

# Frequently Asked Questions About Band

*Can everyone participate in beginning band?*

Enrollment in Beginning Band is open to all interested seventh grade students. No prior musical experience is required (with an exception to would-be percussionist).

*Which is the right instrument for my child?*

Selecting the right instrument is a highly individual decision. The Band Director will consider your child's preferences, musical aptitude, and his/her physical characteristics. Your Child will have the opportunity to actually try the instruments before choosing.

*Can a child be "musical" if the parents are not?*

No one can predict whether your child will become a musical person. Success in band is determined by a number of factors, the most important of which is desire.

*Can a student participate in band and in sports?*

We make every effort to avoid conflicts in scheduling so that students who wish to participate in both activities may do so. Many students play football, basketball, volleyball, and run track while in the Berry or Terry MS Band.

*Are there a lot of practices?*

Classes take place during the school day, so there are few group rehearsals before or after school. Students are expected to practice their instruments at home for 20-30 minutes daily. The valuable self-discipline learned through regular at-home practice can encourage progress in your child's other classes.

*Are students required to furnish their own instruments?*

Students who desire to play the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion must furnish their own instruments. A limited number of some of the more expensive instruments, such as oboe, bassoon, French horn, baritone, and tuba are available through MISD. **We do not want cost to keep students out of band.**

*Where can I get an instrument?*

There are several reputable music dealers in our area that rent and sell instruments. We will be glad to assist you in finding an instrument for your child.

*Can my child play a used instrument?*

Yes, many fine used instruments are available. If you are thinking of buying a used instrument, you should have your band director inspect it before purchasing it. Band instruments do require maintenance, and some used instruments will cost more to repair than they are worth. This is especially true of "student" model instruments and instruments from pawn shops. If you already have a used instrument, have the band director test it to be sure it is in good playing condition.



**John Horn HS Jaguar Band**  
**A Dedication to Excellence!**