

Wanna Play Drums?????

Percussion vs. Drums

Beginning band has a percussion class. If your child is interested in “playing drums” or learning drum set, this may not be exactly what you are looking for. “Percussion” includes: snare drum, keyboards (i.e. xylophone), timpani and accessories (i.e. cymbals, bass drum, triangle etc.)

Drum set at home?

Having a drum set at home does not guarantee you a spot in the percussion class. A lot of it depends on the audition procedure.

What is the audition procedure?

Each student will be required to perform a series of rhythm and coordination tests. This includes: foot/hand coordination, hand/finger dexterity, rhythmic imitation, natural stick control, timing skills, and a natural sense of pulse. It has been our experience that students who auditioned well and possessed many of the necessary traits ended up being successful in the class. Students who had a difficult time demonstrating these skills, struggled in the class; even those that worked “really hard” and “really wanted it”. We want your child to be successful in band and enjoy their band experience; we do our best to place students where their physical attributes lend them to be.

Piano/Drum experience?

Having had piano/drum lessons will definitely help you in the audition procedure, but will not guarantee you a spot in the percussion class.

Percussion Ratio

We cannot have a band composed of just drummers. There are only 6-7 percussionists in each band at the 7th and 8th grade levels and only 2 bands at that level. Therefore, there can only be 12-14 kids in 7th and 8th grades.

Equipment Limitations

Percussion students perform on school-owned instruments (i.e. bass drum, timpani, xylophone, and snare drum). We are limited not only by equipment needs, but also by the musical requirements of the songs we perform. Any given song calls for 4 players (snare drum, bass drum, timpani, and keyboard). If we do not limit the percussion class, there would be many students who did not get to perform in all the songs and would miss out on a great band experience.