



Arizona School for the Arts
A COLLEGE PREPARATORY AND PERFORMING ARTS TRADITION

BAND FOUNDATIONS PERCUSSION INFORMATION PACKET

OVERVIEW

The ASA Percussion Program is a comprehensive program that includes four levels of Percussion Studies. In Band Foundations Percussion, students start the beginning level and are guided through a percussion curriculum that values a positive teaching environment and stresses high musical and educational standards. Students interested in being considered for the program will be asked to complete a skill assessment. This approach ensures that the incoming student is appropriately suited for percussion and is being placed in a beginning class with other students of similar ability. Band Foundations Percussion Studies is carefully structured to make the most of this very important year. The class meets every other day in conjunction with the Band Foundations Ensemble class.

APPLYING FOR BAND FOUNDATIONS PERCUSSION

- **STEP 1:** Review the **Band Foundations Percussion Info Packet** with your parents.
- **STEP 2:** Email Ms. Guzman at Guzman@goasa.org to schedule an online assessment time.
 - Assessments will be given on the following days and times.
 - Friday, February 26th, 2021 between 1:30-3:30pm
 - Friday, March 5th, 2021 between 1:30-3:30pm
 - Unable to make those times? Email Ms. Guzman ASAP!
- **STEP 3:** Complete your assessment. Assessment results will be available by no later than Friday, March 5th at 5:00pm.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms. Guzman by email.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE ASA PERCUSSION PROGRAM!!!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PERCUSSION PROGRAM

What instruments are played in the percussion class?

First year percussion studies include snare drum (basic concert drumming), mallet percussion (bells, xylophone, marimba etc) and accessory instruments (bass drum, cymbals, triangle etc.) Subsequent years will cover other concert percussion instruments including timpani, basic hand drumming, four-mallet marimba etc.

How are students selected for percussion?

There are several factors considered when a student applies for Band Foundations Percussion. Students will be assessed on their rhythmic skills, note reading ability, theory knowledge, and coordination. Ms. Guzman will also solicit recommendations from the student's academic and arts teachers.

Why can't everyone who is interested play percussion?

Percussion is one of the most popular instruments of the band, due in part to the high visibility of drums in popular music, radio, television, digital media, etc. It is always great to hear that so many students are interested in playing percussion; however there must be a balance of instruments in the school band program. Therefore, we must set a limit on the number of percussionists placed in the class.

If I sign up for Percussion, can I still play my current band or orchestra instrument?

Students selected for Band Foundations Percussion will officially switch their major instrument to Percussion. Percussion will replace their current band instrument, orchestra instrument or ballet. 7th & 8th graders will continue to take Piano and Choir in addition to Percussion. Once in high school, students may have the opportunity to play 2 different instruments based on class enrollment, teacher recommendation and administration approval.

SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PERCUSSION STUDIES

“Anybody can play drums. I’ll sign up for Percussion because it’s the easiest class offered.”

It takes a high level of skill, coordination and concentration to effectively play percussion as well as a lot of hard work and determination. Beginning Percussion studies is a fast paced class that is structured to challenge young students to master a great amount of content the first year in order to gain the necessary foundation for continued study in percussion.

“I signed up for percussion because I want to play ‘the drums.’”

The ASA Percussion program stresses the importance of being a well-rounded percussionist. A percussionist is someone who plays all of the percussion instruments including the drums. At ASA, we embrace the philosophy of "total percussion" where students will receive extensive training on all traditional concert percussion instruments. Study will include equal emphasis on snare drum, mallet percussion, and timpani. In addition, students will be exposed to various non-traditional and world percussion instruments as they apply to the concert setting. Drum set is not covered as part of this class. However, several students have gone on to take private drum set lessons once they have mastered the fundamentals. Students who reach a high level of performance on drum set have the option to audition to play drum set the ASA Percussion Ensemble or ASA Jazz Band.

“I signed up for percussion because I didn’t think it was as hard as the other instruments and would not require as much practice.”

Percussion is just like any other instrument in band or orchestra. It takes just as much hard work, practice and perseverance to master as it does for any other instrument. Percussionists have the challenge of learning how to play numerous instruments in band. Not only do they have to master snare, mallets and timpani but they also have the challenge of learning over 30 different accessory instruments! Needless to say, world-class percussionists work very hard to master their craft!

DON'T FORGET! Email Ms. Guzman at Guzman@goasa.org to schedule your assessment day and time.