

Frequently Asked Questions

What is beginning band?

Beginning band is made up of first-year players. This means that these students have not played a band instrument before or have little experience. They spend the first couple weeks of beginning band learning the fundamentals of music (reading notes, counting, and vocabulary) and after they have a firm foundation, they will begin playing their instruments. By the end of their first year, all beginning band students are able to perform appropriate level music and have a solid foundation of musical knowledge that will allow them to continue to the next level of band.

What is the best part of being in band?

Starting middle school can be intimidating. Your student is at a new school with new teachers, new students, and a full schedule. Band has been proven again and again to be a great way to meet other students, build confidence, and gain a sense of belonging among other band students. Band is a great elective choice for ALL students!

Neil Armstrong, first man to step on the moon, credits training that he received while playing euphonium in his high school band as helping him on the many disciplines necessary for the success for the famed Apollo XI mission. (He also played in the Purdue University Band.)

Does beginning band take up a lot of time outside of school?

Playing a band instrument, like learning anything else requires daily practice. This practice is as time consuming as a normal homework assignment. Students will be asked to practice roughly 30 minutes - 60 minutes every day. There are, at times, the occasional after school concert but you will be given plenty of time to prepare your schedule.

What instrument is best for me?

This is an important question. Just as a football team can't consist of only quarterbacks, the same is true for a band. A band must have multiple instruments, so not every child can play the same instrument. Later this summer, the band directors will be hosting instrument fairs. Each student **MUST** attend one instrument fair before the next school year begins. At this fair, your student will be able to try various instruments to help determine what they should play. This process is led by the band directors and we will help the student pick an instrument that they will be successful at **AND** that they will want to practice and play.

Is there a financial investment for my student to be in band?

Yes. There is some form of financial investment for all students. Depending on the instrument your student has selected, there will be the cost of renting a quality instrument. Some instruments are school provided but still require a maintenance fee for student use. Every student will require a band book and various supplies to make their instrument work. The most important thing to know is that **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!** Financial concerns are **NOT** a reason for a student to not take band. Please contact a band director with questions.

How many performances does the beginning band have each year?

The beginning band has two or three concerts a year and a solo/ensemble contest in the spring. All performances are a major grade and are mandatory. You will be given plenty of time to prepare your schedule for these performances. These performances are a great way for the students to show their progress throughout the first year.

What is expected from my student in the beginning band?

- Your student will be learning how to play their instrument and read music. This requires **DAILY** practice at home. To aid in this, the band hall is open every day before school for practicing. This allows students to get their practice time done at school while being supervised by the band directors.
- Eligibility applies to band just like any other extra-curricular activity. Your student must remain eligible by passing **ALL** their classes.
- Instruments sometimes need maintenance or new supplies such as oil or reeds. Your student is to have enough supplies to keep their instrument in working condition.

What if my child also wants to participate in another activity, such as a sport, club, or otherwise?

What's great about being in band is you can also participate in other activities! We have multiple students involved in volleyball, football, baseball, softball, basketball, track, drama, etc. We even had a student win homecoming Queen and played in the band! We can make any situation work, as long as there is communication. The most important thing is to be a part of the band **NOW!** If you wait until 7th grade to enroll your child, we won't be able to find a working schedule for them to be in beginning band.