



# Centennial Middle School Instrumental Music Department

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

## How to Join 6th Grade Band !!!

Band Information Night  
Monday, April 4, 2011  
6:30 PM  
CMS Auditorium



Band Instrument Display Night  
Tuesday, May 24, 2011  
4:00-7:00 PM  
CMS Bandroom

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### 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”

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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. As directors we look forward to the energy and enthusiasm of these band members.

The Centennial Band Program currently serves about 900 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, HS

Steve Olson, MS

Christine Ringen, MS

Gina Wolleat, MS

Becky Weiland, HS

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



## **Band Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:**

### ***Monday, April 4 —Band Performances for 5th Graders***

5th graders will attend a concert at the Middle School auditorium during the school day to hear performances by the 8th grade bands.

### ***Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m.—Band Information Night***

Parents of any 5th grade 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.**

### ***Monday, April 4, 7:15 p.m.—Percussion Meeting***

All students who are interested in playing Percussion are asked to meet in the band room immediately following the Band Information meeting. No student will be assigned to percussion without attending an interview with a band teacher.

### ***Monday, April 25—ALL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE***

Registrations received after April 25 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 are asked to meet in the band room on the Night of April 4.*

### ***May 9 —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 **May 9**. 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 24).

### ***Tuesday, May 24, 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. Local music companies will be offering instrument rental and purchase programs.

# Instrument Selection For 6th Grade

Flute



Trumpet



Euphonium



Alto  
Saxophone



Trombone



Clarinet



Tenor  
Saxophone



Percussion



## **Additional Instrument Choices Available for 7th Grade**

Students who have demonstrated a solid understanding of music notation and who have shown a commitment to practicing one of the instruments shown above, will be given consideration to switch to one of the following instruments at the end of their 6th grade year:

Bassoon



Bass  
Clarinet



Tuba



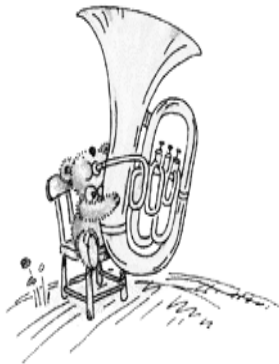
French  
Horn



Students who ultimately wish to play Oboe, Bassoon or Bass Clarinet should choose Clarinet or Saxophone as a first choice for their 6th grade year. Students who wish to switch to French Horn or Tuba in 7th grade should choose Trumpet, Trombone or Euphonium.

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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.

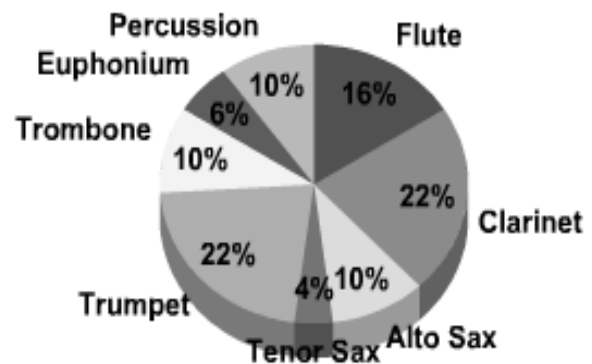
Playing percussion requires strong rhythmic aptitude and also the ability to work independently. A piano background is very helpful in learning to play percussion.

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!

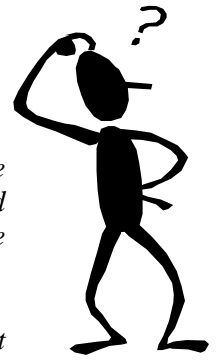
Hopefully, these suggestions will help you and your child in making your instrument choices. The music instructor can be of assistance to you and your child weighing the criteria and choosing an instrument with which they can be ***SUCCESSFUL!***

***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, Craig's List 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 discount stores quality instruments?**

*These instruments are very poor quality. Please rent or purchase from music stores only. If you are purchasing used you may always ask a band teacher if the instrument brand is quality or not.*

⇒ **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 May 9. Students who register late can pick up their confirmation letter at the main registration table the night of the Band Display (May 24).*

⇒ **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 6th grade 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 12 concert bands, 4 at the 6th grade level, 4 at the 7th grade level and 4 at the 8th grade level. There are also many ensembles that rehearse outside of the school day. They include Jazz Band, Brass Choir, 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>



## Centennial Middle School Summer Lesson Schedule

The summer sessions will be four days a week (Monday—Thursday),  
August 15th-25th .

### **Woodwind Sessions**

8:00-8:50 a.m.	Flute
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Clarinet
10:00-10:50 a.m.	Alto Saxophone
11:00-11:50 a.m.	Flute
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
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Trumpet
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Trombone
3:00-3:50 p.m.	Trumpet

### **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 May 9). 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:

### Schmitt Music

2400 Freeway Blvd.  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
763-566-4560  
(Also a store available in Roseville)

### Groth Music

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

### Ecroth Music

Wildwood Shopping Center  
951 Wildwood Road (Hw. 100)  
White Bear Lake, MN 55115  
1-800-543-8255

### Music Connection

77 Eight Avenue S.W.  
Forest, Lake, MN 55025  
651-464-4249

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 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.

Discount stores 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. If you are confused on the brand of an instrument, please ask a band director.

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.

## School Owned Instruments

Due to the high cost of certain band instruments, CMS has a rental program available to students who play the *Euphonium*. Students/Parents are required to pay a \$45 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* 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! (Please note that Bassoons, Bass Clarinets, French Horns and Tubas are will also be available to rent from the school in 7th grade).

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

Centennial Band  
399 Elm Street  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Return Service Requested

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