

Parents and Future Murphy Students:

The Murphy Band staff would like to invite you to join an award winning program that includes some of the finest young musicians in Plano ISD!

WHY should I join band?

The most important reason is so you can **PLAY!** The Murphy Band has consistently achieved high honors in both group and individual competitions, and we want you to be a part of the success! We have fun as we improve our musical skills and as we play great music.

I've never played an instrument before, can I still be in band?



YES! No previous musical experience is necessary! We will teach you everything you need to know! Your elementary music teachers have you well prepared to participate in our program!

Can I still participate in **other** activities outside of band at Murphy?



YES! Many of our students are involved in other activities such as sports, speech and theatre, PACE, honors classes, clubs, and many more!

What instruments can I choose from in the band program?



We have many different instruments for sixth graders to choose from. Choices include **flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion.** These instruments may be rented or purchased locally. Some students with suitable physical build and musical aptitude may have the opportunity to select a school-owned instrument: **oboe, bassoon, french horn, euphonium, and tuba.**

How do I decide **which** instrument to play?

All prospective beginner band members will need to “**test drive**” some band instruments in order to make their selection for next year. The band directors will make certain that the student’s physical attributes and natural abilities **fit the instrument.** We ask that students and parents come to our meetings with an **open mind.**

How to Enroll in Band: Be sure to mark “Band” on your child’s course selection form, and mark your calendar with the two dates below!

TUESDAY, March 24 - Information meeting in MMS Cafeteria (enter on east side), 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, March 28 - You will be contacted through email with a specific appointment time.

Please contact Mr. Seibert if you have not received your time by March 17.

We will have plenty of information at our meeting and will be able to answer any questions that you may have. If you want to find out more about our program before then, please visit our website: www.murphymband.com



We look forward to working with you in the coming year!

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Beginner Band is set up into like-instrument classes, which make it possible for us to spend large amounts of individual time with each student. Here are the band instruments:

The WOODWINDS and PERCUSSION:

Flute - The flute is the highest sounding instrument in the band. It is played by blowing across a hole and by pressing down the keys to create different notes. The flute usually has the melody in band and has a beautiful sound!



Oboe - The oboe is a sweet sounding double reed instrument, which means that sound is produced by blowing into a joined set of two reeds. Oboe players are independent and have a good ear. Private lessons are highly encouraged for success.



Bassoon - The bassoon is another double reed instrument, but it has a deep bass sound and is the lowest of the woodwind family. Bassoon players are independent and have a good ear. Private lessons are highly encouraged for success.



Clarinet - The clarinet is a single reed instrument that is played by blowing into a mouthpiece and reed combination and pressing down keys for different notes. Clarinets are usually made of wood, which produces a very warm and beautiful sound. It has a large range of notes from very low to very high.



Saxophone - The saxophone is also a single reed instrument and works just like the clarinet. It is known for its bright and jazzy sound. This class has a limited size.



Percussion - Percussion class focuses on mallet percussion and snare drum technique. We also learn the timpani and all accessory percussion instruments (cymbals, tambourine, triangle and more!) Students wishing to play percussion must complete a special screening process in order to be selected. This class has a limited size.



The BRASS:

Trumpet - The trumpet produces the highest sound in the brass family. The sound is produced when the player buzzes their lips into the mouthpiece. The trumpet is a versatile instrument and has a brilliant sound! It often has the melody in the band.



French Horn - The French horn is one of the most beautiful and mellow sounding instruments in the brass family. The horn has a very wide range and can play both very high and very low notes. You even get to play with your hand in the bell! Private lessons are highly encouraged for success.



Trombone - The trombone is most famous for its long slide, which is moved to various positions to create different notes. The trombone is played with a medium sized mouthpiece that suits players with many different physical characteristics. It is also important in the jazz band.



Euphonium - The euphonium can be thought of as a mini tuba. It uses the same mouthpiece as the trombone and is also suited to players with many different physical characteristics. The euphonium has a very distinct mellow sound with the same range of notes as the trombone.



Tuba - The tuba is the largest and lowest instrument in the brass family. It produces a very deep, low sound, making it the foundation for the entire band! The tuba is played with a large mouthpiece and uses valves for different notes.

