

The MBCI Concert Band Program

Instrument Selection Process

Mr. Klassen

In Concert Band, students learn to play a concert band instrument, learn about music and what it means to be in an ensemble, and have a lot of fun! You do not need any prior experience playing a band instrument to join in either Grade 6 or 7.

Two important ingredients of a quality concert band program are students who are comfortable with the instrument that they choose to play, and concert bands that have a proper balance of each instrument to sound good in performance.

It's important that a concert band have a proper balance of players in each section. If a band has too many players on one instrument, it's not very fun to play in that section, because they will always be asked to be quieter. Meanwhile, other sections don't have enough players, each part can't be heard equally, and the band doesn't sound right.

But when a band has good balance, everyone has a lot of fun, and it's a lot easier to sound good as an ensemble.

To have a balanced concert band in both grades, we will need a certain number of players on each instrument. In the woodwind section, we will need flutes, clarinets, or alto and tenor saxophone. We might possibly have an oboe, bassoon, or bass clarinet player as well. In the brass section, we will need trumpets, horns, (also called French horns), trombones, euphoniums, (also called baritones), and a tuba player. We will also have a section of percussionists.

If you are interested in percussion, you will have a bit of homework to see if you are a good fit for the section. Successful percussionists tend to have the following characteristics:

- some keyboard background,
- an above-average sense of rhythm,
- they are leaders/soloists - not afraid to take a risk,
- they have excellent social skills - work well in a group,
- they are growth-minded - never completely satisfied with their current level of performance.

For information on instrument rentals, visit the [Long & McQuade](#) or [St. John's Music](#) instrument rental pages. Students who play some of the larger and more expensive instruments (bassoon, bass clarinet, horn, euphonium, tuba) often rent them through MBCI at a subsidized cost making them comparable to renting the less expensive ones through the store. You can read more about this in our [Band Instrument Rental Fee Policy](#).

What to do:

1. Watch this [video](#) introducing all the band instruments.
2. Choose some instruments you might be interested in. Watch the videos linked below for those instruments.

Woodwind:

- [Flute](#)
- [Oboe](#)
- [Bassoon](#)
- [Clarinet](#)
- [Saxophone](#)

Brass:

- [Trumpet](#)
- [French Horn](#)
- [Trombone](#)
- [Euphonium](#)
- [Tuba](#)

Percussion:

- [Percussion](#)
*Percussionists learn to play every instrument in the percussion section.

3. Discuss with your parents/guardians. Make a list of 3-4 instruments you would be interested in learning to play in the band.
4. On Monday, June 8, 2026, as part of the MBCI New Family Orientation evening at MBCI, you will have the opportunity to try out each band instrument. This will help you narrow down your choices. In addition, you can send me a message at aklassen@mbci.mb.ca if you have more questions or would like to meet with me at a different time after school in June. (Note - current MBCI Grade 5 students will try out these instruments in class at school, Wednesday, June 10, 2026.)

Please fill out this [Instrument Selection Form](#) and submit by **Saturday, June 13th, 2026**. I will contact you by email or phone during the week of June 15, 2026 to answer questions and help you choose an instrument to play.

I hope to hear from you!

Mr. Klassen
MBCI Bands