major – just play in a college group). Reads BASS clef.
Bassoon	You play any woodwind, especially clarinet	Extremely important instrument – <b>must take lessons</b> . Good bassoon players are always in demand – could lead to college scholarships (you don’t have to be a music major – just play in a college group). Reads BASS clef.
Bass clarinet	You play clarinet	Exactly the same fingering as clarinet; fairly easy parts in band; looser embouchure. Reads TREBLE clef.
Baritone sax	You play sax	Exactly the same fingering as other saxes; fairly easy parts in band; looser embouchure. Reads TREBLE clef.
Baritone horn or trombone	You play trumpet	Good to switch to baritone if you have trouble playing high notes on trumpet.
French horn	You play trumpet or flute	Very important for a good band – <b>must take lessons</b> ; trumpet players often do very well on French horn. Piano skills are very helpful for playing French horn. Good horn players are always in demand - could lead to college scholarships Reads TREBLE clef.

Oboe	You play any woodwind instrument	Very unique, instrument for unique, intelligent people. <b>Must take lessons</b> and be ready to work hard. Reads TREBLE clef.
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**FOR Blue and Gold BAND ONLY** (not beginning band)  
**I WOULD LIKE TO TRY A NEW INSTRUMENT THIS YEAR!**

If you are interested in switching, please fill out and have your parent sign below:

Student Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Class period: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Currently plays: \_\_\_\_\_ Wants to play: \_\_\_\_\_

*Student and parent understand that **solid skills on the first instrument** are necessary, and that the new instrument will require extra practice time. I understand that bassoon requires private lessons.*

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_