

Anthony Bands Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get an instrument? Instruments are school owned and one will be assigned to you. We ask for a \$50.00 “Instrument Rental Fee” to cover cleaning, repairs, and supplies for the year.

Do I get to choose what instrument I play in **beginning** band class? Yes...mostly. We will spend the first 6 class periods learning and playing all of the band instruments (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba) except percussion. The first semester of band we do not offer percussion as a choice. You will choose a wind instrument once you have decided which instrument you are best suited for. You will choose your instrument on September 24/25th and turn in your “Instrument Rental Agreement” on September 26/27th.
Listen to examples of the instruments you like online!

When do I have band? Every other day we say “I have band on A Day” or “on B Day”.

What do I need for the first day of band class... And the rest of the year? A 3 ring binder 1” is best (avoid the huge ones). 2 pencils. Kleenex if you want to donate a box. No instrument.
The rest of the year: same stuff minus the kleenex, your instrument, band binder, and pencil, and a happy-glowing attitude!

I already played an instrument at my last school so can I stay on that instrument? Yes, I have a list from your teacher from last year so I already know what instruments everyone was playing last year and hopefully will have one available for you and ready to go when you come to Anthony.

I get nervous playing by myself in front of people, do we have to do that alot? No. As we get better at playing our instruments I may have small groups of students play together. This way I can better hear you and offer you some tips that will help you play your instrument better. During your first year in band, I want you to feel comfortable before you choose to play by yourself. As you get into the advanced bands, you may be asked to play by yourself on something we have worked on in class for a long time - this doesn't happen often.

Do we have to practice at home? Yes. You will enjoy playing your instrument and being a part of the band performance experience more if you get better at your own skills. You will complete a practice journal each week (4 days a week for 20 minutes each time).

If we are bringing an instrument from home do we need it the first day? No. Bring it to your second band class.

Where do I keep my instrument at school? When you get to school stop in the band room and put your instrument and band binder in your assigned band cubby. At the end of the school day, stop in the band room and pick it up so you can practice at home. You may not keep instruments in the hallway or in classrooms.

What are we going to do for the first few weeks in band? Always check the overhead when you come to the band room. It is where you find out what we are doing in band that day.

Class #1: Rhythm game and classroom expectations; Class #2: Advanced Bands= Instrument and cubby assignments and handouts; Beginning Bands= Instrument Exploration, Rhythm Games, Handouts; Class #3 Advanced Bands PLAY BAND! Beginning Bands: Clarinet Exploration

Can Ms. Linne read my mind? Nope. If you are feeling frustrated, overwhelmed, confused, irritated in class it would be best to tell Ms. Linne. You can do that right at that moment or before or after class. I can often guess that you may be having a tricky time -- but not always so please ask for help. It is my job to help you be successful! I want you to understand what you are doing and enjoy it!

Are there lessons I can go to outside of school band? YES! AND PLEASE PLEASE take advantage of the many many amazing private lesson teachers that teach lessons so close to Anthony! See the Anthony Band Handbook, band webpage, or Ms. Linne for a list of teachers and music stores that offer lessons.

Are we having jazz band this year? Yes. Before school. We will start jazz band after MEA break. We will perform at Family Day and at the May concert and maybe some other times too.

How many concerts do we have and when are they? 8th graders have 3, everyone else has 2. Band concerts are in December and in May. Check your syllabus and the website for dates.

If I have a concern about band class what should I do? Come and talk to me. I have taught band for a long time and chances are you are not the first to have this concern or yours may be similar to one that I have experienced before. Also, I have 2 kids who are in high school and going to college. I have helped them out with lots of questions and thoughts about band and other subjects in school so hopefully I can help guide you as well.

Can I make-up Practice Journal that I didn't do during the quarter? If you were sick for a long time - yes - we will work out a plan. If you were sick for a day or two, no you cannot make up an entire practice journal at the end of the quarter. Practice journals are intended to guide your progress on your instrument through the quarter so they aren't really something you can "cram" into the last week of a marking period.

Can I turn in a Practice Journal late? If you were absent - of course. If you simply forgot it, you have 2 class periods to find it and remember to turn it in. If you lost it, they are always available on the front counter of the band room and in the folder on the bulletin board and online through the webpage.

Hopefully I have answered some of your questions. How good you get on your instrument is all about what you put into it. Ultimately, how good your band sounds and performs is a representation of all of your attitudes, respect for one another, and your individual skills. If you have ever been on a sports team, this is like playing a team sport. Your band is as good as all of the players together.

Each day be organized. Communicate what you need to succeed. Be curious.
Focus on the task at hand. Write stuff you think you will forget into your planner.