



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

SJCS Beginning Band Enrollment Form

Dear Students and Families,

Thank you for your interest in joining SJCS Beginning Band! This is an exciting opportunity for your child to explore the gifts God has given them. The instrument your child picks will be the instrument they play throughout 5th grade. Please fill out the attached form and return it to Mr. Plares by **Thursday, June 4th, 2026**.

Expectations/Commitment

In order to reach our full potential, band requires both an individual and group effort. Below are the expectations for **all students** who join band:

- Band sign up is for the entire school year and may be terminated only by the agreement of the student, parent, teacher, and administrator.
- Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Students are required to practice their instrument weekly at home.
- Students are expected to bring their instrument, music, and required supplies to every band rehearsal
- Students are expected to show respect to their director, bandmates, and any guests who may enter the classroom.
- Students are expected to have a **growth mindset**.

Supplies

A supply list for each specific instrument is attached to this letter, but a general overview of supplies needed are:

- An instrument
- Instrument-specific cleaning/maintenance supplies
- "Tradition of Excellence" Book 1 for your specific instrument (Red Book)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert attire
 - Boys: White, long-sleeve buttoned shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes (optional: black tie)
 - Girls: Black dress or white top/black bottoms, black or white socks (depending on rest of attire), black dress shoes/slippers
- Recommended: music stand for home practice
- Recommended: noise reduction ear plugs



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Instrument Selection

The most important factors in choosing an instrument to play are **interest and suitability**. Attached to this letter is a list of instruments to choose from along with some factors to consider with your student. A general overview of the factors are size, lease/purchase price, and maintenance costs.

Getting an Instrument

Once your child has decided on an instrument, the students need to acquire instruments. There are several ways to get an instrument:

Leasing an Instrument from the School

The school has a limited selection of instruments available to lease. These instruments are serviced over the summer and are generally in good condition, although they may show more wear than rent-to-own instruments. Beginning band students receive priority for these instruments and they are first come, first served. Below are the prices to lease school instruments:

\$90/year: flute, clarinet

\$120/year: bass clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium

\$140/year: French horn

\$160/year: alto saxophone, tenor sax, bari sax, tuba.

Rent-to-Own Program

This is the best way to get an instrument. The instruments available are new or slightly used. You pay a monthly rental fee that goes directly towards the cost of buying the instrument. Music Village is our preferred store and offers an affordable rent-to-own program.

Bringing an Instrument from Home/ Buying an Instrument

If you already have an instrument in good condition at home, this may be the best option for you. If you are unsure if your instrument is in good condition, you may be able to bring it to a music store/technician to determine its playability. Be very careful when buying instruments. Used instruments may require repairs or adjustments. New instruments being sold online with very low prices may have quality issues that technicians will not be able to fix. If you are interested in buying an instrument, talk to Mr. Plares for more information.



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Band Instruments

Woodwinds

Many woodwind instruments were originally made of wood and require air to be blown through a mouthpiece, hence the name “wood-wind.” Woodwinds offer a variety of sounds and sizes, which make them an excellent choice for many students. Good woodwind players have strong finger dexterity.

Flute

The flute is the smallest and highest sounding instrument in the beginning band. It is made of silver or a silver-plated brass alloy and is played by blowing across an opening in one end while fingers press keys to change notes. With its clear, penetrating sound, the flute often plays the melody in band.



Things to Consider:

- Small and compact case
- Easy to assemble
- Requires more breath control/lung capacity than other woodwinds
- Fits a need in our current band roster

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- “Tradition of Excellence” Book 1 for Flute (Red Book)
- Flute cleaning kit (cleaning cloth, powder paper)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)

Clarinet

The clarinet produces a large, beautiful sound that ranges from very high to very low in pitch. Most beginner clarinets are made of plastic, while higher quality clarinets are made of a special wood, called granadilla, which only grows in the Savanna of Africa. This is a very versatile instrument suited for a variety of students.



Things to Consider:

- Small and compact case
- Feels similar to the recorder
- Many pieces to assemble
- Requires the purchase of reeds
- Fits a need in our current band roster

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- “Tradition of Excellence” Book 1 for Bb Clarinet
- Clarinet cleaning kit (cleaning cloth, cork grease, powder paper)
- Box of size 2 clarinet reeds (replenished as needed)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Bass Clarinet

The bass clarinet is in the clarinet family, but is much larger and lower-sounding than the Bb clarinet. Because of its larger size, it is supported by a neck strap and peg. The bass clarinet has an appealing, rich tone, much different from other instruments in its range. It has become a popular instrument in concert bands, marching bands, and film scores.



Things to Consider:

- Larger instrument and case
- Feels similar to the recorder
- Many parts to assemble
- Requires the purchase of reeds
- Fits a need in our current band roster

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- "Tradition of Excellence" Book 1 for Bb Bass Clarinet
- Bass clarinet cleaning kit (cleaning cloth/swab, cork grease, powder paper)
- Box of size 2 bass clarinet reeds (replenished as needed)
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)

Alto Saxophone

The saxophone is one of the most popular band instruments. Most people know the saxophone as they have heard it in jazz or rock music. The saxophone's key system is similar to a clarinet but is much more complicated. Some saxophone players will have the opportunity to play tenor or baritone saxophone in middle school.



