

Caldwell County Schools

Middle School Band and Chorus

“Frequently Asked Questions”

GAMEWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band - Steven Robison, srobison@caldwellschools.com
Chorus - To be determined

HUDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band - Leah Massey, lmassey@caldwellschools.com
Chorus - Kaitlyn Lawhorn, klawhorn@caldwellschools.com

GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band - Patrick Haymore, phaymore@caldwellschools.com
Chorus - Justin Gray, jgray@caldwellschools.com

WILLIAM LENOIR MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band - Terry Reid, tereid@caldwellschools.com
Chorus - Carla Reid, creid@caldwellschools.com

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Rising sixth grade students have the opportunity to join band or chorus when they begin middle schools. The music programs in Caldwell County are some of the best in the state and have long and wonderful histories! If your child is interested in learning to sing or play a musical instrument, this letter contains “Frequently Asked Questions” that you might find helpful.

ARE BAND AND CHORUS REGULAR CLASSES?

Yes. Band and Chorus classes meet every day during school and students receive a grade just as they would in a math or science class. These classes are year-long and can only be joined their sixth grade year.

IF MY CHILD JOINS BAND OR CHORUS CLASS, WILL THEY STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE CLASSES LIKE ART AND COMPUTERS?

Absolutely! Students have to two exploratory classes per day. One of them will be band or chorus class and the other one will be a rotation that will include PE as well as other classes like art, foreign language, and computers.

CAN MY CHILD BE IN BOTH BAND AND CHORUS?

No, not in middle school. There are only two exploratory periods a day and students are required to have two semesters of physical education.

ARE THERE AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES?

No. The only required music activities that happen outside of the school day are concerts. We have two to three concert per year; the two biggest are in December and in May. Some schools have after school tutoring, but this is not required.

MY CHILD REALLY LIKES SPORTS. CAN THEY PLAY ON A SCHOOL TEAM AND BE IN BAND OR CHORUS?

YES YES YES YES YES! *This might be the biggest misconception that we deal with every year. **Students CAN play school sports and still be in band or chorus**, in fact, some of our best musicians are athletes! We even have several music teachers coach school sports!*

SHOULD MY CHILD ALREADY KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC OR BE ABLE TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

No. We start with the very basics of music. The first couple of weeks of school will be spent learning to read notes and rhythms.

IS THERE AN AUDITION TO JOIN BAND OR CHORUS?

No, there is not an audition. If you want to be in band or chorus, all you have to do is sign-up!

WILL STUDENTS NEED TO PRACTICE AT HOME?

Yes. All music students are required to practice at home. This is essential for reinforcing concepts that are taught in the classroom. Also, students who practice at home get better at their music, which makes them enjoy their classes more, which makes practice more... As you can see, it's a vicious cycle :)

WHAT BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO PLAY?

*Students will have a choice of the following instruments: **flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or mallets**. Student will get to choose their first, second, and third choices. An instrument will be assigned based on when a student registers for band. Later in the sixth grade year your child may have the choice to audition for other instruments like oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, French horn, baritone, and tuba.*

SHOULD I GET AN INSTRUMENT NOW IF MY CHILD IS GOING TO BE IN BAND?

NO! *Students should only sign-up for band at this time. The assigning and renting of instruments will happen in early summer. Parents will be contacted by email with their child's instrument assignment and rental information.*

WILL CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOL PROVIDE MY CHILD WITH AN INSTRUMENT?

*Unfortunately, no. Most students will have to rent or purchase an instrument through a local music store. Our middle schools do own a **limited** number of instruments that can be rented if the need arises. Rental information from music stores will be provided when instrument assignments are emailed in the summer.*

IS THERE A FINANCIAL OBLIGATION FOR CHORUS?

The only financial obligation will be a small uniform fee (chorus shirt).

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR BAND OR CHORUS?

*It's easy! Just visit the homepage of the middle school that your child will be attending in the fall. There will be a link for “Band or Chorus Registration” that you complete. It's that simple! If you don't have access to a computer, you can call your child's middle school and let them know that you would like to register your child for band or chorus. They will get your contact information and we'll give you a call. We can walk you through the registration over the phone. **Registration ends May 22, so don't delay!***

We look forward to working with your son/daughter when school starts! If you have questions about your child signing up for band or chorus, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

What does a flute sounds like? How do you put a clarinet together? What does a slide on a trombone do? How do you make a sound on a trumpet?

These are all great questions that are much easier to explain with video. Below are links to information on the five instrument choices for band. Keep an open mind and watch ALL of the videos. You might learn something you didn't know!

A Demonstration of 6th Grade Band with Mr. Robison

<https://youtu.be/kn1A8LeP9e4>

Flute

<https://youtu.be/DCcOHJJ8mDc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbLQy0uVywU&t=22s>

Clarinet

<https://youtu.be/FBZtjN02W9A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK3u6YUEdCg>

Trumpet

https://youtu.be/9_rwOKjI8Ak

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH7qUQcFg1M>

Trombone

<https://youtu.be/yjmsdjZU1bQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Camf8P-z6AI>

Mallets

<https://youtu.be/C2rH44hsAwg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GszY16mhaGI>