

Overture Band Programs FAQ's

Recruitment Questions:

1. **Will there be mouthpiece tryouts during the student recruitment presentation?**

No. Due to the continuation of coronavirus, students will NOT be able to try out the mouthpieces of the different instruments.

2. **How will my child know which instrument to pick if they can't try out the mouthpieces?**

During the student recruitment presentation the band teacher will play the different instruments for the students so they can see each of the instruments, see how the sound is made, and hear the sound that each instrument makes. Trying out the mouthpieces is only one of many factors that go into the decision of choosing which instrument to play. Other factors include: size, sound, looks, cost, what instrument a family member played, or what instrument a friend plays or wants to play.

3. **Are certain instruments best suited for certain mouth shapes?**

Probably, but that doesn't mean your child won't be able to learn to play their favorite instrument. When children learn to play the instrument they want, they will be more motivated to practice. If, after 8 weeks, your child is not successful in being able to produce an acceptable sound on their favorite instrument, they are welcome to switch instruments.

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, cohort or classroom. 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?

As of August 4, 2021, your band teacher is working with your school to create a plan for group band. Depending on current Covid conditions and your school's preferences, large group band may be held with all students on a weekly basis, or the band may be divided into smaller sectionals where your child may have their sectional on a rotating basis instead - for example every other week or once every three weeks, depending on how many sectionals are created due to numbers.

4. Will there be band concerts this year?

In person band concerts will be determined by current mandates for mass gatherings and each school's guidelines at the time of the concert. If band concerts are not allowed to be in person, either the band teacher will record the students in their lessons and put together a video concert, or the band teacher will have the students video record themselves at home, email their video to their band teacher, and the band teacher will combine all the videos into a concert video .

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. In the Search by School box, type 'Overture' and a drop down box will appear with "Overture Band" and your school name.
- d. Click on the appropriate instrument tab
- e. Add the items you need to your cart and check out.
- f. Your order will be delivered to either your school or your child's band director.

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, Thanksgiving Break, 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 band or lessons 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 absent from school or forgets their lesson, will they get 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.

If your child forgets their lesson or has a test during their lesson, they may ask the band teacher if they can join a different lesson group that day. The band teacher will do their best to accommodate the request.

4. Will make-up lessons be scheduled if the teacher is sick or absent?

Teachers need sick days too. If the band teacher is sick, he/she will contact the school to let them know they are ill and will not be at school that day. If the teacher has a planned absence, he/she will let the school know of the planned absence and will indicate it on the band schedule. In the event of a teacher absence, 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 or absent for an extended period of time.

5. If my child is quarantined due to Covid and cannot go to school, will they have an online/video band lesson instead?

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 time and availability due to the number of other students they teach throughout the week through in person and online/video lessons.

6. 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 online/video lessons with your child.

Online/Virtual Lessons:

1. **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?**

It is our goal to have band and lessons be an in person experience. Our teachers will be at school teaching during the school day. They will not be available to give virtual lessons until they get home in the evening and on the weekends. Virtual lessons may be scheduled with your band teacher on a case by case situation and/or for extenuating circumstances. Video lessons will be scheduled using Zoom or Google Meet.

2. **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?**

Please contact your child's band teacher to see if they have time in their schedule to offer online/video lessons.