Things to Consider:

- Medium-sized instrument and case
- Feels somewhat similar to the recorder
- Requires the purchase of reeds
- Very popular instrument (may need to be capped at a certain number)

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- "Tradition of Excellence" Book 1 for Eb Alto Saxophone
- Alto saxophone cleaning kit (cleaning cloth/swab, cork grease, powder paper)
- Box of size 2 alto saxophone reeds (replenished as needed)
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Brasswinds

Like woodwinds, brasswinds are a part of the wind instrument category, but are very different in the way they sound/produce that sound and in the way they feel. All brasswinds are made of brass tubing of various diameters and require the player to “buzz” their lips to produce a sound. Although brasswinds come in a variety of sizes, they generally produce sound the same way, making it easier for a brass player to learn multiple brass instruments.

Trumpet

The trumpet is the highest and most popular member of the brass family. Recognized by its bright, clear sound, the trumpet is frequently used to play the melody, especially in film scores such as “Star Wars,” “Indiana Jones,” and “The Incredibles.” As with all brass instruments, learning to properly “buzz” your lips is essential to producing a good sound.



Things to Consider:

- Medium-sized instrument case
- Easy to assemble and maintain
- Very different from the recorder
- Fits a need in our current band roster

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- “Tradition of Excellence” Book 1 for Bb Trumpet
- Trumpet cleaning kit (cleaning cloth, valve oil)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)

French Horn

The French Horn is one of the most majestic and versatile instruments in the band. Recognized by its distinct coiled shape, the horn is often used to blend with both brass and woodwind sounds. It is also one of the most commonly heard instruments in motion picture soundtracks, and it has the widest range of any brass instrument. Good horn players are highly sought by universities and colleges, often receiving substantial scholarships.



Things to Consider:

- Medium-sized instrument case
- Easy to assemble and maintain
- Very different from the recorder
- Requires a good sense of pitch

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- “Tradition of Excellence” Book 1 for F Horn
- French horn cleaning kit (cleaning cloth, rotary oil)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Trombone

Easily recognized by its long slide, the trombone is one of the most powerful instruments in the band. Playing primarily in the lower range of the band, the trombone is used both as a melodic and a supporting instrument. Trombones are used in virtually every type of musical group, including jazz, rock, and marching band as well as the symphony orchestra.



Things to Consider:

- Larger instrument case
- Easy to assemble and maintain
- Very different from the recorder
- Requires a good sense of pitch and long arms to reach the full range of the instrument
- Fits a need in our current band roster

Supplies List (besides the instrument):

- "Tradition of Excellence" Book 1 for Trombone (make sure it is in bass clef)
- Trombone cleaning kit (cleaning cloth, slide grease)
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)

Percussion

Percussion is one of the most misunderstood sections of the band. Often referred to as the "drums", this name is actually a very incomplete description of what is involved in the beginning percussion class. Percussionists learn to play a number of instruments, including mallet instruments like the bells and xylophone, battery percussion like the snare and bass drums, and auxiliary percussion instruments like the tambourine and triangle. The majority of the beginning percussion year is spent on a xylophone and a practice pad, though percussionists will have opportunities to play on a great many different instruments.



Things to Consider:

- Minimal items to bring to band
- Easy switch for pianists
- Requires a good sense of rhythm
- Requires long periods of standing
- Very popular instrument (may need to be capped at a certain number)

Supplies List:

- Orchestra bells with mallets (limited quantity available)
- snare drum practice pad with drum sticks (must be purchased on your own)
- "Tradition of Excellence" Book 1 for Percussion
- 2 Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **Supplies** on the previous page for details)



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Please complete this form, detach, and return to Mr. Plares

SJCS Beginning Band Enrollment Form

Student's Full Name:

--

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

--	--

STUDENT: Complete/initial each statement with a parent/guardian.

- I will be playing _____ (instrument choice) and I (mark one or more) _____ have an instrument. _____ am looking for an instrument (lease or purchase) _____ plan to take private lessons
- _____ I understand that band requires responsibility, self-discipline, and regular practice.
- _____ I understand the weekly practice requirement for my particular band(s).
- _____ I understand that band is a graded class and follows the sports eligibility requirements outlined in the Parent Student Handbook.
- _____ I understand that attendance to all rehearsals and performances is mandatory, and missing either may affect my grade.
- _____ I will bring my instrument, music, and required supplies to **every** band rehearsal.
- _____ I will cooperate during all rehearsals out of respect for myself, my classmates, and my director.
- _____ I will play my instrument only when instructed by my director.
- _____ I will not bring gum, food, or beverages (except water) into the music room.
- _____ I will handle my own instrument. I will not misuse, abuse, or misplace it in any way.
- _____ When attending field trips or performances, I will be a positive ambassador for my band, my school, and God in what I do and say.

Continue on back



A *love* for God.
A desire to *learn*.
A commitment to *serve*.

Please complete this form, detach, and return to Mr. Plares

SJCS Beginning Band Enrollment Form

PARENT/GUARDIAN: Review the following information and sign your name.

- I understand that my child's commitment to the band is for the entire school year and may be terminated only by the agreement of the student, parent, teacher, and administrator.
- I will take time to set up a specific, **consistent** practice routine that works for the entire family.
- I understand that concert attendance at all concerts is **required**.

Parent/guardian signature

Date signed