

LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BANDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can be in band?

Anyone! Students are encouraged to join band their sixth grade year as it allows them to grow and establish the appropriate level of musicianship that will prepare them for the level of high school.

Band is a commitment. That is the biggest word I use regarding band each year. Like practicing for a sport, it requires commitment to ensure they grow individually, but also as a team that works together to achieve success.

Can my student be in band and athletics?

YES! Your student can be in athletics and in band from sixth grade all the way until graduation.

This is the most common question that we receive each year. We have a great working relationship with our coaching staff in Lago Vista and encourage our students to be involved in other activities.

We ask our students who are involved to remember to communicate with all parties involved. We are very supportive of our active students and encourage them to be active on their respective campus. While a student who participates in both may be busy, careful planning and strong time management permits them to participate in both activities.

Is it expensive to be in band?

Band does have a few expenses that a student will incur over their playing career, but it is our staff's job to ensure that there is no financial burden on any of our students. We have an incredible Band Booster Club that assists us time and time again to ensure our students are taken care of and that a financial situation does not prevent a student from being able to be a part of the band.

What expenses might we have in 6th grade band?

Sixth grade band does require the most expenses simply because a student is typically starting from scratch. Our friends at Music and Arts have helped us greatly to ensure students have everything they need to get them started in our program.

- 1) We encourage our students to take part in the Music and Arts instrument "rent-to-own" program. This guarantees that your student will have a quality instrument in their hands when it is time to being playing the instrument. It also allows the parent/guardian to make monthly payments on the instrument that once paid off, allows the student to keep the instrument. Should the student decide to upgrade their instrument to a more professional model in high school, all payments made on their initial instrument will also be applied towards the upgrade.
- 2) Basic supplies for instrument care and cleaning will be required, as well as the purchase of the in-class book that we use will be required.
- 3) Students will attend a competition/day trip at the end of the year. This information is provided to the student at the start of the spring semester and also provides a payment plan option to make smaller payments if necessary. Again, we never allow a financial situation to prevent a student from participating.

Do I have to participate in the rent-to-own program?

It is highly recommended that students participate in the rent-to-own program through Music and Arts as it will guarantee a quality instrument in your student's hands at all times. With the massive growth of our Viking Band program, we have limited inventory that is also dated. While we continue to upgrade the inventory as much as possible, our efforts right now are upgrading instruments that the school provides to students.

Although participating in the Music and Arts rent-to-own program is not required, it is highly encouraged. They have been extremely good to our Viking Band family.

Does the school provide instruments to students?

We will provide instruments to students that play the larger, more expensive instruments, as well as those that are more intricate. These include french horn, baritones, tubas, and percussion instruments. French horns, baritones, and tubas will be required to purchase their own mouthpiece, while percussionists will be required to purchase their own sticks, mallets, drum pad, and various other supplies.

We do have a very limited supply of other instruments that are available, but are provided on a need-based situation first.

How do I sign up for the Music and Arts rent-to-own program?

More information will be provided on that soon. The band staff will meet with each student personally before official instrument selections are made. We will host an instrument rental evening with representatives from Music and Arts and take care of it all together.

What can my student expect during their 6th grade year?

Sixth grade is the time for students to learn the basics of music, how to care for their instruments, and how to begin playing the basics on their instrument. By the end of the first semester, students will have the ability to play small, introductory musical lines on their instrument. By the end of their first year, they will have the ability to perform more established beginner-level pieces of band music. The beginner band will attend a competition/day trip at the end of their first year that will introduce them to the competitive world of band, but also allows for them to have a day of fun with their fellow band students.

Students are expected to practice 100 minutes a week (roughly 15-20 minutes per day) once we get started on their instruments. This allows them to grow individually and practice the different concepts that are introduced in class each day.

What if my student is on the fence about joining band?

Encourage them to join. Band can be intimidating at first when you see everything that is required, but once you get started, students realize just how much fun it is and how quickly they learn.

Band is the activity that will allow them to learn time management, responsibility, strong leadership skills, dependability, and how to be overall strong leaders in our society.

Research has shown that students that are involved with band typically have the highest academic scores, primarily because they are trained to use all area of the brain simultaneously.

Band members get to enjoy fun trips! Middle school band students typically do a day trip to Six Flags or Schlitterbahn. High school students will typically take one weekend trip and one 4-5 day out-of-state trip during their career. This year, the high school band will be traveling to Disney World.

How do I sign up for band?

The middle school counselor will send out course selection information. Due to the district closure, we are having students select an instrument that they are most interested in playing. Once the district is open again, we will set up times with each student to ensure the selection is best suited for them to be successful. Our philosophy is that we want the student to play an instrument they are interested in as it will encourage them to practice more, however, we do want to visit with them and the parents to ensure it is something they will be able to find success on. We are all built differently, just as instruments are!

What if I have more questions?

We are here to help! Do not hesitate to contact Mr. DuPlooy (pieter_duplooy@lagovista.txed.net) if you should have any additional questions.

We will be communicating via our band website: www.lagovistabands.com

Find us on Facebook and request to join: Lago Vista Band Boosters