

I Joined the Band!!! Now What Do I Do?!?!



Dear New Band Student/Parent:

We are so excited that you have chosen to participate in the band!!!! You have taken the first step toward learning a lifelong skill that you can share with your family and friends. This letter is to say thank you for choosing to be a part of something very special, and to let you know what to do next. **IF YOU DID NOT SIGN UP FOR BAND BUT WOULD LIKE TO, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! EMAIL MR. RICKMAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** All beginning band students and their parents/guardians will need to sign up for a time to conference with a professional music educator in order to decide which instrument best suits their child's needs. These meetings will be held on April 15th and 16th. You can choose a day and time that works best for your family. The purpose of this visit is to find out what instrument your student is interested in playing, and to make sure there are no factors that may limit them from being successful on that instrument. We will work with students on a one-on-one basis. Please do not purchase any instruments until *after* you meet with the band directors. If you already have an instrument in your family, please bring it with you to the meeting so that we may assess your child on it and determine if it will need any repairs. All instrument placements are determined on a first-come, first-served basis, with a band director evaluating the student to help find the instrument they would be most successful playing. Through support of our district, fundraisers, and donors, we are pleased that we can offer band to every student who is interested. While there is a cost involved in participating in band, we make sure that every student interested in joining band will have some type of instrument to play. *No student will be denied the possibility of participating in band due to financial difficulties.*

Instruments such as the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and drum kits are furnished by the parents. Most parents acquire an instrument for their student by taking advantage of a rent-to-own program that many music stores offer. The larger and/or more expensive instruments—oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, horn, baritone, and tuba—may be rented from the school. Time and dedication are also involved in joining band. In order to learn how to play an instrument and improve on that instrument, a musician must practice. Several performances are scheduled throughout the year and students are required to attend these as part of the class and for their performance grades.

In order to respect your time and to help with efficiency, please visit the website below in order to select a 10 minute time appointment for your student. You may also scan the QR code with your smart device to be taken directly to the site. If you are unable to access this website, please call me or email me and I can schedule a time for you. Detailed sign up instructions are provided on the page.



APPOINTMENT SIGN UP AT: WWW.TINYURL.COM/2024JOINBAND

After you have signed up for a time, please use the information on the back of this page in order to select three instruments that you may be interested in playing. List them in order of your preference, and bring this with you when you show up on April 15th or 16th.

If you have any questions concerning joining the band program, please don't hesitate to contact us at jonathan.rickman@boerneisd.net (preferred) or (830) 357-3126

Musically yours,

Jonathan Rickman, Director BMSN Bands

Evan Jose, Assistant Director, BMSN Bands

MORE INFO ON BACK

Please use the information below to help you decide which three instruments you are most excited about learning to play.

Below is a list of instruments that you can learn to play as a new band member in the BMSN Band. You can follow the link I have included to see some demonstrations of each instrument. There you can view videos to see how the different instruments are played and how they sound.

Demonstration videos can be found by scanning this QR Code, or by typing this URL in a web browser:



<https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpotb/index.html>

Scroll down or click on the “videos” link of this website to explore the options of what we offer in band!

Woodwind Instruments

Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet
Alto Saxophone

Brass Instruments

Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Baritone/Euphonium
Tuba

Percussion

Percussionists learn to read music first, and then we transition into mallets and practice pads

Student's Name: _____

Currently Attending: (circle one) Fabra, Curington, Herff, BMSN, Other: _____

Please list your instrument interests (in order of preference):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The music educators you visit with will use this form as a guide to know what you are most interested in playing/trying. Remember, our goal is to find an instrument that you are excited about playing AND have the best potential to be successful with. We look forward to seeing you!!!