

BE

PART

OF

THE

MUSIC

Portsmouth Public Schools  
Instrument Petting Zoo



# Music: Performing Arts

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Music can have an important impact on how your child learns, in music and in other subjects, and on how well they perform in other non-musical tasks. Character benefits like perseverance, problem-solving, and teamwork. Now let's examine some of the cognitive benefits of music study for your child.

## **Improved language development**

Studies show that music study affects the development of the left side of the brain, where language processing takes place. Music enhances children's ability to decode sounds and words.

## **Improved spatial-temporal skills**

Studies show that music study can improve a child's spatial-temporal skills over time. This is important in solving multi-step problems they will find in math and computer-related challenges.

## **Promotes brain development**

The influence of music study on the development of the brain has been demonstrated by research. Students involved in studying music show larger growth of neural activity than those who do not. Additionally, actual structural changes in the brain in the areas that affect sound discrimination and fine motor skills have been observed.

## **But the most important thing...**

The best part of studying music is that it can lead to a more interesting, happier life. Children studying music gain a deeper understanding of themselves.

This is an exciting journey, filled with discovery and wonder. I'm so glad your child is experiencing this wonderful aspect of being human.

If there's anything you'd like to talk about, contact your child's music teacher. Learn more about music education by visiting us at [www.tidewaterwinds.org](http://www.tidewaterwinds.org)

# BE PART OF THE MUSIC

## **What if I am not sure if I want my child to do music?**

Remember when your children wouldn't eat the food you made for them? You always said, "Try it before you decide you don't like it." Music is the same way. Your child should sign up for band even if you or they are unsure. If at some point you decide that music is not for you, drop the class. It is much easier to drop something after trying it, than to join late when everyone else has already started.

## **What if I don't know anything about music?**

That's ok! We will teach your child everything they need to know, step by step. From how to assemble and care for the instrument to reading notes and rhythms, we will guide your child through the process. All that is needed from you is an enthusiastic attitude and patient ears when your child comes home and makes their first sound.

## **How much out of school time is required?**

Music is no different than any other curricular area. We ask that your child spend some time with their instrument each and every week. Think of it as musical homework, but much more fun.

## **What instrument should my child play?**

The answer depends on a variety of things, but in the end, it is most important that they play something that they enjoy. I encourage you to visit the website [www.bepartofthemusic.org](http://www.bepartofthemusic.org), watch the different instrument videos with your child, and discuss the different options. I will also help guide your child based on his/her musical interests, physical make-up, and instrument availability. Your child knows what she wants, you know your child, and I know music. Together we will find the instrument that she will not only enjoy but will give her the best chance of musical success.

## **What are the costs?**

The costs associated with music depend on which instrument your child chooses and if you already own an instrument. We wish funds were available for us to provide every child with an instrument, however, this is simply not possible. The school may have certain instruments available for school use. If not, you can rent a quality instrument from a local music store at a very reasonable price. If financial constraints prevent you from being able to do this, please contact me and allow me to help. We will do everything possible not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep your child from participating.

## **How do I procure an instrument?**

The school provides many of the larger and more expensive instruments. We encourage students playing smaller, less expensive instruments to either rent or purchase their own instrument. More information regarding instrument availability will be mailed as the new school year approaches.

## **What if I have other questions?**

Please know that the band directors at each level are here to answer any and all questions that you may have. Due to the busy nature of our program and schools in general, it is sometimes difficult to contact me by phone. The best way for you to reach them is electronically, please look up the email for the band director at your middle or high school.

If you would like to know more about the individual instruments or music in general, visit [www.bepartofthemusic.org](http://www.bepartofthemusic.org).

# Instrument Families and Their Instruments

## Woodwind Family

Flute



Clarinet



Saxophone



## Brass Family

Trumpet



French Horn



Trombone/Baritone/Tuba



## Percussion Family

Bells



Snare Drum



What I Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

My Favorite Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: ■



# Portsmouth Public Schools Presents

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## 🎵 Band Instrument Student Passport 🎵

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### Welcome to the Instrument Petting Zoo!

Explore the world of music, learn about different instruments, and get initials in your passport as you go!

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### Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 5, 2025



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### How to Use Your Passport:

1. **Visit Each Station:** Go to each instrument station where you'll see, hear, and sometimes play an instrument.
  2. **Ask Questions:** Learn about the instrument, its parts, how it's played, and its sound.
  3. **Get Initials:** When you've explored an instrument, ask for a musician to initial your flyer to mark your experience.
  4. **Record Your Thoughts:** After each station, jot down what you learned or your favorite part.
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### Instruments to Explore in your Journey

1. 🎵 **Woodwind Instruments**
  2. 🎺 **Brass Instruments**
  3. 🥁 **Percussion Instruments**
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### Bonus Challenge!

#### Try Playing an Instrument:

Pick one instrument to play! Try producing a sound and see how it feels.

Instrument Played: \_\_\_\_\_

Sound It Made: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Final Thoughts

My Favorite Instrument Today Was: \_\_\_\_\_

The Instrument I made the best sound on: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I Want to Play This Instrument?  Yes  No

What I Would Like to Learn More About: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Be Part of the Band** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOChrKsuQGU>

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