



# Interested in Percussion?

**If you're interested in playing percussion,** you need to start on clarinet, trumpet or trombone. Much like the other "transfer" instruments, such as the oboe or French horn, certain natural abilities are essential for success. We will evaluate all interested students throughout the first nine-week term and begin percussion instruction during the second term. Those students who demonstrate a propensity toward success and the necessary level of diligence will be invited to play percussion.

Each year 40—60% of our incoming 6th grade students choose percussion as their first choice. Obviously, few of these students (around 10%) actually end up playing percussion. Students tend to enjoy band if they are successful on their instrument, regardless of the instrument. For example, we rarely see someone who originally wanted to play percussion, but is successful on trumpet, quit Band.

Even though they use many school-owned instruments, percussion students must also provide their own instrument (percussion kit). If, after the first term, you are invited to transfer to percussion (and if you are still interested in switching), you would simply take your clarinet, trumpet, or trombone rental back to the music store and exchange it for a percussion kit. The music stores have assured me there will be no financial loss to you in making this change.

