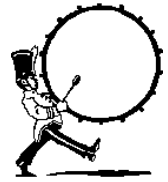


“Most Commonly Asked Questions”



Q: My child has never had music. Does that mean that he/she cannot take Band?

A: No! Band is open to interested students with or without prior musical knowledge.

Q: Am I responsible for providing my child with an instrument for Band?

A: Yes.

Q: Where do I get an instrument for my child?

A: I highly encourage Band Parents to go to a qualified, full-service music dealer. We have several in Gaston County: The Music Center and Howren Music. SAMS Club and Wal-Mart instruments **are not** good quality instruments and break very easily. You may also choose to purchase a used instrument. If this is the case, please allow me to see the instrument before you purchase it (if possible). Please see the recommended brand names.

Q: Where do I go to purchase an instrument?

A: Any Full-Service Music Dealer will do. There are a number of music dealers here in Gaston County and the surrounding areas. At the Band Parent Meeting at Belmont Middle School, I will provide you with brochures from the music companies in this area.

Q: Can I pay monthly installments on an instrument?

A: Most of the music companies have a payment plan already established for the purchase of a new band instrument. This is called their “Rental Plan”: however, **ALL PAYMENTS GO TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE INSTRUMENT!** This is the best and safest plan. At any time, the instrument can be turned in to the music company and all obligations will end. I also recommend the “Repair and Maintenance Insurance.” If an instrument needs repair for any reason it will be sent to the repair shop and repaired at no cost.

Q: Do I have to buy a new instrument?

A: No, however, the instrument does need to be of good quality and in good playing condition. If you are planning on buying or borrowing used instrument, please bring it by the band room and let me check it out.

Q: Are the SAMS Club and Wal-Mart/Amazon instruments okay to purchase?

A: No, they may look appealing due to the low price, but the quality of those instruments is extremely low. In the past I have had students with those instruments. They are constantly breaking and not working correctly. Most music repair shops will not fix them because the parts are not available. In all honesty, it will be better for you to rent an instrument of good quality.

Q: Will my child have Band every day?

A: Yes, it is a graded, academic class that is part of the Common Core and is 45 minutes each day.

Q: If my child decides not to take Band this year, will he/she be able to sign up for Beginning Band the following year?

A: Unfortunately, the answer is NO. In order to be in Band, your child must sign up this year.

Q: If my child doesn't like band after a while, can they drop band?

A: No, band is a yearlong commitment. Here at Belmont Middle School we want to make sure our students learn about commitment and responsibility. With hard work and practice every child can be successful in band.

Q: Can my child drop band and then come back later if they change their mind?

A: No, in band we are constantly using prior knowledge and building new knowledge. Everyday new skills and concepts are learned that will be used on a daily basis to perform the necessary music. Dropping band during middle school means you drop it for the rest of middle and high school too.

Q: What kind of opportunities do students have in Band?

A: In 6th, 7th, and 8th grades they will perform in 2 concerts per year.

In 6th grade:

Percussion Camp in January

Solo and Ensemble in May

In 7th and 8th grade your student will be able to participate in the following:

All-County Band

Carowind's Music Festival

All-District Band

State Music Festival

Orlando Music Workshop

In 7th grade your student may be eligible to play one of the following instruments:

Oboe

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Q: Is there homework in Band?

A: The only homework is practicing your instrument 5 days a week for 20 minutes. This is where you get to enjoy playing your instrument and you can show your parents what you are learning.

Q: When do I sign my child up for band?

A: On Tuesday, May 22nd there will be band sign up in the band room at Belmont Middle School from 5:00-7:00pm. Please bring with you the Instrument Selection Form with your child's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of instrument.

Any questions that haven't been answered, please email me at crlineberger@gaston.k12.nc.us