

Music Maestro, Please!

Many people look at a traditional high school band and think the players are all the same: nerdy kids who need a creative outlet for their feelings or kids who think being involved band will help them in other academic areas where they are weak. Well, band kids are not all the same. The kids in each section of the band are unique.

The flutists are prim and proper students; they are well dressed and try their hardest in academics and extracurriculars. Their music closely parallels their personality because the music is flighty and shrill, but yet sounds endearing when played for ballets and musicals. Flutes take life seriously. Their personality restricts them from taking a dare or challenge. They tend to think inside the box, which causes them to lose their sense of adventure.

Unlike flutes, clarinet instrumentalists are withdrawn, quiet, and tend to be unsure of themselves. The clarinet is typically a softer, more rounded instrument than the flute and their music closely follows this. Clarinets use their brain wisely by thinking before they act. They never take people or objects for granted.

The saxophone players are fun loving. The saxophone is commonly used in jazz music, so saxophone players follow the common phrase, "You are what you play," because jazz is exciting. During a boring, long, drawn-out situation, (like a mundane meeting with a monotone boss) they are the people who will crack a joke to lighten the mood. Saxophones, unlike flutes, are willing to try new things, step up to a challenge, and have dangerous adventures.

The trumpets, like the flutes, are well dressed and put forth much effort in activities they take part in, whether it's a calculus test, volleyball, or drama. Trumpets are the most dedicated section of the band and are often the students who continue sharing their musical talent after crossing the big stage on Graduation Day. They are sincere, charismatic, lighthearted people. Occasionally loud, they are never disrespectful. Trumpets typically carry the melody of the

song, as they are the loudest and strongest instruments in the band. They, like their music, excel with solos, and need to be in the spotlight.

Trombones are of a different breed; there is no one word to describe their complex personality. Fun loving and boisterous, their brains like to think of—and say—random thoughts. They are not afraid to speak their mind even though sometimes their comments get them into trouble. Trombone music tends to follow no parameters: it can be brassy or subtle; supporting or leading; choppy or smooth. This is exactly how the trombonist's brain operates. They are my favorite section because they are sincere and surprising.

Baritone and tuba players are quiet, respectful, and genuine people. Unlike the clarinets, they are confident and sure of themselves. They serve as the anchors of the band by giving steady rhythmic patterns and low notes. They are often taken for granted because the band does not realize how lost they would be without the low brass section.

Percussionists. Well, percussionists are the most opinionated group of individuals you will ever meet. This is the only aspect that bonds them together as a section. Percussion is a unique section to belong to because the instruments and players are both of a wide variety—they can play drums, keyboard instruments, or auxiliary percussion. Interestingly, each individual player can and does fit into another section of the band, because they started out learning the art of music on a different instrument, moving to percussion at a later date. They are the heartbeat, the accent, and the glue that holds the band together as a living, breathing, and performing ensemble.

The diverse personalities within a band create well-rounded relationships between instruments and people. Band is a community of participants, and without the boisterous, subtle, and abstract personalities each section brings forth, the band would become a fractured, incomplete, group of people trying to make beautiful music without success.