

WHY JOIN BAND?

This brochure is designed to help parents & students alike sort through the sometimes confusing world of band programs and hopefully answer the questions you may have. Learning an instrument is very special.

Learning an instrument is also an activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



RESEARCHERS HAVE FOUND THAT BAND PARTICIPATION:

Enhances high brain function.

Improves reading & math performance.

Raises IQ scores & proficiency scores.

Provides important experiences that can help physical coordination, timing, memory, visual, oral & language skills.

Enhances cooperation & builds teamwork skills.



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BAND:

I want to sign up for band, but I don't know how to play an instrument. How can I be in band?

99% of all beginners have never played a wind or percussion instrument in their lifetime. Beginning band is designed to teach you everything you need to know to play an instrument and be in a performing band.

Can I join the band next year?

Beginning band is only offered this year. If you wait a year everyone will already have a year of experience on their instruments. Although it is possible to join later, it is very hard to catch up. Now is the time to give band a try. The curriculum is structured to move at a pace where everyone can be successful.



Band Cost & Fees?

Like sports, scouts, dance, and most things in life band does cost money. But band actually costs less than all these things! Each student will be required to provide an instrument for the class. Instruments like flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, and trumpet are available to rent from local shops. Rental fees are paid monthly and apply towards the final purchase of the instrument. It's important to have a music stand for practicing at home, an instrument cleaning kit, and the method book we will use in class. There will be a rental night at the school in the fall, all of these supplies will be made available.

There are many things I want to do in middle school. How can I be in band & all those other activities?

Band kids are involved kids. We encourage our students to do a variety of activities. We have many students who go out for football, volleyball, soccer, and other school sports. Being well rounded and experiencing many different activities is part of the middle school experience. Since the majority of learning in band occurs during the school day, conflicts rarely arise.

WHAT ARE MY INSTRUMENT CHOICES:

Band offers several choices of instruments for your child to play.

Woodwind Instruments include:

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet & Alto Saxophone.

Brass instruments include:

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone & Baritone.

Percussion instruments include:

A specific kit has been created for us by a local retailer.



HOW TO DETERMINE WHICH INSTRUMENT TO PLAY

There are no hard or easy instruments to play. Research has shown that matching the student to the right instrument makes all the difference. Your child will take part in an "instrument fitting" on the band instruments that are played in beginning band. Our band program partners with a local music store to provide this service to the district at no charge. You are free to choose to play any of the school band instruments, however we STRONGLY suggest starting with the instrument your child was fit on.

I know what instrument my child wants to play, should I purchase or rent that instrument before classes start...

We highly recommend waiting until the fittings have occurred. Nothing is more frustrating for children than trying to learn an instrument that they are not physically suited for.

I need an instrument...

After the Instrument Fitting, a meeting for you and your child concerning renting an instrument will be held.

I saw an instrument online that is very affordable. Can I just buy this instrument for my child to use...

There are a lot of great deals out there if you know what to look for. Unfortunately, there are a lot of substandard instruments as well. These instruments might look great, but they are so poorly constructed that they will rarely play properly. Often parents will purchase one of these "off brand" instruments online with the expectation that they will get something better if their child shows promise. Since the starter horn is unplayable, the student gets frustrated and quits.

WHERE TO BEGIN...

We STRONGLY recommend "renting to own" a major brand instrument from a reputable Band Instrument Dealer. An Instrument Rental Night is hosted at the School each fall. Information will be sent home to let you know of the time & date.

QUICK FACTS:

Participating in a band class does not interfere with participating in after school activities like athletics.

Participating in a band class does not interfere with college prep but does meet the Fine Arts requirement for High School graduation in Michigan.

High School band does not require outside-of-school commitments during the school year other than regularly scheduled performances.

The Band Booster organization raises funds for the students involved with the instrumental music program. These fund raisers help to support the students' overall instrumental music experiences.

Did you know? - "The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers for the 21st century."

- Business Week Magazine



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BEGINNING BAND



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