

RJEMS BAND

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What instrument should I play?** Most students will play their “1st choice” instrument. Sometimes, physical traits (lip size/shape, teeth, etc) make one instrument a better fit than another. Also, your ability to hear pitch, melody and rhythm might make one instrument a better fit than another. By completing the “Matching Tool” online, we can you select the instrument that you want to play and also be successful in band. If your “1st Choice” and your matching Tool results do not align, we will steer you to a better fit.
- 2. Will I have make-up work if I am in BOTH band and choir?** No. The majority of 6th graders are in both band and choir, so we plan and teach those classes in a way that we hope makes you feel like you haven’t missed anything.
- 3. Do I have to practice at home?** Yes- There is an expectation that students practice their instruments to prepare and be ready for weekly lessons and learn ensemble music. Just like any new skill, the more you practice the better you become at it. Practice + New skills= SUCCESS! The better you are at your instrument, the more fun you will have playing in band.
- 4. Can I be in sports and music at the same time?** YES. Band is a part of your school day schedule. The 3 evening concerts we have during the year are coordinated through the Activities director & coaches to prevent conflicts for students. Most band students are involved in sports and other activities; in fact, all of your band directors were also athletes and some are coaches as well!
- 5. How do I get an instrument?** MOST students will play instruments that the family already owns (uncle Bob’s trumpet? You bet!) or rent one through a music store. These instruments include: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone & Percussion (drum pad & mallet kit). Music stores provide quality instruments for beginners without having to spend hundreds of dollars upfront. If you have questions about how this works, feel free to contact www.popplersmusic.com with questions about their rental/lease program. Students who play: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, French Horn, Baritone or Tuba will play school-owned instruments. The school provides these instruments for use through a yearly usage fee. There will be an Instrument Display at RJEMS on Thursday, August 13, 2020. During this display, families & students will be able have instrument questions answered & rent an instrument if needed.
- 6. When do I get my instrument?** Students will get their instruments at their first lesson. Hopefully most students are able to attend the FREE Beginning Band Kick-off Camp held at RJEMS. We plan to run the camp for 2 weeks, Monday through Thursday, August 17-20 and August 24-27. Usually the times fro the camp are from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Any updates or changes to the schedule due to COVID-19 will be sent out this summer. If students are not able to attend the camp, students will get instruments at their first lesson when the school year starts.