

# SENECA BAND INFORMATION

## ***Who can sign up for Band?***

Anyone! No prior experience is required for sixth grade band.

## ***What instruments can I learn?***

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, students can choose to learn trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, alto saxophone, or percussion. Other instrument choices like oboe, bassoon, tuba, etc. will be available later in the year, after students have experience on the starter instruments.

## ***How will I know which instrument I should play?***

All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will go through an instrument fitting at their elementary school. Each student will be given their own "fitting kit" that contains mouthpieces for the instruments listed above. A professional musician will guide students through making noises on each of the mouthpieces and help them choose an instrument to start on in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. The goal is to select an instrument that the student would like to learn but also gives them a good chance for success.

## ***Does the school provide instruments? Where do I get an instrument?***

Most 6<sup>th</sup> grade students get their instruments from a local music store through a rent to own program. Some of the students use an instrument borrowed from another family member or a friend. A few students use a new or used instrument that their parents have purchased. **Seneca does not provide the six instruments listed above.**

## ***What does it cost to be in Band?***

Not as much as you might think! Most students who choose to play trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, alto saxophone, or Percussion get their instruments through a rent to own program. It costs about \$30 per month to rent these instruments. The exception is alto saxophone, which costs about \$60 per month. A few parents choose to purchase new or used instruments, but it's usually better to see if you really like it before purchasing an instrument. The only other thing you will need to buy is a band book, which costs about \$11.

## ***How will Band affect my schedule next year?***

Students who choose to take 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will have their band class (which is a full year course) plus four other 10 week specials.

## ***I'm not sure about Band right now. Can I join as a beginner in 7th grade?***

Unfortunately, no. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is designed for beginners who have little or no experience playing an instrument. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade band is pretty advanced because of everything that we learn during 6<sup>th</sup> grade, so if you want to give it a try now is the time.

## ***Do we have after school practices?***

No. In the sixth grade, all practices take place during your regular band class.

## ***What about concerts?***

You will perform in 3 evening performances during the school year.

## ***What if I don't like it?***

Band is a year-long class. At the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students can choose if they would like to continue in 7<sup>th</sup> grade band or just take the regular rotation specials.

## ***How can I sign up for Band?***

Just check off BAND on your schedule form. This will get you scheduled into a band class.

## ***When will I need to have an instrument?***

I will send out more information regarding how to get an instrument to those students that sign up for a band class. Students will not need to have an instrument until the beginning of next school year.

