

Overture Band Programs FAQ's

General Questions:

1. **Can my child choose their lesson partner(s)?**

No. Teachers consider many different factors when forming lesson groups. School guidelines may also require that lesson groups be made up of students from the same pod or cohort. Communicate directly with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

2. **Can my beginner change instruments?**

We ask that your child stay with their instrument for at least the first semester. There can be a big learning curve when learning to play a new instrument. Every student has their own pace at which they learn, and the amount of time they invest in their practicing makes a difference, too. If it just isn't working out for your child, contact your band teacher and have a discussion. It may make sense to switch instruments earlier.

3. **Will there be large group band this year?**

At this time we are not able to offer a large group band experience due to current space requirements, restrictions and guidelines due to Covid-19. Teachers may try to incorporate a collaborative group band video project into the lessons.

4. **Will there be band concerts this year?**

Under current mandates for mass gatherings, band concerts are not allowed. Students will be encouraged to present a short recital either in person to family members, or as part of an online video recital in December and in May.

5. **My child needs more reeds, valve oil, the next lesson book, etc. How do I get them?**

- a. Go to www.whitehouseofmusic.com
- b. Click on the Student Store button in the upper right corner of the homepage
- c. The PIN is your band teacher's last name, or to Search by School, type 'Overture' and a drop down box will appear with "Overture Band" and your teacher's last name.
- d. Click on the appropriate instrument tab
- e. Add the items you need to your cart and check out.
- f. During a "normal" year, your order will be delivered to either your school or your child's band director. Due to Covid-19, we are still figuring out whether White House of Music will be able to deliver to the schools, a drop-off point,

or if they will have to ship your order to you (which may add a shipping charge to your order.) We will keep you posted.

Online/Virtual Lessons:

1. How often will my child receive a band lesson?

Band lessons will be scheduled weekly throughout the school year. Exceptions to this may include the first week back to school, the week of Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break, and the very last week of school.

2. If my child is sick or forgets their lesson, will I be able to schedule a make-up lesson?

Please notify your child's band teacher in advance if your child is unable to attend their lesson. Make-up lessons are not usually scheduled for illness, vacations, or forgetfulness, but may be available depending on the teacher's schedule. You are in charge of initiating the request for a make-up lesson.

3. Will make-up lessons be scheduled if the teacher is sick?

Teachers need sick days too. The band teacher will contact the parents/students if he/she will need to miss a lesson. Students should continue to practice their current lesson assignment. The band teacher may provide an additional activity as an alternative lesson for that day. A make-up lesson will **not** be offered unless the teacher is sick for an extended period of time.

4. Will my child still receive a video lesson on days the school is not in session?

Lessons will **not** be held during weeks when school is not in session (the week of Thanksgiving, Winter break and Spring break). The band teacher may provide a calendar of lesson dates at the beginning of each quarter, trimester or semester.

If the school is holding in person classes but virtual band lessons, and there is a day off from school (inservice days, holy days, snow days, etc.), there may still be band lessons scheduled for that day. Contact your band director for details.

5. What should I do if my child needs to temporarily or permanently change their lesson time?

Communicate directly with your child's band teacher as soon you become aware of the need to change the lesson. The teacher will do their best to accommodate the change, but please understand they may have limited availability due to the number of other students they teach.

6. What should we do if our technology or internet access is not working or is unavailable or extremely unstable at the time of the lesson?

Unfortunately this does occasionally happen. Contact your child's band director either via email, text or phone as soon as you are aware of the issues. The teacher cannot guarantee, but will do his/her best to schedule a make-up lesson.

7. If my child is attending school virtually and band is being offered as an in person program at my child's school, can my child take online/video lessons with the band teacher?

Yes. Please indicate that on your band registration form and contact your child's band director for the details of scheduling a video band lesson.

8. If my child is attending school in person, and band is being offered in person at the school, can my child sign up for online/video lessons instead?

Contact your child's band director to see if he/she has time in his/her *schedule*.

In Person Lessons:

1. How often will my child receive a band lesson?

Band is scheduled for a certain day of the week at your school. Band lessons will be scheduled weekly throughout the school year. Exceptions to this may include the first week back to school, Winter Break, Spring Break, and the very last week of school.

2. Will my child receive a make-up lesson for days the school is not in session (inservice days, holy days, snow days, etc.)?

No. Due to the band teacher's schedule of teaching at several different schools throughout the week, if your school is closed or called off on a band day, there will not be an in person lesson that day. Students should continue to practice their current lesson assignment. The band teacher may provide an additional activity as an alternative lesson for that day to be handed out either a week in advance or through Google Classrooms or a parent's email.

3. If my child is quarantined and cannot go to school, will they still have a band lesson?

If your child has to be quarantined due to the Coronavirus and cannot attend school, but is healthy enough to play their band instrument and still want a weekly band lesson, contact your child's band teacher. If your child is healthy and still able to play their instrument, the band teacher will try to schedule video band lessons while they are in quarantine. Please understand your child's band teacher

may have limited availability due to the number of other students they teach throughout the week through in person and online lessons.

4. What happens if schools close and switch to distance learning due to the coronavirus?

Should the school switch to online/distance learning at anytime during the school year, band will also switch to online/video lessons at that time. Your child's band teacher will contact you to schedule video lessons with your child.