

**My child is involved in sports and other after school activities. Will they have enough time for band?**

Yes! Beginner Band is a class that meets during the school day, and students do not have rehearsals outside of their class period (There are some after school rehearsals before events such as concerts or Music Performance Assessment. Those rehearsals are mandatory and are on the band calendar). Most of our students are highly active both on and off campus in various activities, such as athletics, clubs, and organizations.

**My child has never studied music before. Will they be successful?**

Most students have never played a musical instrument before they come to Hillcrest Middle School. We start from square one and teach all of the fundamental skills necessary to be successful in playing and reading music. There are no prerequisite skills needed to join the Hillcrest Middle School Band Family.

**How will my child be assigned to an instrument?**

There are eleven different instrument options that your child can play in the 6th grade including the flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion. To choose which of those 11 options your child will play, we are going to have an “instrument petting zoo” with Cole Bands Music Store where we meet with each family to find an instrument that fits your child the best taking into account their interest level in each instrument, physical characteristics, personality, and financial budget for your family. Some instruments are purchased, or more commonly rented, by families from a music store. Other instruments are owned by Hillcrest Middle School and can be rented from the school for a two time fee of \$50 (\$100 for the school year). We’ll find something that works for every single family. It will never be financially impossible for a student to participate in band. We have a place for all students and families in our program.

**When will instrument selection take place?**

The instrument petting zoo will take place on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 PM and August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 AM in the Hillcrest Middle School band room. Students and parents will select a time to come (first come first serve) so that everyone family receives enough time to make an informed decision.

**What are private lessons?**

Private lessons are an amazing way for students to receive additional instruction with a professional who specializes on their instrument. It is incredibly helpful as a beginner student to have an individualized curriculum that works at their own pace. Private lesson instructors will work to find a time that works best with everyone involved schedule.

**Will my child perform in concerts as a Beginning Band student?**

Yes! The Beginning Band students will perform two concerts during the school year. Parents will be amazed at the level of musicianship that is displayed from these wonderful young performers.

**Should I go buy an instrument?**

Not yet! Purchasing, or renting an instrument can be complicated. Instruments come in a variety of brands and models with different options and accessories. Once we help your family select which instrument your child will play, we will give you all the information you will need about supplies and guide you through that process.

**Will my child have to carry their instrument around school?**

Band students are given a locker in the band hall to keep their instrument during the day, so they do not need to carry it to each class.