



***WE WANT  
YOU...  
IN OUR  
BEGINNING  
BAND!***

**Will my child be successful in band?**

Students who try hard and want to learn will have a great time in band. No experience is necessary. The band directors will teach everything that is needed to know.

**My son/daughter is busy with other activities. Can he/she still join band?**

YES! Our band members are involved with many things and can still be very successful on an instrument. Don't pass up this once in a lifetime opportunity. Just try it!

**How do band classes work?**

Band is a scheduled class that is held every school day of the school year. Instruments will be divided into similar instrument groups and will work with a specialist on that instrument. In addition, students will also learn how to play as one large group. Besides acquiring an instrument, there is no fee for joining band.

**When does band start?**

Beginning band is a scheduled class at both General Sherman and Thomas Ewing. Students will start in band on the first day of school. They will not need instruments until the first full week of school (Monday).

### **How do we select an instrument?**

Your son or daughter recently had the opportunity to observe several instruments in an informal setting. This took place during the school day during the band recruitment assembly.

The official dates to select an instrument will take place on the following dates in the Lancaster High School band room. Families must only attend one of these dates.

**Saturday, March 5 from 10AM-1PM**

**Tuesday, March 8 from 5-8PM**

**Tuesday, March 15 from 5-8PM**

If you cannot attend one of these days and times, please contact one of the band directors.

All of the beginning band instruments will be available to try on these days. *The band directors want to help you make a good decision!* During this time, students will have the chance to try as many instruments as they want. Afterwards, the students, parents, and a director will discuss the best option and together choose an instrument.

### **We have an instrument at home. Can we use it?**

We hope that you can, but first we need to make sure it is the *right choice for your child* and that it is in *good working order*. If this is one of the recommended instrument choices for your child, your next step would be take it to a music store to have its condition reviewed. This should be done before the first day of school. Repairs may take a week or more.

### **How do I get more information?**

Any of the band directors will be glad to speak with you. Email is the best option. If you would prefer to call, please leave a voicemail at 740-681-7523 and one of the directors will get back with you. You can also find additional information on the band website: [www.LancasterBands.com/JoinBand](http://www.LancasterBands.com/JoinBand)

**Jared Smith (Woodwinds)**

j\_smith@lcsschools.net

**David Bode (Brass)**

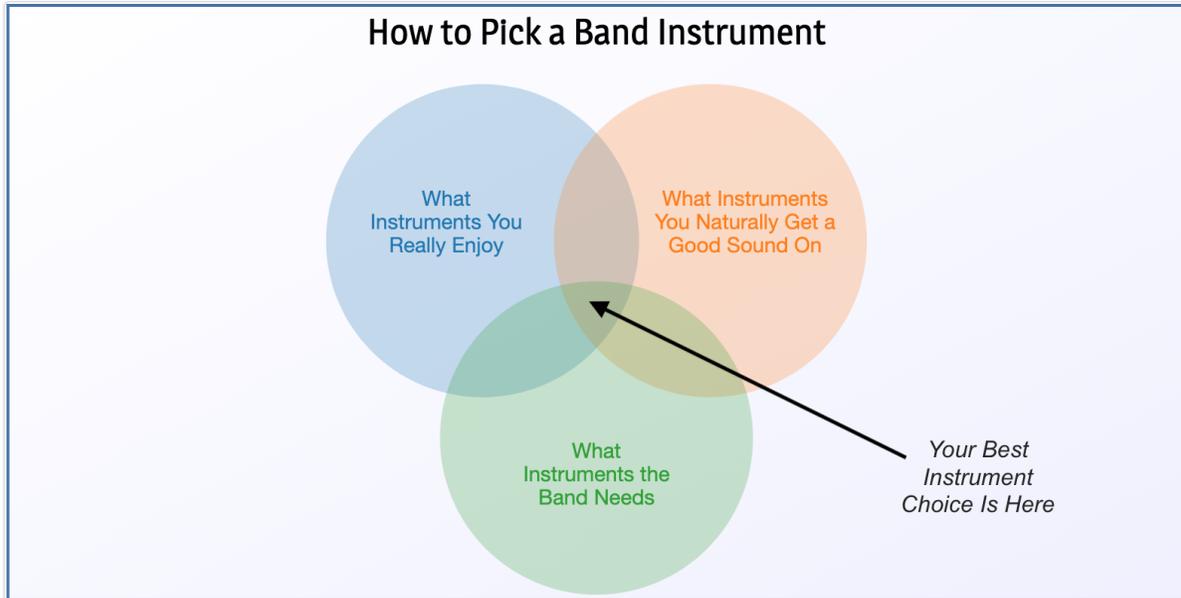
d\_bode@lcsschools.net

**Bruce Gerken (Percussion)**

b\_gerken@lcsschools.net

**Ben Factor (LHS Band Director)**

b\_factor@lcsschools.net



## **What's the Best Way to Pick a Band Instrument?**

1. Get to know all of the instrument options. Listen to recordings of each instrument so you know what each sounds like. Listen to as many recordings as you can find! Listen to solos, small groups, bands, and orchestras. Make a ranked list of the instruments. Which do you like the best? Which do you like the least? Come to your *Instrument Selection Day* appointment knowing what your top choices are.
2. When you come for *Instrument Selection Day*, you will get a chance to try as many instruments as you want. We ask everyone to try at least two. You will get an opportunity to find out which instruments are the best fit for you. Not everyone has an easy time getting a sound on each instrument. Choosing an instrument that you can easily get a good sound on can help you get a great start.
3. For a band to sound good, we need a certain number of students on each instrument. If we have too many or not enough on certain instruments, the band will not sound great. When deciding what to play, the band directors will tell you what we need. You can help the band sound great by choosing an instrument we need. We need fantastic students on all instruments!

After hearing about the instruments at our school assembly, I am most interested in (circle at least two favorites that you would like to try):

Flute



Clarinet



Saxophone



Trumpet



Trombone



Percussion



At the *Instrument Selection Day* appointment, we ask all students to try at least two instruments, but students may try more than two if they would like.

## **Sign Up for an Instrument Selection Day Appointment**

Go to [LancasterBands.com/JoinBand](https://LancasterBands.com/JoinBand) to find the sign up

OR

Scan this QR Code



*The purpose of Instrument Selection Day is so students can be placed on the best instrument and so that parents can get all of the information they need. Time slots fill up quickly...  
be sure to sign up right away!*