

York Middle School Music Program



1. In the 5th grade, all students must take classroom music as a way of fulfilling their music requirement. Band and Chorus are offered as ways for advanced application of musical concepts.
2. Band meets during students Enrichment period everyday. Students in band also have a lesson by “like” instrumentation that meets once a week during either our enrichment period or our “Targeted Learning Time” period. Neither of these are academic class times.
3. Band is hard work. The minimum required practice needed to succeed on an instrument is 15 minutes per day, five days a week. Students will keep a practice chart, which you will need to inspect and sign each week.
4. Please consider the instrumentation needs of the band program. A balanced band is more fun to play in, sounds better, and is a better educational experience. If your child is trying to choose between two or more instruments, you can help the band program by choosing an instrument that will benefit the balanced instrumentation of the band. Much like a baseball team, a band needs all positions covered to be good. All instruments are enjoyable to play if you are suited for them. A well instrumented band needs the following instruments:

Listed in the order of need:

- a. Clarinet
- b. Trombone
- c. Trumpet
- d. Flute
- e. Baritone horn/ Bass Clarinet
- f. Alto saxophone
- g. Percussion (This is the instrument we need the least of for a balanced band). It is highly advised that your child have previous knowledge of playing piano to play a percussion instrument.

*In order to have a balanced band, we may need to limit the number of students registered for certain instruments. The sooner that you register, the greater the chance that your child will get their first choice instrument.

6. There are expenses for band:

Instrument Rental

Instrument Rental

Trumpet, Trombone**: \$28 per month

Flute, Clarinet, Percussion: \$28 per month

Alto Saxophone: \$43 per month

Baritone/ Bass Clarinet*: \$66 per month

Additional Required Materials

Standard of Excellence Band Book: The school will provide these for you!

Smart Music Account (practice tool used in band and in grade 5 we begin using it to enhance and guide homepractice) \$40 Details will be sent home and shared about this program in October. We begin using it in November.

If you would like your child to participate in band but it is not financially viable at this time, the music boosters are able to offer help to qualifying families. Please email Mr. Neel if you would like more information.

7. Once your child picks an instrument, please do not allow them to change to another instrument. We will use the information from the online registration form to place your child in a 'like-instrument' class. If they change their instrument, they will find themselves to be the only one playing their instrument in their lessons.

I offer these suggestions because young students sometimes think that they can succeed in band just by signing up for an instrument and showing up to class without doing any practicing at home. As you and I know, the reality is quite different. With a little hard work, music is a joyous experience that can last a lifetime. Please make it clear to your child what the expectations will be before they make their final decision. We want band to be a wonderful experience for your child.

To sign up for band, you will need to complete the online registration form (see attached sheet) for band by June 21st. For students who enroll in band, information regarding instrument rentals will go home at the beginning of September. If you have any questions, please contact me at jneel@yorkschoools.org

Respectfully,

Jimi Neel
YMS Instrumental Music, 5-8

STEP 1:
Sign Up for Band

Please use the following google form to sign your child up for band next year.

[Link for band sign up](#)

STEP 2:
Rent an Instrument

To participate in the band program students need a good quality, functioning musical instrument. Nothing sets a student up for failure more than an instrument that does not play and/ or is constantly needing repairs. Please beware of instrument “deals” that seem too good to be true because they usually are indeed just that. If you have an old instrument laying around the house that you wish to pass down to your children, please make sure it is in proper working condition before sending your young musician to school the first day with it. In my 17 years teaching in public schools, I generally see about 90% of “hand me downs” needing a bit of TLC :)

It is advised at this time that you rent your child a musical instrument. This year we will be doing our rentals from David French Music Company and they are offering an extraordinary deal for beginner students. Families will be given the option of renting for one month and be given three months for free after that time! Instruments will be delivered to YMS before the first day of school and families will not be charged for their rentals until school begins. **PLEASE sign up for your rental instrument now** because the summer goes flying by and all back to school activities tend to snowball on us as parents. At least that’s been my experience with my own children!

1. Please go to the following link to rent your child their band instrument.
[Instrument Rental Link](https://www.davidfrenchmusic.com/aerntschoolelect.aspx) <https://www.davidfrenchmusic.com/aerntschoolelect.aspx>
2. Go to the tab for rentals
3. Enter your zip code and your school
4. Select an instrument and book
5. It is advised you also purchase a box of the recommended reeds if your child is playing a single reed instrument such as saxophone or clarinet.
6. **The cut off date for ordering an instrument and having it delivered in time for the first day of school is August 29th, 2018**