

**How is music/band different in high school?**

While the actual act of playing your instrument is similar, the social network and safety net that high school music provides is very different from middle school. From day one, your child will be musically and personally mentored by supportive peers and teachers 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 (Friday night football games and many trips to contests, festivals, and parades) that are unlike anything they have experienced in middle school.

**Can I do band and sports?**

YES. There might be occasional conflicts, but know that our band directors and coaches always work hard to resolve as many conflicts as possible before they occur and to work collaboratively to solve them when they arise. We encourage all of our students in the program to pursue and be active in any sport or club they're interested in.

**How much time outside of school is required?**

The different types of ensembles have different requirements for participation. Concert ensembles in the spring semester require a less frequent rehearsal meeting schedule outside of the school day, while other ensembles, like the marching ensemble, require more substantial extra-curricular commitment during football season. 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 music depend on which instrument/section your child is a member of. The band boosters and staff work together to provide fundraising opportunities for each and every child and ensure that no one is excluded due to financial issues. Regardless of financial status - ANYONE can be a part of the Mac Band family.

**What band class should my child register for - or what if they didn't select band on their course sheet?**

At the end of the school year, students will submit an audition and be placed into their respective ensembles for the curricular school day. Band directors will contact counselors over the course of the next several weeks to ensure that all students are placed in their correct class periods (brass, woodwind, battery, front ensemble, and color guard class periods), so that when students receive their schedule in the weeks leading up to the first day of school, all students have a set schedule and appropriate class meeting time. Students that did not initially select band on their course sheet can still be placed into a band class - it's never too late!

**I don't own the instrument my child plays. How do I procure an instrument?**

The school provides some loaner instruments for all students in need of one. Instruments can be checked out in late May/ early June so that students have instruments over the summer to practice and prepare for band camp. We do encourage students playing smaller, less expensive instruments to either rent or purchase their own instrument if possible. Percussionists must have all required sticks/mallets, but both their marching and concert instruments are provided by the school. We will not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep your child from participating. More information regarding instrument availability will be sent out 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. You may also find useful information on our band website:

[www.macbandsa.com](http://www.macbandsa.com)

Any questions involving fees/fundraising, brass and woodwinds students, color guard students, or jazz band, direct these to:

Ms. Alexia Beasley, Assistant Band Director

[abeas1@neisd.net](mailto:abeas1@neisd.net)

Any questions involving percussion students or summer band/marching band, direct these to:

Mr. Ismael Garza, Assistant Band Director/ Percussion Director

[igarza1@neisd.net](mailto:igarza1@neisd.net)