

INSTRUMENT SELECTION

Tips & Tricks

1. Select your top 3 choices from what you want to play and which ones you like the sound the most. It's more important to be happy with your instrument choice, that way you will want to play it more and get better faster.

2. Don't feel any pressure to pick the perfect instrument. Your instrument is never permanent, you can always switch to another instrument next year! Knowing how to play multiple instruments only makes you better at learning instruments, so if you struggle on one instrument, explore your options for next year. But you do have to stick to your assigned instrument for at least one semester (half-year) since you need to give yourself time to really get to know an instrument before you abandon it. Sometimes students discover their love for their instrument near the end of the year because of HOW they learn. This means that you would have had the same experience regardless of which instrument you picked in the first place.

3. The Oboe, French Horn, and Bassoon are considered the 3 hardest instruments in the world (*even harder than violin or piano*). It's due to their difficulty that they get the most scholarships in college, and the most jobs in the professional world. Here at Franklin, the Oboe and Bassoon have very high success rates for beginners! The French Horn is still very difficult, but the *mellophone* is actually very easy to play, and helps a LOT with switching to French Horn for the second year. Sometimes, students who learn the mellophone quickly can try a French Horn in class and see if they would like to switch to French Horn during their first year. This is very common as well.

4. The Bass Clarinet and Euphonium are the easiest instruments to play in the band! Even easier than drums! The hard part about the Bass Clarinet and Euphonium is buying one since they can be expensive. If you can afford to rent or purchase a bass clarinet or Euphonium, there's a HIGH possibility that you will get straight A's in band, LOVE band, and CONTINUE in band for many years!

5. Woodwinds require dexterity with the fingers, while Brass require dexterity with the lips. Some people assume woodwinds are harder since they have a lot of keys, but woodwinds and brass are both equal when it comes to how hard they are to learn.

6. If you can't make up your mind, but you know you like the woodwinds, choose the clarinet! The clarinet technique is the easiest to transfer to all other woodwinds.

7. If you can't make up your mind, but you know you like the brass, choose the trumpet! The trumpet technique is the easiest to transfer to all other brass instruments. As a matter of fact, the trumpet has the same exact fingerings as the Euphonium and Tuba!

******* HOPE THIS HELPS IN SELECTING AN INSTRUMENT!! *******