

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: Frequently Asked Questions**

*Welcome to CMS! Thank you for your interest in the CMS Band! This information is designed to help answer some questions you may have about joining the band! If there are any questions or concerns that are not answered below, please feel free to contact Mr. Osborne (CMS band director) via email at [osbornet@cahounschoools.org](mailto:osbornet@cahounschoools.org).*

### **How can I join the CMS Band?**

-To join the CMS Band, you will need to ensure that you are registered for band through your guidance counselor at school. Band is considered an elective course, so each student will need to indicate their interest in band by selecting band as one of their top elective choices. 5th Grade Students will be selecting electives for the upcoming school year Feb. 1-5. Students MUST register for band in order to be considered for band!

### **Who can join the CMS Band?**

-Anyone can join the band program! We encourage as many students as possible to join the band program at CMS. Even if you already have other after school activities that you are a part of, in most cases, it is possible to still be a part of the band.

### **Does it cost money to join the band program?**

-Yes. It is important to note that band, on top of being an elective class, is also considered an extracurricular activity. In order to help fund the extracurricular functions of the program (purchasing materials, instrument repairs, buying music) each year, there is an annual Band Fee that students will need to pay in order to participate. This fee will be \$30 for each student participating in the band. In addition to the band fees, students will be responsible for purchasing any materials needed for class (valve oils, reeds, method books). Information about materials needed will be provided at the start of the school year.

### **How will I know what instrument I should play?**

-In previous years, students have been fitted for their instruments prior to joining the band program. However, due to complications involving COVID, a traditional instrument fitting process is not possible for this upcoming school year. Instead, students will be selecting instruments based on personal preference. Students will get to select their instruments at a later date (this date is to be determined).

### **What is the time commitment like?**

Students will have band class during the school day as a part of their schedule. Outside of this, we will have 3-4 concerts per year that take place in the evening that are mandatory and account for 30% of the student's grade in band. Students worried about after school conflicts should contact Mr. Osborne for any questions.

### **What are the instrument options for band?**

Students will initially have the choice to start band by playing **flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone.**

### **My child wanted to play percussion. Why isn't this an option?**

In October, after students have had the opportunity to learn reading and practicing music, students interested in switching to percussion will audition to earn a spot in the band as a percussionist. Please note that percussion is a rigorous instrumental choice that is not offered to many students. More information will be given out closer to this date.

### **How/where do I get an instrument?**

When looking at options for getting an instrument, please consider the following:

- ***If your child is playing flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, or trombone ...***

- o **Option 1:** Renting an instrument.
  - We will be hosting the instrument company **Gadsden Music** in the CMS Band Room in August before students will need their instruments (exact dates TBD). They have quality instruments that will enable your student to be more successful, and their instruments are put on a maintenance plan for free repairs for normal wear and tear! I *highly* recommend coming on this night to get your instrument.
- o **Option 2:** Buying an instrument.
  - This is another option. Please know that quality instruments are fairly expensive (\$600+). You may be able to find cheaper instruments, but a good rule of thumb is to not get an instrument where you can also buy tennis shoes or toilet paper ☺ . It will also be possible to buy an instrument from **Gadsden Music** on rental night.
  - When buying an instrument, look for the following brands:
    - FLUTES – Jupiter, Yamaha, or Gemeinhardt
    - CLARINETS - Buffet, Selmer, Jupiter, or Yamaha
    - SAXOPHONES - Yamaha, Selmer, or Jupiter
    - TRUMPETS & TROMBONES - Bach, King, Conn, Yamaha, Holton
- o **Option 3:** “I already have an instrument that has been passed down or I found used online.”
  - If you are using an instrument that has been used by someone else, please ensure that you bring it to Mr. Osborne to examine. There may need to be some repairs made in order to bring it to good playing condition.

**When does my child need to have their instrument by?**

Mr. Osborne will communicate to both parents and students about when to have instruments for class at a later date. This date is usually within the first two weeks of school. *Please note: Do NOT have your child play on their instrument before we do so in class together! They may break it by trying to put it together incorrectly and/or develop bad habits by trying to start on their own.*

**What if my student tries band, but then decides they do not want to be in it anymore?**

This is a common concern for parents. Band is a year-long class. Therefore, if you make the commitment to be in band, **you must remain in it throughout the entire school year**. You do not have to continue next year. Please note that this is rarely the case ☺

**My child is not interested in playing an instrument, but (s)he wants to be a part of the marching band as a majorette or color guard member. Does (s)he have to be in band?**

Yes. All students must be in the band (including marching a year on an instrument) before they can participate in one of these activities as part of the marching band.

**Is there any way I can find/receive information about the band?**

YES! Students and parents can join our **CMS Band Recruitment Remind 101** class in order to receive any and all information about joining the band at Calhoun Middle.

- To Join our Remind 101 class, text **@4eb7d64 to 810-10**

Information will also be posted on the CMS Band Weebly Page on the Recruitment Tab.

- Visit <https://www.calhounmiddleschoolband.com/>

*Thank you again for your interest in band! Please note that the above information is subject to change based on the needs of the CMS Band program. If you have any other questions, feel free to email Mr. Osborne at [osbornet@calhounschools.org](mailto:osbornet@calhounschools.org).*