



FLORIDA

- Paul Effman Music Service -

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THE SCHOOL BAND-VIOLIN PROGRAM

July 2025

Dear St. Jerome Parent:

Your child can join the school band and play an instrument at school! **Any student in grades K through eight (2025-2026) may choose to play the violin. Any student in grades three through eight may choose any band instrument WITH OR WITHOUT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE!**

Students will attend a live demonstration of the instruments on August 13th. All group lessons will be held during school time on MONDAYS. Instrument lessons do not conflict with any crucial academics.

Please note that the band/violin program is a commitment for the entire school year. Students may not enter or exit the program once the program is underway.

Homepractice is required throughout the school year. There is a separate tuition and registration fee and any instrument fee necessary. Paul Effman Music Service provides the band program. Registration is now available online: **pemusic.com/join**. (Kinder parents may need to call to register). **Registration is due on August 20th.**

Please see the registration form.

Please browse through the instrument selection guide or visit our website <https://ed.pemusic.com/selecting-an-instrument/> or youtube.com for more pictures, videos, and sound clips

Available Instruments in the Band Program

THE WOODWIND FAMILY

The Flute is a member of its family even though it is made of metal. It is easy to fit into a backpack or lockers. Flautists play many high notes in the band. Sound is created by blowing air against the edge of a hole at the top of the flute.

The Clarinet is slightly larger than the flute but is still a small instrument to carry. The clarinet has the largest pitch range among common woodwind instruments. While most clarinets are made of plastic, professional models are made of wood. The clarinet is a single reed instrument and making a sound on the clarinet is fairly easy.

The Saxophone is the largest member of the woodwind family. Saxophones are made of metal and come in four sizes. The appropriate size for beginner students is the "alto" saxophone. Like the clarinet, the saxophone is a single reed instrument. The saxophone is popular for its unique sound and versatility across several musical genres.

OVER

THE BRASS FAMILY

The Trumpet is the smallest member of the brass family. It is constructed of brass. As with all brass instruments, sound is produced by buzzing your lips into the mouthpiece. The trumpet's bright and lively sound carries many of the melodies in the band.

The Trombone is a mid-ranged member for the brass family. Sound production is similar to that required of the trumpet. Pitches are changed by moving slide. The arm length of the player is a factor in choosing the trombone. Please consult Mr. Tritto first before choosing the trombone. (WE NEED MORE TROMBONES!)

THE PERCUSSION FAMILY

The Bell Lyre (also known as the glockenspiel) is a member of the percussion family that produces its sound by striking metal keys with a plastic or wooden mallet. The notes are configured like a piano keyboard, and usually the names of the notes are printed on each metal bar. When struck, the bars create a very pure, resonant sound.

The Snare Drum is a popular percussion instrument that is played by striking the drum head with two wooden sticks. Drummers have the important job of keeping the beat for the band. A common misconception about the drums is that they are easy. Actually, playing drums requires a great deal of focus and practice.

THE STRING FAMILY

The violin is the only string instrument offered in the Band program. Students will use the pizzicato (plucking) as well as bow techniques to produce the violin's beautiful tone. It is often included with the higher tone range of the band family of instruments including the flute, clarinet, and bells. The violin is not only fun for the player but helps diversify the overall sound scape of the Band. Please note that students under middle school age should play reduced-size violins. As the student grows, a larger violin will be needed. So, purchasing a reduced-sized violin is not recommended for most families, since a young violinist will require several sizes until full size is reached usually by middle school age. RENTING a violin is the way to go!