

EIS Band FAQs

- ***What instrument is right for my child?***
We will literally try your child out on different instruments to see which is the best fit. Many students have their favorite, but end up selecting a completely different one, because they are better suited and will be more successful. Please keep an “open-mind” during the selection process!!
- ***Does my child have band everyday?***
Yes! Band classes meet everyday in homogenous settings; all the flutes are in one class, all the trumpets meet in one class, etc.
- ***Are there any outside (Before/After school) commitments for band?***
Yes, but only a few. All outside commitments are after school. They are our annual Fall Preview (late October, starts at 7 PM at DMS), Winter Concert (December, starts at 7 PM at CSHS), Solo and Ensemble Competition (March, runs from 5-9 PM with each student having a specific solo/ensemble time), Celebration of the Fine Arts (April, runs from 6-8 PM), Percussion Concert (early May, only for percussionists) and the Spring Concert (late May, starts at 7 PM at CSHS) All of these events are co-curricular which means that they are all graded. We also have 6 scheduled rehearsals after school (3:50 to 5:30) in preparation for our Winter, Spring and Sandy Lake concerts. They are in December, April and May. You will be given a calendar at the start of the year with all the above dates and times.
- ***How much should my child practice their instrument?***
Everyday! Daily practice is vital to the success of your child’s band experience. They are working on coordination (fingers, tongue, etc.), posture, breathing, hand position, rhythm counting, just to name a few! We recommend that students practice 30 minute a day (210 minutes a week is needed to receive a 100 on their practice record).
- ***Do I need to buy/rent an instrument for my child?***
If your child will be playing flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet or trombone we ask that you rent from either Music 1st or Mr. E’s Music. If your child will be playing oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, tuba or percussion, they will be using school owned instruments. At the beginning of the year, we will collect the school owned instrument usage fee. All band students will need to purchase a supply kit from either of the music companies. This kit will include all the supplies your child will need for their specific instrument (mouthpiece, reeds, oil, grease, cleaning cloths, books, drum sticks, metronome, tuner, etc.)

- Is this really band?***
 To be honest, no. Your child will be in a method class. Our goal with each class is to teach as many of the fundamentals necessary to help your child become a successful instrumentalist. The classes are fast paced and can be demanding. However, when a child works hard and is determined to “get it right”, they will absolutely have a great time making music.
- My child knows nothing about music. Aren't they going to be behind?***
 NO. We start with the very basics with all students and before you know it, all the students are naming notes, counting rhythms, and playing their first notes!
- I know nothing about music. How can I help my child be successful?***
 This can be frustrating, but with your support you can help them understand that working slowly, consistently and persevering, they can achieve anything!
 “Kick them in the fanny”!! Sometimes you have to tell your child to go practice!
 There is nothing wrong with this. When the student starts to “see” and hear the success that he/she will achieve after practicing, their desire to practice will increase.
 Listen to them! Let (make!) them play for you.
 Attend their musical activities. Concerts, competitions, contests, etc.
 Private Lessons. Help them to advance at a quicker rate than their band class.
- Should we have our child take private lessons?***
 Highly Recommended!!
 \$18 a half hour if before or after school. 22.5 minutes during your child’s band class
 One-on-one lesson with a professional on your child’s instrument
 Help your child advance at a faster pace.
 Keep your child motivated with extra “stuff”!
- How do you grade the students?***
 Your child will receive a numerical grade for their class. 35% is based on participation, 15% is weekly practice records and 50% is playing tests (weekly) and performances.
- What expenses are to be expected or How much is this gonna cost me?!***
 Rental of the instrument through Music 1st, Mr. E’s or school (school owned instruments are oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, tuba and percussion)
 Supply kit (see music company for details for each particular instrument)
 Band T-shirt (~\$15)
 Reed players (bassoons, oboes, clarinets and saxes) need to purchase reeds regularly.
 SmartMusic subscription and microphone. This is an amazing software tool that will help motivate your child to practice! (\$45)
 FUND RAISER!!

