

Band for Beginners

Semester course, available to 7th and 8th graders as an option to choir or orchestra.

Would you like to be in band but missed the chance to learn an instrument? Is there a new instrument that you would like to learn? The objective of this class is to provide an environment in which nontraditional beginners can learn a musical instrument. The course focuses on the basics of instrumental music such as playing simple pieces, learning fingerings, developing a good tone, and understanding basic music vocabulary. In most cases, students will provide their own instrument. Students can remain in beginning band as long as they wish, but also may transition into the main ensemble at the discretion of the director.

Band

Required proficiency - At least one year of recent playing experience.

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This course strengthens the fundamentals of ensemble playing such as tone, technique, and musical style as well as develops valuable skills such as collaboration, problem-solving skills, and decoding in a hands-on way. Seventh grade band is a building program and a continuation from elementary school. Eighth grade band focuses on solidifying musical knowledge as they prepare to transition to high school band in 9th grade. Both seventh and eighth graders will receive sectional lessons during the week to work on individual skills and musicianship. Each grade will perform in one concert throughout the year, and attendance is required.

Choir: Vocal Focus

Semester course, available to 7th and 8th graders as an option to band or orchestra.

This course is intended to develop beginning to intermediate music competencies. This section will focus on vocal technique, music literacy, more challenging repertoire, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and pop genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December or the spring concert in May.

String Orchestra

Semester course, available to 7th and 8th graders as an option to band or choir.

This course is designed for players of orchestral stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass) who have had one to two years of playing experience. Advanced beginner/intermediate level techniques, scales, and exercises are taught and practiced in the class, along with the study of orchestral music from various styles and periods. Students will broaden and refine fundamental skills and prepare for the transition to more advanced level playing. Performances in a variety of venues including school Masses, community and school events, and seasonal concerts with band and choir may require some after-school and before-school participation.