

37 Switching the Right Kids to Bass Clarinet

Article

Full article on this topic can be found at www.CrossingTheBreak.com.

When to Switch

- Beginning of 2nd year of playing
- Around November of 2nd year (see how they do in advanced band first)
- Easier to switch to bass clarinet (with the more relaxed embouchure) than to switch back. It is fine to wait longer depending on band needs.
- I prefer for kids to play on soprano clarinet throughout beginning band

2 Requirements for a Switch

- Capable of taking care of an instrument responsibly
- Excited about playing bass clarinet and wants to work hard

2 Preferences for a Switch

- Student has some level of success reaching keys
- Student uses an abundant amount of air

Other Considerations (students that might benefit from a switch)

Student has trouble playing up to pitch even after lots of work

Student has a spread tone even though the embouchure appears ok

Student overblows soprano and can't seem to control it

Student has a large lower lip

Recruiting for Bass Clarinet

Explain that playing bass clarinet is a privilege and is elite ('try-outs')

Have a very successful older student come perform for the beginners

If you don't have a student, show them your best instrument and play them youtube recordings