

NORTH BELTON MS BAND PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does my student have to know anything about music to join band?

A: No! Students are not expected to have any previous instrumental music experience before starting beginner band class. We teach music theory, instrument maintenance, and how to play the instrument.

Q: What are the advantages of being in band?

A: Current data indicates that students involved in music education academically out perform their non-musical counterparts. However, the most obvious advantage is learning to play for enjoyment. Other advantages include: Concerts, Contests, Trips, and the opportunity to play in The Stampede!



Q: How much does it cost to be in band?

A: Instrument rental/purchase cost varies depending on the instrument, brand, and whether it is new or used. Most of the instrument rent-to-own costs range from \$30-\$45 a month. The school rents the larger, more expensive instruments for \$100 per year (Tuba, Baritone, French Horn, Oboe and Bassoon). All students are required to purchase a method book, instrument accessories to maintain their instrument, and band uniform. Many students also choose to participate in the private lesson program. There is a fee for the optional Spring Trip.

Q: Why do some classes have limited enrollment?

A: Some of our band classes have limited enrollment due to the availability of school owned instruments. If we own 7 tubas, we can only start 7 tuba players. We also limit enrollment in beginning band classes to ensure normal band instrumentation in the contest groups. We strive to place every student on their top choice instrument.

Q: How much should my student practice during the school year?

A: We recommend that each student practice 30 minutes a day 4-6 days a week. In the beginning, this time will be much less. As your student progresses, regular practice is necessary in order to continue to develop their musical skills.

Q: Can my child change instruments in the middle of the year?

A: No. Changing instruments is not recommended. If a student is really having difficulty, the director will address this situation with the family and help make a decision that is best for that child's musical development.

Q: Will my child have after school or before school obligations?

A: The band hall is always open for students to come for help or practice during tutorials and after school. Occasionally, band students may be asked to come before or after school for a rehearsal or sectional.

Q: Will there be conflicts with athletics or other activities?

A: No. Students are able to participate in many activities throughout their 6th, 7th and 8th grade years at North Belton Middle School. The staff work together to allow students the opportunity to experience and participate in many different courses. Many students are in more than one performing group and athletics.

Q: How many performances does the band have?

A: Concerts are the centerpiece of the band program. Students are required to attend and perform at all concerts that are on the band calendar. Some of the events include: Fall Sit-In Concert, Holiday Concert, Solo & Ensemble Contest, Music Festival, and Spring Concert

Q: What if I am not sure if I want my child to do music?

A: 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." Music is the same way. Your child should sign up for band in 6th grade. If at some point they decide that music is not for them, then they can pick another class the following year. It is much easier to start in 6th grade than to join late when everyone else has already started.

Q: What if I don't know anything about music?

A: That's ok! We will teach your students everything they need to know, step by step. From how to assemble and care for 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 sound.

**Q: What instruments can my student choose from?**

A: Beginner band classes at North Belton MS include the following instruments: Flute, Oboe/Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, & Percussion.

Q: How do I procure an instrument?

A: The school provides many of the larger and more expensive instruments (Tuba, Baritone, French Horn, Bassoon, & Oboe); there is a \$100 usage fee. We encourage students playing smaller, less expensive instruments to either rent or purchase from a local music dealer.

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: Please know that we are here to answer any and all questions that you may have. Shoot us an email or give us a call!

Questions or to schedule a meeting for instrument selection, contact us!

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