

Frequently Asked Questions about Beginning Band at HTMS

1. ***Do I need to have a special talent or previous musical studies to be in band?*** There are only two elements needed to be successful in band – a positive attitude and hard work. A student with only an average amount of ability can easily be very successful by keeping up in class and working hard. Previous musical instruction is not necessary. Every student who desires to be in band, whatever his/her musical talent will be given a place in the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band.
2. ***How many students are in the band program?*** This year there are 215 students in just the Beginning Band and a total of 517 in the entire band program! It is the largest student organization at HTMS! Band allows students to have an instant network of new friends and opportunities when making the move to middle school.
3. ***Can I be involved in band and other activities like athletics at HTMS?*** Yes, our band students are involved in pretty much everything at HTMS. We have band students who play football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, wrestling, softball, track, cross country, soccer, and tennis. We also have students involved in cheerleading, dance team, GaTE, Science Olympiad, Archery Club, Scholars Bowl, Theatre, Show Choir, Mixed Choir, Girls in Engineering, MUSH Mentors, and Debate Team. Athletics and band work together very well!
4. ***How will I choose the instrument I will play?*** At the end of this school year in May (date will be communicated well in advance) all students who choose Beginning Band will have an opportunity to try every instrument. There will be qualified music teachers on hand to give the students a “mini-lesson” on each instrument and a chance to make a sound on that instrument. After trying all instruments the students will meet with Mr. Peters to make a final instrument decision based on student desire and projected potential.
5. ***Are there any after school requirements?*** Band actually meets every day during the regular school day for an entire class period, so we do not really have any after school rehearsals. The only after school requirements are usually performances (concerts). Participation in concerts is required of every band student.
6. ***If I choose to take Rotation or GaTE in 6th grade can I take Beginning Band in 7th grade?*** If students have any interest in band whatsoever I would encourage them to take Beginning Band as a 6th grader with all of their peers. This way they can progress to our upper levels of band that include more performance opportunities and stay on track as a 7th grader. Forgoing the GaTE elective as a 6th grader does not remove the student from GaTE services or the GaTE program. Remember your student will get two electives as a 7th grader.
7. ***How much does it cost?*** The primary cost for beginning band students and their parents is the rental/purchase of an instrument. While this can be expensive, many good options are available for parents. Many companies have rent-to-own options and financing plans. Also, there is usually a supply of good used instruments in the area. In addition to the instrument, there are a few other minor expenses. There is an elective fee of \$25 for all band students. They will also need a variety of small supplies to keep their instrument in proper working order (i.e. reeds for most woodwind instruments and oils for brass instruments) as well as a method book.
8. ***What do I have to look forward to in my future in the band?*** During your student’s first year in band, the Beginning Band will perform an Open-House Concert for Parents, a Holiday Concert, a Spring Concert, and a concert especially for 5th graders. The Beginning Band takes a one-day trip during the spring. In 7th and 8th grade, the students will go on an overnight, out of state trip to perform in destinations such as Walt Disney World, Gatlinburg, Atlanta, and Universal Studios Florida! The students have a lot of fun making music with their friends. More importantly, band students will develop a musical skill which will be with them for the rest of their lives.

If you have any further questions or would just like to have more information, please feel free to email the Band Director at HTMS, Mr. Peters, brandon.peters@trussvillecityschools.com. Follow us on social media!