

# Frequent Myths/Facts About Band:

**Myth:** Band Conflicts with sports and other activities and there are weekly after school practices for band...

**Fact:** Nearly three-fourths of our band students are involved in sports or other activities either through the school system or an outside entity. Beginning Band students have only three or four after school commitments (such as concerts) throughout the school year. Some of our higher level 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band classes have occasional extra practices, **there are no weekly practices for the first year beginning band students.**

**Myth:** Band requires prior knowledge of instruments/reading music, ect....

**Fact:** The Beginning Band class teaches all students the basics of musical facts and details geared for the student who has never read music before in their life. Commonly, most students come in with no experience on any instrument and retain only the bare minimum of music reading skills from elementary school.

**Myth:** Private lessons are required to join a band program.

**Fact:** Although any student may benefit greatly from private lessons when entering our program, **the majority** of instruments **DO NOT** require private lessons. There are a few instruments that we do require students take private lessons due to the highly challenging nature of those instruments (Percussion, Oboe, Bassoon).

**Myth:** Band is expensive...

**Fact:** Though there are a few costs associated with band, such as purchasing our uniform (\$10 T-Shirt for beginners), and instrument rental/accessories. We do everything in our power to keep that cost as low as possible for our program to function accordingly, and we have a FANTASTIC **Band Boosters Association** that has ability to help families who might be in need of any particular help, financially, so their student can be involved with our band program. Simply Put: We will never allow money to keep your child from joining our band program.

**Myth:** All instruments are owned and maintained by the school...

**Fact:** Not all instruments are owned by the school. School owned instruments are generally larger, and more expensive than store rented instruments. Examples include: tuba, baritone, french horn, and bassoon. Although basic instrument maintenance is taught to students for basic care, other larger repairs are not covered through the school. The school district allocates **no** money to our program to repair instruments. Last year, the band boosters spent \$7,000 on repairing school owned instruments. Instruments rented through a local music store come often come with a rental repair program, ensuring that students repairs are free, as long as you are renting from that music company. This can be a very valuable resource for young students to have as they learn to keep care of their instrument.