

INSTRUMENT SELECTION!

May 22nd, 9:00am-2:00pm @ NJMS (Make-up May 25th)

...get a chance to try all the instruments and see what is the best fit for you!

Frequently Asked Questions about Beginning Band at NJMS:

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. 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 Blue Devil Band!
3. ***Can I be involved in band and other activities like athletics at NJMS?*** YES! Our band students are involved in a variety of other activities at NJMS. We have students who play football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, wrestling, soccer, softball, track, tennis, fishing, bowling and dance team. We also have students involved in Science Olympiad, Debate Team, Robotics, Drama Club, Honor Society, Ambassadors and more! There are minimal conflicts with sports, clubs, activities, and band!
4. ***How will I choose the instrument I will play?*** All Beginning Band students will have an opportunity to try every instrument at our Instrument Selection on May. There will be qualified music teachers there to give the students a “mini-lesson” on each instrument and the chance to make a sound on that instrument. After trying all of the instruments, students and parents will meet with Mrs. Walsh 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 don't really have any after school rehearsals. The only after school requirements are usually performances (concerts). Participation in concerts is required, and is part of the grade for band. Dates will be published at the beginning of the school year.
6. ***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 a school elective fee of \$25 for all band students. Students in beginning band wear our band t-shirt (\$10) as a uniform for special events. Students will need to purchase a method book and a variety of small supplies to keep their instrument in proper working order (i.e. reeds, valve oil, cleaning kit).
7. ***What do I have to look forward to in my future in the band?*** During the first year in band, the Beginning Band will perform a Costume Concert, a Holiday Concert, a Spring Concert, and a concert especially for 5th graders. The Beginning Band takes a one-day trip during the spring (this year we went to Stone Mountain, GA, ate at Hardrock Cafe, Atlanta and saw the show Stomp!). In 7th and 8th grade, the students will go on an overnight, out-of-state trip to perform for contests, festivals, or workshops (like Pigeon Forge, TN and Panama City Beach, FL). 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 NJMS, Mrs. Jen Walsh: jwalsh@jefcoed.com