

Dane County New Horizons Music
Policy & Procedures
Beginner Musicians or Those Starting a New Instrument

We are pleased and excited to have new people join us in making music! This policy is designed to support a comfort level that minimizes frustration for the individual upon entry into the band. A knowledge of both basic music terminology and fingerings for the respective instrument should enhance the experience and limit disruptions during rehearsals.

1. **Beginners:** Beginner musicians or those individuals who wish to play a second instrument that is significantly different from their main instrument are expected to take private lessons until a basic level of competence is achieved.
 - a. **Fingerings:** Ability to play all of the chromatic notes of their instrument's basic octave.
 - b. **Major Scales:** Ability to name and play the notes of the Concert B-flat scale.
 - c. **Key Signatures:** Ability to identify which notes are flat, natural, or sharp based on the key signature.
 - d. **Note Length:** Ability to demonstrate the difference between rhythms, sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, whole, grace notes and how to count these.
 - e. **Maturity:** Ability to follow director's instructions and accept critique of one's playing.
2. **Private Lessons:** If requested, DCNHM will provide a list of teachers who have agreed for the organization to provide their names and contact information.
3. **Instrument Rental or Purchase:** If requested, DCNHM will provide a list of music stores in the area from which to rent or purchase an instrument.
4. **Performances:** It is not necessary to play all the pieces during concerts if you feel unable to do so.
5. **Final Authority:** The director will have the final say as to the admission of a beginner into the band.