

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORTHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

What should we know before purchasing an instrument? Most parents will choose to rent an instrument rather than purchase one right away. If you decide to purchase, you should know that there are a number of very low-quality instruments that have been flooding the market in recent years. Many of these instruments are advertised on internet sites or found at discount stores or wholesale clubs. These instruments often play very out of tune, have an inferior sound and generally cannot be repaired! You may also use one that you have at your house. (**See Recommended Music Stores sheet**)

Will this take up my child's classroom time? No. Band classes meet during the school day, there is no conflict with sports or other after school activities. Our evening activities are limited to three or four times per year when we present our concerts. Dates are set for the upcoming school year with concerts the months of **December and April**. School calendars, letters home, and Schoology will reflect specific concert dates.

Can my child participate in instrumental music and sports/ after school clubs? YES! My own children were involved in 3 sports and 3 music programs. 5th grade students can participate in band and orchestra.

Which Instruments may my child choose?

Beginning band students may begin on the following instruments:

Woodwinds

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone

Brass

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba

(Audition only)

***Percussion**

Drums and mallets

*****Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Euphonium, & Tuba*** are provided by the school for a yearly fee of \$30. Students will keep one instrument at home and one at school.

How much time should my child devote to practicing at home? Your child should practice as much time it takes to get the assignment done. Students pass off band exercises (band karate) plus concert music to practice for the December and April concerts. Instruments can be left at school during the week and home on weekends.

Where do we purchase music supplies?

You may purchase supplies from WMS music directors. We sell to students at director's prices. Reeds cost between \$2.25 & \$4.00, depending on the instrument, valve oil is \$5.

What happens in the summer classes and are they required? All beginning band members are *strongly encouraged* to participate in summer classes. During the summer session, Monday thru Friday **August 3-14** at *Worthington Middle School*, students are grouped by instrument so they receive lots of individual attention as they begin learning the basic skills needed to play their instrument. Classes will meet for forty-five minutes every day for two weeks. At the end of the summer class, your child will be able to play some short songs and will be well prepared for participation in the fall. The cost of the summer class is \$50. If you are unable to pay the fee, talk to Mrs. Jenson. A schedule of class times will be mailed home.

What does my child wear at concerts?

Concert dress is a white shirt, black pants, and black shoes for all concerts in beginning band.

Contact information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone or school. See information below:

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