



## Top 10 SCMS Band FAQs

### 10. "I would like to be in jazz band. How does that work?"

*Jazz Band is open to band students that play the instruments listed below at ANY experience level. It will challenge younger players, but they will grow immensely as a result!*

Saxophone (ALL)	Trombone	Guitar	Drum Set
Trumpet	Piano	Bass	Mallets

### 9. "Are there outside of school commitments?"

*Yes. All students will be required to perform in several concerts throughout the year with their ensemble. Some classes will also have several after-school rehearsals prior to each concert.*

### 8. "Do we take field trips?"

*YES! In addition to performing for the Performance Assessment at in March (mandatory), we traditionally take a spring trip to an amusement park at the beginning of May for those who choose to participate (This is optional. Fundraising opportunities will be made available).*

### 7. "I don't play a band instrument yet. Can I still join?"

*YES! Beginning band starts with an introduction to instrument families and allows students to try out both woodwind and brass instruments to find the one that best suites them.*

### 6. "I'm not very good at my instrument. Do you still want me to be in band?"

*YES! Players of ALL levels are encouraged to sign up. Classes in middle school are based on ability level. We do everything possible to ensure that students are placed in a class that is appropriate for their current level of performance. You'd be surprised how many top level musicians started in a lower level class (Mrs. Magwire included!!!)*

### 5. "I would like to try out for Symphonic Band. How does that work?"

*Auditions for Symphonic Band will happen sometime in April. Information (including music) will be sent home sometime toward the end of March with details. All students will be asked to audition regardless of their current level of performance. Getting students assigned to the correct classes from the start will avoid having to make changes to schedules at the beginning of the school year.*

### 4. "I play percussion. What class do I sign up for?"

*Percussion Ensemble. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists must take a year of percussion ensemble. Exceptions to this rule must be discussed with and approved by Mrs. Magwire.*

### 3. "Can I rent my instrument from the school?"

*Some instruments (tuba, baritone, trombone, f horn, tenor sax, bari sax, bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet) are available to rent through SCMS. All other instruments must be rented/purchased through outside vendors.*

### 2. "I am on Free/Reduced Lunch. Will I be able to get my instrument from FCPS in middle school?"

*YES! Finances should NEVER prohibit a student from joining band. If there is ever a financial concern, even if you do not qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, please contact Mrs. Magwire and we will work it out!*

### 1. "What class should I sign up for?"

*Percussionists: Percussion Ensemble ( 925010)*

*New to Band: Beginning Band (923211)*

*Woodwind and Brass Players: Intermediate Band (923310/11)*

