

RJEMS BAND

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What instrument should I play?

Most students will play their “1st choice” instrument. The only instrument students need “permission” to play is Percussion. Percussionists must have 2 years of piano lessons and pass a rhythm test with a band teacher. Students tried instruments this spring, and teachers have documented their preferences/choices if they forget.

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 rent one through a music store or play instruments that the family already owns (uncle Bob’s trumpet? You bet!). 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. • [Students who play: 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 (\$100). • There will be an Instrument Display/Rental Day at RJEMS on **Thursday, August 7, 2025 from 3 to 6 pm**. You can also do your rental online and save yourself a trip! <https://www.popplersmusic.com/popplers-lease-to-own-instrument-plan/>

During this display, families & students will be able have instrument questions answered & rent an instrument if needed.

6. When is the Summer Beginning Band Camp?

Students will get their instruments at their first lesson which is Monday, August 11, 2025. • Most students attend the **FREE Beginning Band Camp**. The camp for 2 weeks, **Monday through Thursday, August 11-14 and August 18-21 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am everyday at RJEMS**. If students are not able to attend the camp, students will get instruments at their first lesson when the school year starts.