

770-232-3200 - phone
770-232-3203 - fax
Gino Fitzpatrick – Director
Gino.Fitzpatrick@gcpsk12.org
Band Website: Google Classroom

Course Information
2025-2026

Beginning band instruction is offered to any interested sixth grade student. In band your child can learn to play any of the traditional beginning band instruments which include Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium, Saxophone, Percussion, and French horn.

Parents considering enrollment for their child in band should be aware that **the school does not supply instruments to students**. Parents are responsible for making arrangements for their child's instrument. There are several music stores in the Hull community. They offer a variety of instrument rental and purchase plans to suit your budget. Family owned or previously used instruments should be looked over by a competent instrument repair technician and put in proper playing condition before being given to a beginning student.

The school will rent some of the larger band instruments such as **Tuba, French horn, Euphonium, and Bassoon**. Students are required to **purchase a personal mouthpiece (Tuba, French Horn, Baritone) or reeds (Bassoon)** to use with these instruments. There is a once a year rental fee of $65 that we collect to defray maintenance costs for the year. Students must also attend an instrument maintenance session (conducted in class) where they will learn proper care and maintenance for school owned instruments.

Previous experience on a musical instrument is not necessary to be successful in Band. In fact, 99% of the 6th grade students enrolling in band have never played an instrument before! We will begin, well, from the beginning. As a band member, your child will learn music by functioning as a musician. Students will create and perform music, as well as respond to music in Band. Creation will involve learning to write music and learning how to improvise on band instruments. Performance will include two large group concerts along with several small group activities and solo performances. Students will also learn to write about music by keeping a journal and researching composers from all different eras. The "team work" which is a part of Band helps your child gain self-confidence, learn self-discipline, and provide your child with worthwhile activities and life-long friendships. Over the next three years, your child will learn the basics about what is necessary for a lifelong appreciation of music and the arts.

Once enrolled, in August students will begin the instrument selection process. **Please do not purchase or make arrangements to get an instrument until after the tryout nights in August. All students must go through the tryout process. Please wait to get all the facts before you rent or purchase. One of the things the directors must consider is the balance of the ensemble. Much like position players on a sports team, instrumentation is crucial to the success of any band.**