Instrument	Characteristics of the Instrument	Recommended Student Characteristics
FLUTE	This silver instrument has a high, bright sound. Air is blown across a small hole to produce its joyful sound. Learning to make the sound can be difficult at first and requires patience from the student. It is made of metal, even though it is in the woodwind family. Long ago it used to be made of wood. It is one of the oldest and most popular instruments in the history of music.	 Arms are long enough to hold the flute to the mouth and still cover keys correctly. Upper lip characteristics are conducive to proper embouchure. (no cupid's bow) Closed teeth meet evenly. A clear tone is easily produced on the head joint. Eye-hand coordination is good. Reading skills are above average. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high.
OBOE	The orchestra tunes to this instrument. It has a nasal, piercing sound and uses a double reed. Players change their notes by covering holes or pressing keys. Double reed instruments tend to be more challenging than other instruments and the reeds are usually around \$8 each.	 Hands are large enough to handle large stretches. Teeth are smooth and free of sharp edges. Closed teeth meet evenly. Sense of pitch is above average. Eye-hand coordination is good. Reading skills are above average. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high. Desire to play the oboe is unwavering.
CLARINET	It is a single reed instrument. This instrument has a rich, round sound and a wide range of notes. The clarinet can play in the low register, where the notes are rich and full. It can play in the middle register. It can also play in the high register. Students would have to keep a good supply of reeds on hand as they break easily. Clarinet reeds cost around \$1.50	 Hands are large enough to reach all keys and fingertips are large enough to cover the tone holes. Thumbs are not double-jointed. Orthodontic issues? Eye-hand coordination is good. Reading skills are above average.
SAXOPHONE	This is the newest of the woodwind instruments. It looks like it belongs in the brass family because of its golden color. It is a single reed instrument like the clarinet and is popular in pop, jazz, and rock bands. There are four common sizes of saxophone. We use the Alto saxophone in elementary school. The saxophone is heavy, so is probably not suitable for a student who must walk to and/or from school.	 Hands are large enough to reach all keys. Thumbs are not double-jointed. Orthodontic issues? Eye-hand coordination is good. Body size is adequate for a heavier instrument. Home that allows for practicing a louder instrument. Reading skills are above average.

TRUMPET	This is the most popular of all the brass instruments, and one of the oldest. Good trumpeters can play very high.	 Lips are thin to medium. Front teeth are straight and even. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Level of confidence is high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high. Home that allows for practicing a louder instrument. Parental support is strong.
TROMBONE	This instrument can slide from one note to another. It is played in the bass clef so is considered a 'low brass' instrument. Unlike the other brass instruments, it has no valves.	 Body size is adequate to handle the size of the instrument. Arms are long enough to reach most positions on the trombone. Lips are medium to thick. Student is able to sing a common folk song.
EUPHONIUM	This instrument, also known as a baritone or tenor tuba, has the same note range as the trombone, however it is shaped like a small tuba and uses valves to change its notes. Euphoniums are available to use from the school.	 Body size is adequate to handle the size of the instrument. Lips are medium to thick. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Wants to play tuba, but body size is not yet adequate.
TUBA	This is the lowest sounding brass instrument. It is also the largest member of the brass family. The tuba uses valves and its cup-shaped mouthpiece to change pitches. It sits in the back of the orchestra. Tubas are available to use from the school.	 Body size is adequate to handle the size of the instrument. Lips are medium to thick. Good air/breath control Student is able to sing a common folk song. Desire to play the tuba is unwavering.

PERCUSSION (CONTINUE)	Learning to play instruments in this family is a big job, but one the true percussionist loves. In the elementary band program, students who sign up to play percussion must learn to play all of the many percussion instruments, not just the drums. Students would need to rent or buy a "Percussion Kit" or a "Bell/pad Kit" that comes complete with a snare drum or a practice pad, and a small bell set. It will also include a stand to hold the instrument and sticks/mallets to play them. The other percussion instruments the students will learn are provided by the school. These percussion kits are heavy and not recommended for a student who must walk to and/or from school.	 Physical coordination is exceptional. Student is able to "march" quarter notes while clapping eighth notes. Student maintains a steady tempo while echo clapping four measure phrases. Student has previous piano experience. Commitment to becoming a complete percussionist is unwavering. Student is self-controlled. Dependability and sense of responsibility are strong. Parental support is strong.
VIOLIN	This is the most popular instrument in the string family. It has a high, brilliant sound. It is the smallest instrument in the string family. There are more violins in a symphony orchestra than any other instrument.	 Eye-hand coordination is good. Ability to use left and right hand independently. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Reading skills are above average. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high.
VIOLA	This instrument looks like the twin brother of the violin, but it's a bit bigger with a slightly lower sound. You probably could not tell the difference between the violin and viola unless you put them side by side.	 Eye-hand coordination is good. Ability to use left and right hand independently. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Reading skills are above average. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high.
CELLO	You have to sit down and hold this instrument between your knees to play this mellow instrument. It has a rich sound and can play a wide range of notes. Like the other members of its family, it has four strings. The school does own several cellos for student use.	 Body size is adequate to handle the size of the instrument Eye-hand coordination is good. Ability to use left and right hand independently. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Reading skills are above average. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high.
BASS	This instrument stands quite tall and is the lowest sounding instrument in the string family. It is a popular instrument for many different styles of music. String basses are available to use from the school	 Body size is adequate to handle the size of the instrument. Ability to use left and right hand independently. Eye-hand coordination is good. Student is able to sing a common folk song. Perseverance and level of confidence are high. Work habits are strong and achievement is high.