

## **Band Of Blue Beginning Band FAQ**

Some things to know for our incoming 6th graders!

1. What instruments can I choose from?
  - a. Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion. I'm afraid there is no guitar or piano in band, though we can find opportunities to play them if you take private lessons.
2. Do I need to have my own instrument?
  - a. Yes!
    - i. If buying an instrument, beware of cheaply made scams. If an instrument is new and costs less than \$500, there is a very good chance it is junk. Please contact Mr. Fritz before purchasing and he will be happy to help.
    - ii. Instruments are also available to rent. Marshall Music, Meyer Music, and Keifer's Music in Battle Creek are a few local options. Cost varies from \$35-60 per month depending on instrument. This cost includes insurance, so repairs are free. This is the recommended route for the majority of students.
    - iii. There is a limited supply of school owned instruments. We try very hard to reserve these for students facing serious financial difficulties. Students must use whatever instruments are available, and may not get their preferred instrument. Contact Mr. Fritz if you need to reserve a school instrument.
3. What about sports and band? Do they conflict?
  - a. Mostly, no. More than 90% of the current High School Band are also athletes. Mr. Fritz was captain of both the football team and track team when he was in high school, and will work with students, parents, coaches, and the athletic director to resolve any conflicts. It's possible if you're willing to do the work!
4. What if I want to play drums?
  - a. Please understand a few things. There can only be a limited number of drummers. We only have so much equipment. Also, being a percussionist is one of the hardest jobs in the band. You will have to learn to play almost 20 different instruments while most everyone else is learning 1. It requires dedication and practice. Students with piano experience will have a real advantage, and that will be taken into account if need be.
5. Is it worth all the work?
  - a. Yes! This is a chance for your student to have a positive emotional and creative outlet. We will develop many things like work ethic, responsibility, teamwork, leadership skills, and social-emotional skills. Band students score better on standardized tests and earn more scholarship money for college. Come be a part of the Band of Blue family and see for yourself!
6. Questions?
  - a. Email Mr. Fritz at [fritzj@comstockschoools.org](mailto:fritzj@comstockschoools.org) or call his cell at 517-416-0731