

Common Questions & Answers



Welcome to the JCCS Band!

Growing Musicians. Building Character. Glorifying God.

**"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31**

1. Getting Started

Who can join the band at JCCS?

Band is open to JCCS students in grades 5 and up, regardless of previous musical experience.

Beginning band students do not need to know how to read music or have taken private music lessons.

Students will learn the fundamentals of music reading, instrument technique, rhythm, and ensemble playing from the beginning. As students develop their skills, they will continue to grow as musicians through the JCCS band program.

Do you have to be able to read music to join band?

No! Previous musical experience is not required.

Students will learn to read music while they learn to play their instruments. Everything from basic rhythms and musical notation to proper playing technique will be taught step-by-step. If you've never played an instrument before, you are exactly where a beginning band student should be!

When do band classes take place?

Band classes are scheduled during the school day as part of the Related Arts program. This allows students to participate in band while still having full opportunities to participate in athletics, clubs, and other extracurricular activities.

2. Instruments & Selection

What instruments can students play?

Beginning students may have the opportunity to study:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Percussion

I don't know what instrument I want to play. Is that a problem?

Not at all! Most beginning band students aren't sure which instrument they want to play. Students will have the opportunity to see, hear, and learn about the different instruments before making a final decision.

The goal is to help each student find an instrument that is a good fit for them while also building a well-balanced band ensemble. Instrument assignments will take into consideration the student's interests, physical characteristics, ability to produce a good beginning sound, and the needs of the overall band.

What if I'm not successful on the instrument I choose?

That's okay! Learning an instrument takes time, patience, and practice. Mr. Williams will work with each student to help them develop the skills necessary to be successful.

If an instrument proves to be a poor fit for a particular student, we can discuss other possibilities. The goal is not simply to put a student on an instrument—the goal is to help each student find a path toward musical success.

3. Getting an Instrument & Financial Support

Where do I get an instrument?

Choosing the right instrument is one of the most important decisions for a beginning band student. Beginners need an instrument that is reliable, in good repair, and easy enough to play that the student can develop good habits from the beginning.

Important Advice Before Purchasing:

Please contact Mr. Williams before purchasing an instrument, especially if you are considering buying a used instrument or purchasing one online. There are many inexpensive instruments available online, but price does not always indicate quality. A poor-quality instrument can make learning unnecessarily difficult and may require expensive repairs.

Used instruments can sometimes be excellent choices, but they should be evaluated carefully. An older instrument

may require professional cleaning, adjustment, or repair before it is appropriate for a beginner.

Aren't instruments expensive?

The cost of an instrument depends on the type, whether it is new or used, and the quality of the instrument.

Families may want to consider renting an instrument, especially during the first year. Rental programs can provide an affordable way for students to begin playing without making a large initial investment. Mr. Williams can help families determine the best option for their student.

What if we cannot afford an instrument?

Financial circumstances should never be the reason a student cannot participate in band.

If purchasing or renting an instrument creates a financial difficulty for your family, please contact Mr. Williams or the JCCS administration privately. We will do our best to work with families to find a solution whenever possible.

4. Required Supplies & Practice Expectations

What else will I need?

Every student will need the appropriate method book for their instrument. Specific materials and supplies will be provided to families before or at the beginning of the school year. Below is an overview by instrument section:

Instrument Group	Required / Recommended Supplies
Woodwinds (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone)	• Reeds (for Clarinet/Sax) • Cleaning swab & supplies • Appropriate case accessories
Brass (Trumpet, Trombone)	• Valve oil / Slide grease • Cleaning supplies & snake
Percussion	• Practice pad or snare drum • Snare drum sticks • Bell kit or appropriate keyboard instrument • Keyboard mallets & stick/mallet bag

How much should my child practice?

Beginning students do not need to spend hours practicing every day. The most important thing is consistent practice and good habits. Short, focused practice sessions several times a week are much more productive than trying to practice for a long period once in a while. As students progress, practice expectations will increase appropriately.

What if my child struggles at first?

That is completely normal! Learning an instrument is a new experience, and every student develops at a different pace. Students will sometimes make mistakes, produce strange sounds, or become frustrated. That's part of learning.

Our goal is to help students develop patience, perseverance, responsibility, and confidence while they learn the instrument. Band is not about being perfect. It is about learning, improving, and working together.

5. Activities, Benefits & Concerts

Can I participate in sports or other activities and still be in band?

Absolutely! Band students can participate in athletics, clubs, and other extracurricular activities. Because band is scheduled during the school day as part of the Related Arts program, there is generally no regular after-school conflict between band and other activities. Students are encouraged to be involved in all activities they enjoy!

What are the benefits of being in band?

Band provides students with much more than the ability to play an instrument. Students develop:

- Musical & listening skills
- Concentration & physical coordination
- Discipline & personal responsibility
- Teamwork & leadership
- Self-confidence & perseverance
- An appreciation for music and the arts

At JCCS, we want band to be a place where students learn, grow, serve, and encourage one another while contributing their individual talents to something larger than themselves.

When are the concerts?

Our current plan is to hold a spring band concert, with the date and time to be announced. Additional performance opportunities may be offered as the program develops. Families will receive detailed information about concerts and events well in advance.

Still Have Questions?

If you have questions about band, instruments, supplies, financial assistance, or whether band is right for your student, please don't hesitate to reach out!

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