

How does Band help my child?

HUGO A. OWENS MIDDLE SCHOOL Band Program Information

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Band students have to synthesize visual, auditory, and kinesthetic skills, engaging both sides of the brain.

INCREASING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Many core and PE teachers state that they enjoy teaching music students the most because of their discipline and creativity. Educational research studies have shown that music students have higher academic achievement, and have a lower drop out rate than non-music students.

GETTING INVOLVED

Playing in the band makes you starting member of a team, regardless of talent.

INCREASING SAT AND STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Many studies conducted in regions across the U.S., including Southeastern Virginia, have shown that music students perform better on SOL test, ACT test, and SAT test scores.

INCREASES YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING INTO A GOOD COLLEGE

Colleges across the country look for involvement in music classes and activities for acceptance into their programs. In some examples, such as Virginia Tech and Harvard, Admissions Deans have explained that they look for students to be involved with music when looking for candidates to accept into their universities.

Feel free to contact Matthew Phillips, the band director, for any additional information, or to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

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Everything you need to know for your upcoming music student, and the long term benefits of being involved in music





What do students do in 6th Grade Band?

6th grade band is a students first opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument for academic credit. The students learn to play one of six instruments (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, or Percussion), having band class every day for 45 minutes. If you were to take private music lessons from a music store, this total would exceed \$4,000 per year, but band is offered free of charge to all Chesapeake students. Although they may start as beginners, with 45 minutes per day of instruction students improve very rapidly. With this improvement, 6th grade band students have the opportunity to perform at 2 to 3 concerts per year.

Popular Band Misconceptions and Frequently asked Questions

My child has no prior music training, and our family is not musical. Maybe they will better suited in another elective: Band teaches music concepts starting at the beginner level. Therefore, the students need to know nothing before enrolling in a band class. The largest portion of their grade is also based on participation, not ability. This means that students can earn superior grades without being a gifted musician.

My child has asthma or will need braces. I don't think they will be able to play a wind instrument: Playing a wind instrument is a great way to build lung capacity and breath support. Many students with braces are extremely successful in band, and feel no impact on their playing.

My child plans on playing sports/ cheerleading or participating in a club, so they can't be in band too: Band in Middle School is purely curricular and meets during the normal school schedule day. This does not conflict with sports or any other after school activities.

My student is torn between choosing their elective class. We'll try Exploratory or Chorus...if they don't like it, we'll give band a try in 7th grade: The 6th grade is the only grade that offers beginning level classes. This means that all band students must start in the 6th grade. Students who decide band is not for them can switch to Exploratory or Chorus in 7th or 8th grade, but Exploratory, Chorus, and Orchestra students can not switch to Band in 7th and 8th Grade.

Does the school provide Instruments?:

Hugo Owens Middle School does not provide instruments for the students, however parents are not required to buy an instrument. Instruments can be rented from local retailers very inexpensively.

Some scholarship instruments are also available for families in financial hardship.

How do I decide what instrument is right for my child?:

After signing up for band, you will be contacted by Mr. Phillips to set up an instrument appointment. At these appointments, we talk about which instrument your child would like to play, as well as take physical attributes into consideration. Taking all of these factors into consideration, we select an instrument that would be the best fit for your child.

I want my student involved in foreign language as soon as possible. This means that they would be better served to enroll in foreign language exploratory.

When taking a foreign language as part of the exploratory program students are exposed to foreign languages for only one term. Covering different languages, the students may only spend a few weeks out of the entire year learning their language of choice before moving on to the other

Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and, by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective.

-Bill Clinton, 42nd President

exploratory subjects. This makes it almost impossible for students to retain the information introduced. Student also must start again from scratch when enrolling in 8th grade foreign language classes, of which music students are able to take while still enrolled in music classes.

Band Students also...

Play Sports

Take Dance

Are on the Cheerleading Squad

Stay Involved in Their Church Youth Groups

Participate in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Take Part in Other After School Clubs and Activities

Are valedictorians and salutatorians in High School

Participate in our Jazz Band