



# HUGO A. OWENS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

---

## Beginning Band Instrument Appointments 2025-2026

Future Band Parents,

Thank you very much for signing your student up for Beginning Band next year. As the band directors here at Hugo Owens Middle, we are very excited to follow in a great band tradition with your student. We hope that both our new parents, and students, will share our enthusiasm as we prepare to begin a new school year.

There is a lot of excitement involved in the 6th grade year. It marks the start of middle school, and marks the start of your student's music education in band. As with any class, or life experience, a successful start is crucial to the long term success of any student in a program. In band, picking the right instrument is an early choice that can have an effect on the educational gain and enjoyment of your student. Because this decision is so important, it is not one that will be made solely by a student or parent, but in collaboration with student, parent, and teacher.

Before the start of school, each student and parent should come in for an instrument appointment. This gives us the opportunity to meet with you and your student, let them hold (sanitized) instruments, and make a choice that is right for them. These appointments should only take about 15 minutes, and are offered throughout the Spring and Summer. It will also give us the opportunity to share information about needed supplies, instrument rentals, or to answer any other questions that you may have. Local retailers also often deliver coupons that can help parents save a considerable amount of money through the life of a rental.

It should also be noted that, because this is a team activity, our instrumentation must be reasonably balanced. This means that we have a finite capacity that we can allow on each instrument. If your student has their heart set on playing a certain instrument, please make sure that you get an appointment **ASAP**, before the section is full. Students who have not completed an instrument appointment before the start of school will be assigned an instrument by their teacher.

We look forward to meeting all of you, and hope that you have a great end of the school year and summer.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Phillips  
Band Teacher  
Hugo A. Owens Middle School  
1997 Horseback Run  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757)-558-5382  
[Matthew.Phillips@cpschools.com](mailto:Matthew.Phillips@cpschools.com)

Laura C. Paquette  
Band Teacher  
Hugo A. Owens Middle School  
1997 Horseback Run  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757)-558-5382  
[Laura.Paquette@cpschools.com](mailto:Laura.Paquette@cpschools.com)

## **Instrument Appointment Sign-Up Process**

This year, the HOMS Band will use Sign Up Genius to book instrument appointments. Parents can view available appointments, dates, and sign up for appointments on the following website below. For additional convenience, this link is also available on the front page of [www.hugoowensband.org](http://www.hugoowensband.org)

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4AABAC2CA3F85-homs#/>**

Each appointment only takes about 15 minutes, and will typically run 3 times per hour. We will allow 20 minutes this year so that we can sanitize and clean in between visitors. For your convenience, a few evening appointments are also available, to accommodate work schedules. These meetings are in the HOMS Band Rooms. Enter through the main entrance, and there will be signs up to guide you to your destination.

### **Available Appointment Dates:**

<b><u>July:</u></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	1:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>:</b>	1:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>July 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>July 28<sup>th</sup>:</b>	8:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<b><u>August:</u></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:</b>	8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
	<b>21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### **Other Information:**

If your student is currently taking 5<sup>th</sup> grade strings, and you are currently renting an instrument, we would advise that you not turn in your instrument until after you have completed your instrument appointment. Often, music retailers allow you to accumulate rental credit that can be transferred to a new band instrument, but will often be canceled when the instrument is turned back in.

We look forward to meeting you all!