

Frequently Asked Questions...about joining Band!

Can my student be in Band and also take foreign language, technology, other Fine Arts, dance, or athletics?

Yes! Our students are multi-talented and have many interests! Students in Band are highly involved in all aspects of school life at Canyon Vista, including the top academic classes, technology courses, dance, athletics, and other Fine Arts classes. We work well with coaches and faculty to make sure students can participate in all their activities.

What about high school credit courses? Many parents are very interested in their students taking high school credit courses in middle school. These courses are easily worked into a student's class schedule, especially in 7th and 8th grade, without a student having to quit Band.

Can my student maintain good grades and be in Band? Again, YES!! The top GPA holders are usually in Band because they learn to manage their time well with studies and instrument practice. This invaluable skill helps with a seamless transition to high school, where academic demand increases. *It should be well noted that more than half of the National Merit Scholar finalists from the Westwood HS Class of 2017 were in Band or Orchestra in middle school!

What is the time commitment for Beginning Band? Band class takes place every day and we expect students to take their instruments home and practice at least 5 days a week in order to meet their performance objectives. Because Beginning Band students perform two concerts, there are two after school rehearsals per year.

How much does it cost to be in Band? First of all, please know that the Band will work with any family to afford an instrument. We believe strongly that ALL children deserve the opportunity to learn and experience music.

You can go one of two ways to obtain an instrument: Rent-to-own from a music store or check out one of the school-owned instruments. Rental fees for flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone will cost approx. \$30-\$60 a month. Oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium and tuba are school-owned instruments that cost \$50 a year to rent and \$40 a year to clean. *Percussion tends to be more expensive up front, with sticks, stick bag, practice pad and stand, and marimba rental BUT all percussion equipment will be used throughout middle school and high school without becoming obsolete.

An added (optional) expense is private lesson enrollment. Lessons cost approximately \$70-\$100 a month depending on time length of lesson. Need-based financial assistance is available for half the cost of lessons for those in need.

My student does not want to do Marching Band in high school. Should they still sign up for Band at Canyon Vista? First of all, YES! Students should do Band in middle school even if they are unsure about high school band. Middle school is a formative period socially for children and having the family and friendship of Band gives them a safe place to grow and make friends, all while learning an instrument. Second of all, Marching Band takes time, but so does anything that is worthwhile. At a very large school like Westwood, Band is an important social group as well as a high-achieving organization. We always tell our students, if it were too hard to be in Band and get good grades at Westwood, then the Westwood Band wouldn't be as big and strong as it continues to be. What sounds intimidating to a 6th grader sounds exciting and challenging later when that same student is entering 9th grade!