



SMS BAND

2008-2009 BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAQ

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How old do you have to be to participate in band?

Students who are entering grades 4 and higher this fall at St. Monica School are eligible to participate in band.



Which instrument is easiest?

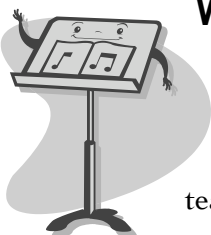
Each child will find success with a different instrument. Students will have the opportunity to try out the instruments during the first two weeks of school. We will discuss which instrument would be the best fit for them.

How much commitment is band?

Each week, band students have one half-hour lesson during school, a 1-hour band rehearsal Thursdays after school, and meet their practice goal with at-home practice.

Do students play sports and band?

Many students choose to play band and sports. During their sport's season, some careful scheduling and diligent practice can keep them on top of both activities. We are willing to work with coaches to create a schedule that works for everyone.



Why is band good for my child?

Studying music is both a discipline and an art form. Music was meaningful to me as a child because I became outgoing and un-shy when I was on stage. I developed self-confidence, leadership abilities, and a lifelong passion for the arts. As a teacher of music, I hope to instill these values into my students while providing them with a team experience, full of bonding, friendships, and fun (all while learning!).

What services does the band fee include?

The semester band fee is \$265 for all students. It includes 14 lessons each semester, band rehearsals, concerts, and a contribution to the equipment/supply fund. Many beginning players will participate in semi-private lessons (three students or fewer), while most older students will have one-on-one lessons to allow us to tailor lesson material to their specific talents and interests. For students taking lessons elsewhere, there is an adjusted rate for band-only. Please consult with the director for more information.





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BASIC INFORMATION SHEET

How are lessons scheduled?

The lesson schedule is released at the beginning of the semester for the entire semester. Most lessons are scheduled during the school day, once a week. We rotate lesson times so students usually only miss the same time slot two or three times each semester. For instance, a student may have a 9:00am lesson one week, 9:30 the next, 10:00 the week after that. Limited after-school spots are reserved for students who need academic help during school hours.

Is band educational?

Our band program follows state and national academic standards for band. Our lesson books begin with curriculum from the Essential Elements 2000 series, which combines important conducting, listening, and composing skills with those necessary to become well-rounded musicians. Ensemble playing also uses important repertoire to follow the academic standards, performing selections from the state-sanctioned list.

How do I sign up?

Students in grades 4 and 5 will have an opportunity to try out instruments during the first two weeks of school. Look for your child to bring home a letter indicating their instrument of choice. The letter will explain the selection process and contain more information about signing up. An evening informational meeting will be held for interested parents to sign up and rent instruments. Students in grades 6 and up are also welcome to join band. Please contact the director to indicate your interest and make further arrangements.

Have I seen the band before?

Our St. Monica band plays for the entire school each spring at the Spring Showcase. As a band, we also perform at least one recital each semester for our families and friends.

What am I paying for?

The band fee is \$265 per child per semester. Each semester includes 14 weeks of lessons at approximately \$14 each. The fee also includes approximately 14 band rehearsals and several performances each semester. The band fee is split to include a director's fee and a contribution to the equipment fund. Please ask about the band-only fee if you are taking lessons with another teacher. At St. Monica's, the band fee is paid directly to the instructor.

I have more questions. Who do I contact?

Jen Wszalek, the director! I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Contact me by email or phone at your convenience: cabrinihasband@yahoo.com or 414-745-8980.