

Band + Orchestra

Greetings from Hixson Middle School!

I hope you are all enjoying your final quarter of 5th grade. As you prepare for middle school, I wanted to let you know that you can register for band and orchestra class ahead of the school year.

In middle school you will have 2 related arts classes a day, everyday. Because middle school band and orchestra are classes, there is very little chance of any extracurricular schedule conflicts. We will have two concerts, one in December and one in May. Any other performances will be during school or optional.

If you're wanting to learn an instrument, then you'll want to register for band and/ or orchestra. We will have an instrument fitting night May 24th (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, band room entrance is in the back of the building) and another at the beginning of the year for you to choose which instrument is right for you. We will be in the band room. There is a registration and contact form at <https://tinyurl.com/HXMSMUSIC> .

If you have questions about band or orchestra, please reach out to Mrs. Daniels at daniels_sara@hcde.org.

Best wishes,

Sara Daniels
Band and Orchestra Director
Hixson Middle School

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I do sports and band or orchestra?

A: Yes you can. Band and orchestra are classes during the day. We have a few performances that we plan around any school activities that are happening.

Q: Do I need to own an instrument?

A: No. If you are using a large instrument then there is a school contract that will be issued out for you to rent one owned by the school. Smaller instruments may be rented through a local shop or purchased. **PLEASE do not** buy an instrument from Sam's, Amazon or other major retail store. These are not quality made materials and cannot be repaired. It is similar to a vehicle, you get what you pay for. Your student will be most successful with a quality instrument.

Q: What are the costs and needs for my student?

A: Hixson Middle music classes have a \$20 fee per semester for all students that participate. This covers their method book and various consumable materials like sheet music, valve oil, rosin, rags and other materials needed for instruments to be playable. If your student uses a school instrument, then we will also require a \$35 rental fee per semester. This allows us to make any minor repairs that may be needed.

* financial hardships can be discussed with Mrs. Daniels on an individual basis.

Q: How much does my student need to practice?

A: Students should practice on the days they eat. You wouldn't expect a football team to be successful if the players did not practice each day and the same is true for all skills based activities. Music will be more fun if your student feels successful. Success comes from building on the skills that are taught in class. Urge your students to play during ads or while their games load. The time will add up and they will see growth.

Q: What instruments can my student play?

A: Band instruments: Flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion (xylophone, snare drum, bass drum)

Orchestra instruments: Violin, viola, cello, bass