

WELCOME TO WCMS BAND

We are so excited you have chosen to be a part of the WCMS BAND! We are off on a great adventure together. Here is some information to guide the start of our musical journey:

*Students are expected to PRACTICE at home for **at least** 15 minutes a day!

Instruments students can play in Beginning Band

FLUTE



CLARINET



TRUMPET



TROMBONE



Email Ms. Grissom student first and last name and instrument choice if you are still interested in joining .

We will have auditions after the first quarter for saxophone (alto, tenor, bari), oboe, bassoon, tuba, & percussion.

We will have an Informational Meeting for Beginning Band students/parents on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Please, plan to attend for important information about band. There will also be a representative from Music and Arts to aid in instrument rental.

I highly recommend RENTING an instrument from a music company like Music and Arts or Sweetwater Music. They have great prices/programs on QUALITY instruments. They also have insurance programs that cover most repairs. Please, DO NOT purchase instruments from Amazon, Wal-mart, Costco, etc. They will break and repair shops will not repair them. You will have to purchase a new instrument if it is damaged and students will get frustrated and want to quit.

You do not need to purchase an instrument yet.

*Beginning Parent/Student Meeting – September 2, 2025.
Students will not need instruments until September 15, 2025.*

Getting An Instrument!

- **Step 1 – Instrument Selection:** During the first week of school, students will have a chance to try out different instruments to find the best fit for them!
- **Step 2 – Instrument Information Night (Mandatory for All Beginning Band Students & Families)**
 - Details
 - When & Where: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ WCMS Auditorium
 - Time: 6pm–7pm
 - What to Expect at Instrument Information Night
 - **This session is mandatory for all Beginning Band students and their parents/guardians.**
 - Learn about the expectations for Beginning Band at WCMS.
 - Get information on how to obtain an instrument through our school partnerships or WCPSS rental program.
 - Find out about acquiring all necessary materials for Beginning Band.
 - Instrument assignments for the school year will be finalized before or during this night.
 - Why Instrument Assignments?
 - A well-balanced band requires a variety of instruments, just like a sports team needs different positions.
 - Not everyone can play the same instrument for a full and complete band sound.
- **Step 3 – Creating A Plan To Get An Instrument**
 - You and your parent/guardian will work together to create a plan to obtain your assigned instrument and materials.
 - We will have resources available to assist you and your family throughout this process.
- **Special Cases**
 - If you already own a band instrument or have a special situation regarding your child, please contact Ms. Grissom @ algrissom@wcpss.net

Common questions about band:

- ***When does band take place?*** Band is a regularly scheduled class during the school day. Band is a year-long class.
- ***Does band conflict with other outside activities?*** No, band does not conflict with outside activities such as sports. Each year in our programs we have football players, soccer players, cheerleaders, baseball players, scouts, etc.
- ***What about an instrument?*** Parents will be given several economic options for obtaining an instrument. Students also have the option to use a school owned instrument on a first come first serve economic need basis.
- ***How can I obtain an instrument?*** An important factor in your child's success and enjoyment in band is obtaining a QUALITY instrument. There are a large number of cheap instruments available now. YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR! How good of a deal is it if your child doesn't enjoy playing because their instrument does not work properly?
- ***What do you recommend, renting or purchasing?*** In the end, it is your decision. Many parents rent an instrument. Renting is a good way for you and your child to get the best start possible on a quality instrument, yet not be "locked in" to a major purchase before you know your child wants to

continue. *Purchasing* an instrument at the start often may be cheaper and save you money in the long run. Many of parents also obtain *USED* instruments from friends or family, ads in the newspaper, or pawn shops. My advice to this is to stick only with major brands (listed below), and have a repair technician look it over for a "tune up" prior to the start of school. I will also be happy to look at any instrument prior to the start of school. Typical repairs may take 2 to 3 weeks.

Instrument brands I recommend:

- Flute – Yamaha, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter
- Clarinet – Buffet, Yamaha, Jupiter, Artley, Vito
- Trumpet and Trombone – Yamaha, King, Bach (TB), Jupiter

If you have questions, please contact me. If the brand you find is not on the list above, I strongly recommend for you to keep looking or contact me if you need guidance.

Instrument Color – Traditional instrument colors (silver, gold / brass, black for clarinets). My experience with instruments in non-traditional/fad colors (blue, red, white, purple, etc.) is that they often do not perform properly and are difficult to repair. *If you have questions about a brand or which line is best for your child, please contact us. Remember, YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR!!!!!!*

Instruments from Amazon, Wal-mart, etc. are usually expensive toys and will not provide your child a quality experience. Students will get frustrated and want to quit because they cannot make sound or they are struggling to make it sound correct. They will break and repair shops will not fix them.

OTHER INFO ABOUT BAND

Supply List

- Instrument in good working order
- All supplies for that instrument (see below for instrument specific supplies)
- Essential Elements Book 1 for your instrument (yellow)
- 1 inch 3 ring binder with dividers
- Pencil

Instrument Specific Supplies

Flutes: cleaning cloth, cleaning rod

Clarinets: box of 10 reeds strength 2 (Rico, Mitchell Lurie, or VanDoren brand), cleaning cloth

-box of 10 reeds strength 2.5 will need to be purchased in Nov/Dec – new reeds will be needed as they break or get old.

Trumpets: valve oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth

Trombones: slide oil or slide grease (for trombones), cleaning cloth

Optional Materials

Music Stand (for home)

Metronome (for home)

Tuner (for home)

It is STRONGLY encouraged for you to get a personal metronome and tuner for home practice. Most phones may have tuner/metronome apps to download.

Concerts

Students are expected to participate in 2 concerts after school each year. We will have other optional performances through the year as well. We will have 2 mandatory concerts: December & May. The 6th graders arrive at 5:30 and the concert begins at 6:00. Concert attendance/participation is mandatory and graded.

Concert Clothes

We use the same uniform all 3 years of WCMS Band

-Black Band Polo (purchased through Fine Arts Boosters) – sizes run large

<https://wcms-fine-arts-booster-club-inc.square.site/>

They will be delivered to students in class.

-Black Pants or appropriate skirt

-Black socks or stockings

-Black shoes

****For informal performances, we will wear WCMS Fine Arts t-shirts. They can also be purchased from the WCMS Fine Arts Boosters. <https://wcms-fine-arts-booster-club-inc.square.site/>*

WCMS Fine Arts Boosters

If you are interested in supporting our band program through the boosters, please contact President Whitney Hoag at president@wcmsfinearts.org. ALL equipment, music, supplies, and trips are funded exclusively through our booster program. All money raised/donated directly benefits students.

FAB Meeting Friday, August 22 after Meet the Teacher.

Visit our website for more information – <https://sites.google.com/wcmsfinearts.org/home>

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