

## Instrumental Music

The Band Program is open to students in Grades 4-8. Students may join band for the first time at any of the above grade levels; it is not necessary for students to start in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in order to participate.

- **Fourth Grade Band** - This band is open to all fourth grade students. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Students in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will learn basic rhythms and the first 10 notes on their chosen instrument. They will also begin to learn how to play in a band, first in unison, and then with harmonically and rhythmically different parts. As each student masters those skills, they will be given the opportunity to advance to the Concert Band as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader. The Fourth Grade Band performs at two concerts, Christmas and Spring.
- **Concert Band** - The Concert Band is open to all students in Grades 5-8 and those 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students who have achieved adequate preparation through lessons and Fourth Grade Band. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Band students will learn to read music in the clef necessary for their chosen instrument. They will learn to play that instrument individually and as part of a group. Students are continually challenged to learn new rhythms, notes, and to reach new levels of expressiveness. Emphasis is placed on teamwork. Students are expected to play as a band, rather than as a random grouping of instruments that are all playing the same music at the same time. The Concert Band plays two concerts, Christmas and Spring, and when the opportunity is available, at the Band Festival held annually at Notre Dame Academy. Students are also given opportunities to participate in Honors Bands and Solo and Ensemble.