

INFORMATION ON THE OXON HILL HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

What if I am not sure if I want to do band or orchestra?

Remember when your children wouldn't eat the food you made for them? You always said, "Try it before you decide you don't like it." The Instrumental Music Department at Oxon Hill is the same way. You should sign up for the program even if you are unsure. If at some point you decide that the IMD is not for you, drop the class. It is much easier to drop something after trying it, than to join late when you decide you miss it.

How is band or orchestra different in high school?

While the actual act of playing your instrument is similar, the social network and safety net that high school band provides is very different from middle school. From day one, your child will be musically and personally mentored by successful upperclassmen who have a vested interest in their success. They will have dozens of new and like-minded friends before school even begins and have experiences that are unlike anything they have experienced in middle school.

Can I do band or orchestra and sports?

YES. There might be occasional conflicts, but know that are faculty works hard to resolve as many conflicts as possible before they occur and to work collaboratively to solve them when they arise.

How much out of school time is required?

The many ensembles have different requirements for participation. Some ensembles require very little (less than standard homework) while other ensembles require more substantial commitment. Generally, the greater the level of commitment, the greater the reward and memories. Regardless of the ensemble, a year-long calendar will be provided well in advance to help you plan for these events.

What are the costs?

The costs associated with the Instrumental Music Department depends on which ensembles your child participates in and what events they participates in. The Instrumental Music Department Booster's and staff work together to provide fundraising opportunities for each and every child and ensure that no one is excluded due to financial issues.

What band or orchestra class should I register for?

All incoming students must take an exit exam in order to participate in any ensemble in our department. Your child's musical abilities will determine their correct placement.

How do I procure an instrument?

We wish funds were available for us to provide every child with an instrument, however, this is simply not possible. The school provides many of the larger and more expensive instruments. We encourage students playing smaller, less expensive instruments to either rent or purchase their own instrument. We will not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep your child from participating. More information regarding instrument availability will be mailed as the new school year approaches.

What if I have other questions?

Please know that we are here to answer any and all questions that you may have. Due to the busy nature of our program, it is difficult to contact us by phone. The best way for you to reach us electronically at imba@ohsinstrumentalmusic.com. This will allow us to respond to your inquiry, whether you are available by phone or not. You may also visit our website at www.ohsinstrumentalmusic.com.