

# Shivela Middle School Band FAQ

Contact Mr. Davidson if you have more questions at [bdavidson@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:bdavidson@murrieta.k12.ca.us) or (951) 696-1406 x4023.

## **What instruments can I play in middle school?**

You can play any of the instruments listed below. Instruments with a \* after them are in high demand!

Flute	Clarinet	Tenor Saxophone	Trombone*	Percussion – you
Oboe*	Bass Clarinet	Trumpet	Euphonium*	must play drums
Bassoon*	Alto Saxophone	French Horn*	Tuba*	AND bells and space may be limited.

## **Can I borrow an instrument from school? Where can I buy an instrument?**

Yes, you can borrow one, but we have a limited supply. We request a \$75 annual donation per instrument. If money is an issue, we can work around it, but please be aware that the money we collect is all we have to keep the instruments working. You can also rent or buy an instrument from music stores. Some stores sell musical instruments that look great and are inexpensive, but do not play properly. Always contact a band director before purchasing an instrument! We can help you make a wiser choice and save money!

## **Will I miss other classes for band? How many times a week does band meet? Where do I keep my instrument?**

You will not miss academic classes for band. Band is a class that meets regularly during its own period, just like all the other classes. We have our own room and a storage room for you to leave your instruments in all day!

## **What band classes are offered?**

*Beginning Band* – for students with no musical experience; *Cadet Band* – for students who have finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade band and others with some musical experience; *Intermediate Band* – a second year class for those who finish Beginning or Cadet Band; *Symphonic Band* – a third year class for those who finish Intermediate Band; *Jazz Band* – this extra-curricular group meets before school once per week. You can audition to join Jazz Band in August.

## **I didn't play in 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. Can I still join in 6<sup>th</sup> grade?**

YES! We have a class just for you! Join Beginning Band!

## **I started 5<sup>th</sup> grade band, but didn't finish. Can I try again?**

YES! Many students find themselves in this position. 5<sup>th</sup> grade band can be very difficult, because you have to miss class time to be in band. Middle school band is a VERY different experience! Give it another shot!

## **Can I take Band and another elective at the same time?**

Yes, but only if you take Zero period P.E. Then you can have two electives during the day.

## **Is band difficult?**

Not really, but you will need to make a good effort in class and, of course, you will need to practice your instrument. I have never had a student who put in a good effort who couldn't play. Band is just like any other activity. You will get out of it what you put in to it.

## **Where does the band perform?**

Each band at Shivela performs three concerts per year, plus a performance on the field at a Lake Elsinore Storm game. Our top two groups also march in the Temecula Holiday Parade and compete at a band festival. Our Symphonic Band participates in a workshop at Disneyland.

## **Do you have violin, drum set, electric bass or electric guitar in band?**

No. Those are not concert band instruments, but there is a string ensemble class taught at our school as well.

## **Can I skip a year and join in 7<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Yes, but very few students ever follow through with it. In that year off, people forget most of what they learned and move on to other activities. If they do return, they usually have to start over as a beginner. If you want to make it to our top group and our amazing high school programs, you need to stick with it. Don't quit!