

George Moses Horton Beginning Band Info

Beginning Band FAQs

Q: Do I need to know anything about music to join Band?

A: NO! Most students have little or no prior musical training aside from elementary music. We start from scratch in all phases. Students with former training will find it an aid in their advancement.

Q: Who will be in Band?

A: Your friends and classmates will join you in what will be some of the most exciting times of your school day. Our band program is 135 students strong! Many of our band students are leaders in academic achievement, athletics, school spirit, and club activities.

Q: Can I be in sports, dance, cheerleading, or NJHS while taking Band?

A: ABSOLUTELY! Many of our band members are a part of school athletics, travel sports, academic programs (NJHS, quiz bowl, etc.), and various clubs. We ensure our schedule does not interfere with these activities.

Q: What are the advantages of being in Band?

A: The most obvious one is learning to play an instrument for your own fun. Other advantages include: Concerts, Contests, Pep Band at Basketball Games, Trips, Parties, and going to Carowinds!

Q: What instruments do I have to choose from and how do I choose?

A: You may choose from flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone. If you are not sure what to choose, I suggest going on YouTube and listening to examples of each, and choosing which one sounds the most interesting to you.

- After our winter concert, students will have the opportunity to switch to: bass clarinet, saxophone (alto/tenor/baritone), french horn, euphonium, tuba, or percussion.
- In Middle School, Band Students are divided into 2 different classes, which include:

Woodwind Class: Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone.

Brass Class: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, & Tuba.

- Percussion will join either Woodwinds or Brass at first, then switch as needed to either class. Percussion includes Mallets, Timpani, Bass Drum, Cymbals, and Snare Drum

Q: What does Ms. Parsons look for in helping me select an instrument?

A: I look for a good attitude, a desire to be in the band, and willingness to WORK HARD and have fun! I also look at mouth formation, finger coordination, and the band's instrumentation needs.

Q: How do I get an instrument?

A: You may rent from Music & Arts, borrow or purchase an instrument. Music & Arts is a rent-to-own program, meaning if you rent throughout middle school, you will own your instrument by the end. Most parents rent an instrument with an option to buy at a later date. You may purchase one outright, it is recommended you email Ms. Parsons for approval to ensure you are buying a quality instrument.

- ESPECIALLY consider renting if your student is interested in switching to saxophone, euphonium/tuba, or percussion, so that you can return it once your student switches.

Q: Are used instruments acceptable in the Band?

A: Yes! ...If in good condition.. If you wish to purchase a used instrument for your child, please let us help you evaluate it before you invest. A poor quality instrument will only frustrate your child and could possibly cost you more in repairs than the instrument is worth.

Q: Are there any school instruments available?

A: The school provides some of the larger and more expensive instruments. This includes French Horns, Tenor and Baritone Saxophones, Euphoniums, and Tubas. All other instruments (flute, clarinet, trumpet trombone, alto saxophone) should be purchased/rented by the student and their family. The expensive instruments are owned by CCS, and in the event of damage occurring, you are still potentially responsible for the cost of repairs.

Q: I want to switch instruments later. What should I start on?

- If you want to play saxophone → start on clarinet.
 - If you want to play french horn → start on trumpet.
 - If you want to play tuba/euphonium → start on trumpet or trombone.
 - If you want to play percussion → start anywhere!!
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This is the link to start your Music and Arts rental

Online: [Music & Arts](#) for faster service at this point select ship to home
Music And Arts Educational Representative: David Robinson
(david.robinson@musicarts.com)

Local Music Store Dealers

Necessary supplies may be purchased in-person at any of the following:

[Music and Arts](#) 426 Crossroads Boulevard, Cary 919-854-0024

[Music and Arts](#) Poyner Place 5950 Poyner Village Pkwy F101 , Raleigh 919-872-1601

Music and Arts is located in Garner now as well

[2112 Percussion](#) 1003 East Whitaker Mill Rd, Raleigh 919-833-0046

[Flying Squirrel Music](#) 2828 Capital Blvd Raleigh, NC 27604 919-615-3117

Leechford Music

[Scott Sweeney Brass](#) 325 Clarendon Crescent Raleigh, NC 27610 919-617-6340

[Tuba Exchange](#) Alston Ave Durham 1-800-869-Tuba