

Percussion Class Reference Guide

So you are thinking about being a percussionist for a school band in Independence? Read this guide carefully as it will give you information to allow you to make your decision before enrolling in the class.

Step 1. Understanding the class.

This is a comprehensive percussion class that will cover two main instruments in its curriculum. It is expected that students practice and become proficient on **BOTH** non-pitched percussion (drums) and keyboard instruments (xylophone). Students will be instructed through these two main outlets and given individualized instruction on other instruments as the need arises.

Step 2. Prerequisites for the class.

Since there are a limited number of instruments in our section and the band requires a balanced instrumentation of winds and percussion, we must set a cap for the number of students allowed to play percussion in band.

Each student interested in percussion will be introduced to the instruments with a short lesson from Mr. Johnson. These will occur during the try the instrument night at the middle school.

All students interested in percussion must do this brief lesson to be evaluated for the program.

If your student is unable to make it to the enrollment night, then Mr. Johnson must be contacted at brandon_johnson@isdschools.org or called through the middle school office. You will be contacted about your student's enrollment in the class before the end of school.

Step 3. The Equipment needed for class.

Students will have a practice requirement outside of class. Students will need uniform equipment to practice on outside of class to allow for an equal opportunity to advance their skills. This equipment is the standard that we will use along with several other districts in our area.



The Ross R409 Scholastic Marimba

This instrument will stay at home and serve as the practice tool for all of the keyboard activities we do in class. The class will be set up to utilize it on a regular basis as well as the next item.

Remo 8" practice pad.

This item is transportable from home to school. This enables students to rehearse on the same style of equipment. Students will also need a snare style stand to hold the pad in place. Other needed gear is covered below in additional equipment.



Additional needed equipment.

To accompany these mainstays in our class, you will also need:
A pair of drumsticks
A pair of yarn covered mallets
A stick/mallet bag.
Measures of Success Book 1

Prices vary from store to store. The total cost for this material is similar to a Saxophone or French Horn. Average price of \$75 per month.

Step 4. Obtaining equipment.

We highly encourage the use of a reputable music store. Meyer Music in Blue Springs offers this equipment in the form of a percussion kit which can be rented or purchased. Everything we require for the class comes in this kit. While we highly encourage the use of this company, we are not affiliated with them in any way. We simply like their business practices and willingness to work with families in any financial situation. Note: In order to rent you will need a major credit card to complete the transaction.

There are other sources for these instruments, but just like any of the other instruments in the band world, there are good products and bad products. We as a band staff want your student to be as successful as he or she can be. That is made more difficult with poor equipment. **PLEASE** contact Brandon Johnson at: brandon_johnson@isdschools.org or call the main office of your middle school to check with him first before purchasing equipment from another source.

Equipment does not need to be rented or purchased until August. We will host a rental night at our school for your convenience.

Checklist:

- Visited Mr. Johnson at the "Try the Instrument night" OR contacted Mr. Johnson**
- Been contacted and confirmed that my student may enroll in percussion class**
- Enrolled in band/percussion class**
- Purchased/rented equipment in August.**