

SPARTAN BEGINNING BAND FAQ's

How do I select an instrument?

Know the options and become familiar with the demands of each. You never know what you'll like until you try it. Even if you're not thrilled with your selection, be encouraged. Most skills learned on your first instrument are transferable to others. We recommend learning about *each* instrument before fully committing to one. There are 3 primary instrument groups in the band family. The first is the woodwind family. These instruments include Flute, Bb Soprano Clarinet, Bb Bass clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone. The second is the brass family. These instruments include the Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The final group is percussion which basically includes anything you can hit, shake, or scrape. These instruments include the Snare Drum, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Marimba, Timpani, Bass Drum, Drum Set, Cymbals, and many other rhythm instruments. Once you've taken a thorough listen to all of the instruments and made your selections, we will collect note cards at the beginning of the school year and begin instrument testing to place you on your instrument.

Can my student play whatever they want?

In most cases, the answer is yes. We take preference into account when creating the make-up of the band. Traditionally, students do a mouthpiece/percussion aptitude test. This assessment takes about 5-8 minutes and includes attempts of creating sounds on Flute, clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, and in special cases...Percussion. The results are intended to give the parents, students, and directors an idea of what instruments will give a child ease in the early days of creating sounds. There's a lot of validity to this process and it is certainly tried and true. When veering away from the results of the instrument assessment, band can easily become frustrating and students can feel left behind. With that being said, when a student is determined to achieve, anything can happen. This child excelling on a preferred instrument that wasn't their best score with the proper instruction and most importantly, work ethic, and the will to win outweighs talent almost every time.

When do we get our instruments?

Instruments are generally issued during the second week of school. This gives us a chance to make sure that each student is matched with an instrument they will be successful on, as well as ensure that we have a balanced instrumentation throughout the entire beginning band ensemble. Prior to taking home their instruments students must have the CMS Instrument Loan Agreement completed with parent contact information and signature. Also students must show a proficiency in correctly assembling their instrument, correct playing position, and basic maintenance procedures.

How much does band cost?

Music instruction is an important part of our school curriculum. Here at Sedgefield Middle School the Band Department has worked hard to keep the cost of participating in band at nearly zero. The band department has enough high quality wind and percussion instruments in excellent working condition, where each student can be loaned one for school and at home use. Students that play larger instruments like bass clarinet, tuba, and euphonium will be issued two instruments. As long as the instruments are well cared for or don't go missing, any regular maintenance or repairs will be taken care of by the band department. Also at no cost, each student will be issued an instrument specific method book that will be used in class and performances. Small goods such as reeds, oils, and cleaning materials are provided for a small fee. Band t-shirts are sold optionally for \$15.00

Will the students perform in any concerts?

Yes!!! Our Students love to show their progress. They will have a minimum of 3 concerts. The Winter Band Concert, Spring Collaborative Arts Night, and Spring Band Concert.