

Pizitz Middle School Band

2826 Columbiana Road
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

If your child has chosen band as their first elective choice for 6th grade, please plan to attend our Pizitz Band instrument selection! If your child has chosen band as their second elective choice, you may also choose to attend instrument selection. We are excited about having you become a member of the Beginning Band program. Your first step to ensuring success in band is to register for instrument selection.

Instrument selection will be held in the Pizitz band room on
Saturday, March 9th from 8AM-11AM and 1PM-3PM

Please register your child for an arrival time at:

pizitzband.com

The purpose of instrument selection is to match the student's aptitude and interest with the instruments to which he or she is best suited. We will have trained experts present to assist in this process. Please allow enough time- it may take up to two hours to complete instrument selection. Please do not purchase or rent any instrument prior to completing this process.

Students should come with an open mind and be prepared to choose their top two instruments. After everyone completes the instrument selection process, we match the student preference with the instrument on which they show aptitude and the instrumentation needs of the program. Email notifications with your student's instrument match will be sent during the first week of July. After receiving this email, you may proceed with obtaining all the necessary equipment and supplies for your child's instrument choice.

March 9 is the only date we will have our full staff of experts on each instrument available for instrument selection. This is the best time for your student to have a great experience and make an informed decision about instrument preference. However, if you cannot attend, please email Victoria Chambless (chamblessv@vhcs.us) for an after school appointment time later in March.

We look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks!

Leah Seng & Victoria Chambless
Pizitz Band Directors

Pizitz Beginning Band FAQ

Choosing an elective is a very important part of moving up to middle school. Among the fine arts electives, band is unique in that students should join the band during sixth grade in order to successfully participate in later grades. Band is a positive and rewarding place for all sixth grade students.

1. What does my child have to gain by being in band?

The benefits of being in the band program are numerous. Music is an important part of everyone's life and music literacy can immeasurably enrich a young person's life. The National Arts Education Standards Statement says, "No one can claim to be fully educated who lacks basic knowledge and skills in the arts." Research shows a positive correlation between learning experiences in the arts and enhanced student achievement in academic classes. Experiences in band develop student leadership skills which lead to pride in one's self and one's organization.

2. How much does it cost?

Instruments may be purchased or rented, and local stores have rent-to-own options and financing plans. There is usually a supply of good used instruments in the area. The school owns the larger, expensive specialty instruments such as tubas, bassoons, French horns and euphoniums. Students who play these pay a \$150 per year instrument rental fee. In beginning band, there is a \$98 class fee that covers music, instruction books, binder, t-shirt, tuner/metronome and instrument care supplies.

3. Does my child have to have a special aptitude or previous musical studies to be in band?

There are only two elements needed to be successful in band—a positive attitude and a good work ethic. Previous musical instruction is not necessary. We teach music reading and individual instrumental skills from the very beginning. We have an instrument selection process to help your child pick an instrument well suited for him or her.

4. Can students participate in sports and be in the band?

Yes! Middle school is a time to participate in many different kinds of activities. Beginning Band meets every day during the school day and there are no after school rehearsals.

5. Is there homework in beginning band?

To make good progress, expect your Beginning Band student to practice at home for twenty minutes 4 to 5 times per week.

6. What does my child have to look forward to in his/her future in the band?

During their first year of study, beginning band has two evening concerts and one field trip. Beginning Band students have an opportunity to compete in Solo and Ensemble Contest for Superior medals. Our students have opportunities to participate in the Alabama All State Honor Band, UAB Honor Band, and Music Performance Assessment during the 7th and 8th grade years. In a normal year, our second and third year students travel on an overnight trip, with destinations like Orlando, Smoky Mountains, Dallas and Chicago. Most importantly, students who choose band will develop a musical skill which will be with them the rest of their lives.

We look forward to having you become a member of the Pizitz Middle School Beginning Band.