Frequently Asked Questions

About Band

**What if I’m not sure I want my child to be in band?**

Remember when your children wouldn’t eat the food you made for them? You always said, “Try it before you decide you don’t like it.” Band is the same way. You should sign up for band even if you’re unsure. If at some point you decide that band is not for you, you can drop the class. It is much easier to drop something after trying it, than it is to join late when you decide you miss it. Please note, however, that after this year, beginning band will ONLY be offered to rising 6th graders. So, it is now or never for beginning band! Give it a shot!

**What if I don’t know anything about music?**

That’s okay! We will teach your child everything they need to know, step by step. From how to assemble the instrument to reading notes and rhythms, we will guide your child through the process. All that is needed from you is an enthusiastic attitude and patient ears when your child comes home and makes their first sounds.

**Can I do music and sports or other clubs?**

YES! There might be occasional conflicts, but as long as communication is open our faculty works hard to make compromises whenever possible.

**How much out of school time is required?**

There is VERY little time required outside of the school day. Band is a class that takes place during the school day. Beginning Band will only have 2-3 after school rehearsals throughout the year, right before a concert to prepare. You will have at least a month’s notice to make necessary arrangements.

That being said, students are expected to practice their instruments at home regularly and will have assigned homework. This should take about 20-30 minutes to really be effective and successful.

**What instrument should my child play?**

The answer depends on a variety of things, but in the end, it is most important that they play something that they enjoy. I encourage you to visit the website [www.bepartofthemusic.org](http://www.bepartofthemusic.org) to watch the different instrument videos and discuss the various options. Our Instrument Fitting Night is a good time for your student to try any instrument he/she is interested and to see which one makes the best fit. Together we will find the instrument that he/she will not only enjoy, but will give them the best chance of musical success.

**How do I procure an instrument?**

There are a variety of ways to obtain an instrument. Most of our band families choose a RENT-TO-OWN plan at one of our local music stores (Art’s Music, Bailey Bros, Lisenby’s, and Music&Arts). This is the best option because you have the opportunity to try it out without making a huge financial commitment if your student decides they do not like band. These stores also service their instruments and you can be assured of receiving an instrument in good, working condition.

WMS does provide school-owned instruments (tuba, French horn, bassoon, and sometimes Euphonium). These are provided on a first-come-first-served basis.

There are many other avenues to explore when trying to find an instrument: family, friends, internet, and even pawnshops and garage sales. Please keep in mind that if the price is TOO GOOD, the product may be NO GOOD. There are many brands of instruments out there that are made of very poor quality and break very easily and our local repair shops will not even touch them. You may be out the money you spent and still have to replace it. When in doubt, please contact Mrs. Frazier for advice about music instrument purchases if you are not using a reputable instrument dealer.

**How much does band cost?**

Like most fun things in life, nothing is free. The costs vary based on what instrument you play, if it’s new or refurbished, and what uniform needs you have. There is a $50 band fee for registration in the class. This covers many expenses necessary to have a successful band program. There will also be t-shirt and concert uniform parts that will need to be purchased separately. Students who play reed instruments will need new reeds regularly and a box of 10 can run between $20-35. Brass instruments will need valve oil on a regular basis as well. Percussion sticks sometimes have to be replaced due to wear and tear. Participation in band is an investment, but it can be managed.

**Are there grades for band?**

YES! Band is a graded class. Students are expected to meet certain standards in order to move on to the next level of band. Students will have weekly participation grades and several individual performance and written assessments. There will also be homework.

**Have a question not answered here?**

Feel free to email Mrs. Frazier with your question: diana.frazier@elmoreco.com