

Twin Peaks Middle School Band FAQs

1. When does Band class meet?

All Bands meet as a regular scheduled class on the TPMS rotating block schedule. 6th grade students are randomly placed into a class based on their schedule while 7th and 8th grade students are placed in bands based on ability and behavior. 7/8 Transfer or new students should perform for Mr. Moreau as soon as possible to make sure you are placed in the correct Band. Skills develop slowly at first, therefore, students and parents must be patient and committed for the entire school year in order to get the full benefit of band instruction.

2. What School instruments are available in band?

All instruments are available at TPMS. Including Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. We can find the instrument that best fits your needs. However, sometimes demand for an instrument is more than I can provide and students might have to share PUSD instruments. There is no fee charged to use a school instrument. If possible please purchase mouthpiece and/or reeds when using a school instrument.

3. Is any previous musical training necessary?

No. The method books used in 6th Grade band are designed to facilitate the learning of all students regardless of previous musical training. We teach the fundamentals of reading music as well as the fundamentals of playing an instrument. Students' progress in 6th grade Band is quite remarkable. Beginners in 7th and 8th grade will be given in class private instruction to help them catch up.

4. Can my child be successful even if they don't have musical talent?

Yes! The most important requirement for success is the desire to succeed. We begin students from a very basic yet detailed approach to learning the instrument. Students are taught basic fundamental building blocks that will make them successful now and through their senior year in the Poway High School Band.

5. When do students need instruments?

Instruments will **NOT** be needed on the first day or week of school. In 6th grade Instruments will be needed Monday or Tuesday (August 26th or 27th). There is a storage room in the back of the band room where instruments can be stored throughout the day. Instruments should be taken home each day. Please make sure that instrument cases are labeled both on the outside and inside.

6. Should I rent an instrument?

Renting an instrument will give your child the opportunity to begin in band with only a small initial investment and the guarantee that they do not need to share one at school. Students practice more when they have their own instrument.

7. What about buying an instrument?

Some new and used instruments are a good bargain; however, you could possibly end up spending more money on repairs than the instrument is worth. For this reason, we ask that if you do decide to purchase a used instrument, let Mr. Moreau examine the listing or the instrument itself prior to purchase. Local music stores and former band students are excellent sources of used instruments. You might see if the music companies have used instruments available. Please do not purchase instruments at a pawnshop. We have found that nearly all pawnshop instruments are of very poor quality. Also, please do not purchase a musical instrument from a department store. These instruments are poorly made, with inferior materials that once broken, are not usually repairable. I recommend that you rent an instrument the first year from a reputable music company.

8. Are there any extra rehearsals required? Concerts?

6th Graders are required to attend only three Concert performances their first year: Our Winter Concert in December, Spring Concert in March and end of the year concert in May. Each concert is worth 200 pts. There are no extra rehearsals after school.

7/8 graders in Concert Band perform in a winter concert with PHS, Pre festival Concert in February, Festival Concert in April, and the End of the year concert in June. Each concert is worth 200 pts. There are no extra rehearsals after school.

7/8 Wind Ensemble members perform in Winter Concert, Pre Festival Concert, Elementary Tour, Elementary combined Concert, Festival Concert and the end of the year concert in June. Each concert is worth 200 pts. There are no extra rehearsals after school.

9. Will My Child be required to practice at Home?

Yes. Beginning the second week of school, students are required as a part of their grade to practice 10-15 minutes every day outside of class. This practice time helps develop facial muscles and improve their overall musicianship. If done correctly practicing is fun! Parents are encouraged to give positive support to the student as he/she progresses. .

Please visit www.tpmsband.com for me detailed information regarding the Band Program and to read the Band Handbook. Throughout the year important Band information will be posted on the website as well as sent home via email.

If you have any questions please email me at: amoreau@powayusd.com

Sincerely,

Mr. Moreau