

Ami Custodia's

Application for Switching Instruments

Dear Parent,

At Suzanne Middle School, we are proud to offer instruction on a wide variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Our bands are in need of students playing instruments that will add to the overall quality of the groups, and your child has expressed an interest in learning a new instrument. A balanced band sound has a warm, rich quality, and correct instrumentation is a must for a balanced band sound. On the right is a chart of good, balanced instrumentation compared to current numbers. As you can see from this chart, our bands are extremely heavy in high-pitched instruments. This creates a thin, shrill sound.

Students have the opportunity to learn some of the needed instruments through a trial period. After a child has developed skills on one instrument it is usually easy to learn a second one. Students will have opportunities daily to practice the new instrument, and student tutors will be provided if available. Students are to bring their main instrument daily and warm up with the group. After warmups they will be allowed to work on the new instrument.

Instrument	Number in a Balanced Band	Current Numbers
Flute	12	
Oboe	2	
Bassoon	2	
Clarinet	12	
Bass Clarinet	4	
Alto Sax	4	
Tenor Sax	2	
Bari Sax	2	
Trumpet	10	
French Horn	4-6	
Trombone	6-8	
Baritone	4-6	
Tuba	4-6	
Percussion	4-6	

Students may test on their main instrument until they feel they are ready on the new one. Ms. Custodia is available for help by appointment after school Monday through Thursday. At the end of the two-week trial period, the student either commits to

the new instrument for the remainder of the year or goes back to the main instrument. Only one instrument trial per year is allowed.

Only instruments that will help to improve the overall band sound will be approved for the two-week trial period. We will not allow more flutes, clarinets, alto saxes, trumpets, or percussion. The instruments offered for the trial period are oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba. Students who switch to new instruments should be self-motivated, disciplined, patient with themselves, conscientious, and committed.

Application for Learning a New Instrument

Student's Name _____

I am interested in trying (in order of preference)

1. _____

2. _____

The reasons I want to try these instruments are (attach another sheet of paper if needed)

Our child is interested in trying the above instruments. We support this choice and will provide the necessary materials if our child decides to make this commitment.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____