

## Highland West Band Frequently Asked Questions.....

### **“Can I play sports and be in band?”**

**YES!!** If anyone tells you otherwise, they are incorrect! Band students are often involved in other activities. Some of the band staff were even athletes in school! Ask them. ☺ We also have a **LOT** of students in Pre-AP both in junior high and high school band. Don't worry!

### **“What if I don't play an instrument?”**

Perfect! This is exactly why we have beginning band, so you can learn from the absolute beginning! **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!**

### **“What if I don't know how to read music?”**

Also not a problem! You will be taught to read music. If you already know, it will be even easier for you.

### **“What about instruments?”**

Students will begin on one of the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, or Percussion. Later in the year, students will have the opportunity to audition for: Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone, or Tuba. The goal is to get everyone on the instrument that will offer them the highest level of success.

### **“How do I figure out what to play?”**

Our band students have opportunity to test our different instruments to see which one suits you the best. There will be directors on site working with the students at each table, answering questions, and providing general guidance.

### **“Why can't each student just play what they want?”**

This is a common question regarding band. The best comparison is quarterback on the football team. You can't have a football team with all quarterbacks, and no one else. The same is true for band instrumentation. We simply will not be able to achieve group success with only percussionists, or saxophone players, etc.

### **“Do I have to have my instrument the first day of school?”**

Not immediately. If you are interested in playing percussion, those auditions will take place during the first few days of school. As soon as placements are set, instrument purchases need to be made within the first full week of school. We want to start instruments as soon as possible.

### **“Is there a specific uniform I have to purchase?”**

Students will need a black dress shirt, black dress pants, and black dress shoes. They can (and should!) be inexpensive.

### **“Is there a band fee?”**

Yes, there is a small band fee to help defer the operational costs of the program. This fee is typically around \$50 and is payable before October. In addition to general repair, maintenance, music purchases, etc. we bring in specific adjunct instructors for as many instruments as possible. Much like a team might have a hitting coach, pitching coach, etc., we bring in a number of 'instrument coaches' to further enhance your child's music education experience.

### **“Where will I store my instrument during the day?”**

In the band room. Drop it off before school starts....pick it up before you go home. Easy!

### **“Is band during the day, or after school only?”**

Band is an enrolled class that meets during the regular school day. The only after school events for 7<sup>th</sup> graders are concerts (usually three or four during the entire year) and possibly one evening rehearsal. They are scheduled **well** in advance.

### **“I heard there is band all summer, before school, and every night during the week. Is that true?”**

No, that is false.

### **“What if I have questions for the band director?”**

Please feel free to call or email with any questions!

Shain Baldwin  
Director, Highland West Bands  
Associate Director, Southmoore Bands  
shainbaldwin@mooreschools.com  
HWJH Band Office – 735-4611

