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| **Frequently asked questions about joining band****C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\MEDIA\CAGCAT10\j0234687.gif****Why should my child join band?  What are the benefits?**It has been proven countless times that music increases a student’s cognitive ability and equips students with the tools to excel in other academic areas.  Music stimulates both the mathematical and linguistically aspect of the brain simultaneously.  Statistically, those students who participate in school band programs score higher on standardized tests and are more likely to attend college.Band can also be an important tool in creating responsibility, structure, discipline and a sense of self-efficacy.  It has been proven that band can become a comfort zone for many students who struggle in other social aspects.  Most major Universities offer music scholarships.    **What can I expect from the band program at York Preparatory Academy?** Students will be engaged in several performance opportunities in school and outside of school. Beginning band student are usually limited to two performances. 7th and 8th grade band will be participating in the South Carolina Band Director’s Association events such as All-State/Region Band, Solo and Ensemble, and Concert Festival.  In the students 8th grade year, they will have the opportunity to join the Marching Band.  **Does band conflict with sports?** NO!!  Many think that sports interfere with band.  In reality, the only conflicts are for those who participate in Marching Band in the 8th Grade.  Other than Marching Band, we do not undertake any afterschool rehearsals because we rehearse in class like any other elective.  Many students who play baseball, football, softball, basketball, cheerleading and dance, are also very active in the band as well.  We work very closely with the coaching staff here at YPA and have a strong understanding of commitment to both athletics and band.    **Does participating in band cost any money?  Where can I find an instrument?** The student will have to provide their own instrument if they decided to play the FLUTE, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, and TROMBONE.  In many cases, this involves renting.  There are many places in the area where you can rent an instrument and even purchase instruments.  Many look in pawn shops, shop on line or find a relative that used to participate in band.  Howren Music will be assisting us this coming year in making sure our students have instruments. Those students who choose to play a larger instrument (BARITONE, TUBA, and OBOE) will use a school owned instrument.  There *may* be a small fee involved in renting from the school.  As far as other costs, we will raise any money needed for trips and extra activities.  All band students will need black dress pants.**My child does not know how to read music and has no experience with music. Is this an issue?  My child does not know how to play an instrument?** If your child has had Mrs. Bernard or Mr. Patterson as a music teacher, they have done an excellent job in making sure the students are knowledgeable in music and reading music.  However, if you are coming from another school, don’t worry.  We will work hard with each student to teach them everything they need to know to be in band.  Everyone joining band is a beginner. **What instrument would be best for my child?  What instruments are there to choose from?** In beginning band students choose from the following: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Mallets and Percussion.  It is very important that each instrument is represented well in terms of instrumentation.   All instruments are respectfully challenging in their own ways.  However, an instrument can be learned easily with hard work and dedication. Each one of us has different shapes of facial muscles. Some find it easy to play a brass instrument where as some have difficulty “buzzing” their lips. In a situation like this, the student may consider a reed instrument. **Can my child play the drums?** Drums are a very popular instrument among young students.  In band, students focus on **percussion**.  Percussion includes the snare drum, bass drum, triangles, cymbals, Latin percussion, timpani, and many more.  Percussion students have to be very versatile and willing to work hard to accommodate multiple instruments.  Only **a few** students will be allowed to start percussion due to equipment and need.    **What about guitars, electric guitars, bass guitars and drum sets?** In order to be in any middle or high school band program you have to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument.  Guitars are not typically associated with middle school or high school band programs.  One, there is no venue that includes the performance of these instruments.  Two, there are no classroom methods of teaching these instruments because they are usually learned one-on-one with a private teacher.  Three, they are very loud.  There are plans to include a jazz ensemble as part of a high school elective.    **How soon can I sign my child up?  Is there a limit and cut-off date?** My goal here at YPA is to interest as many students possible for the program to grow.  Any information concerning membership and limitations will be posted and each and every student and parent will be notified via email. As of this moment we are planning for 50-60 students. Each grade is divided into two classes to make instruction much easier for both myself and the student. If the student chooses to play the Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Tuba or Percussion, they will be in the Brass/Percussion class. If the student chooses to play the Flute, Clarinet or Alto Saxophone, and Mallets then they will be in the Woodwind class.  **My child plays piano?  How can this relate to band?** If your child plays piano, that is a great advantage overall.  Keyboard percussion is very similar to that of the piano.  Most students who excel in piano choose to do keyboard percussion.  If your child is interested in playing the marimba, xylophone, bells, etc., they may wish to consider percussion.**Does my child attend band all year? If so, does my child get to take other elective classes?**Yes. Band is a year-long course. Due to the schedule here at YPA, every student has two electives a day. This gives the students flexibility. Students who enroll in band will either be put in the Brass/Percussion class or Woodwind class for the whole year (not both). The student will also get one semester of PE and one semester of another elective (Art, Spanish, etc.) If you have any more questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at:Travis.foster@yorkprepsc.orgTHANK YOU!!!! |
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