



About the Independence Middle School Band Program...for incoming Parents and Students

The Independence Middle School Band is an award winning band program. The Independence Bands have consistently received Superior Ratings at our District Florida Bandmasters Association MPA (Music Performance Assessment) and The National Adjudicators Invitational Band and Orchestra Festival in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They have received GOLD ratings at the Heritage Festivals in Atlanta, Georgia and Orlando, Florida. As well as GOLD ratings at the Southern Star Music Festival in Atlanta, GA. Our bands strive to attain the highest level of musicianship possible. We insist on our band members maintaining good grades and a high level of character and conduct.

What are my Class options?

Students in 6th grade should choose either Band 1 (Beginning Band) or Band 2 (Concert Band)

- Band 1 students do NOT need any prior experience on a band instrument in order to enroll! They will have a chance to experience concert band instruments and to learn the basics of music theory in class once school begins! We have a very good “fitting” program for the beginners during class the first two weeks of school. We have professionals come in and let the students try instruments until they find the right “fit”. We must balance the number of instruments in the band in order to have the right sound for our bands and adjudications in the future. We teach the basics of music theory along with learning to play the instruments, so no formal musical training is necessary prior to enrollment. We do have some instruments available for rent through the school; many of our students rent-to-own their own instrument through a reputable band music store. Information regarding ALL of this will be sent home in the Fall to assist parents.
- Band 2 students should already have significant experience on a concert band instrument or be a fairly accomplished musician on piano (with formal lessons) or another classical instrument. Students wishing to enroll in Band 2 are asked to contact Mrs. Murray directly at Julie.murray@palmbeachschools.org to inquire and to arrange a time to play for her before the end of this school year if possible. 😊

We have 4 levels of band at IMS, but the 6th graders are kept in bands 1 and 2 for scheduling and social reasons, and are given many opportunities and are encouraged to advance in our program as quickly as they are able.

How do I sign up for band? Choose Band 1 as your #1 elective choice if you’ve never played a band instrument before. Choose Band 2 as your #1 elective choice if you’ve successfully learned

to play a CONCERT BAND instrument (not guitar, or recorder) for at least 1-2 years. There are NO pianos played in a concert band, but piano knowledge transfers quickly to a band instrument! Pianists audition to be in the Jazz Band, but must play a band instrument in their class.

How can I join the Jazz Band? In order to be in our Jazz Band, students must be enrolled in a regular band class. Usually Band 4 or sometimes Band 3 if there's a spot open and the student is ready. We do not allow students to be in the Jazz Band unless they are learning to play at a high level in a "classic" band class. Jazz Band is an extension of the classroom and an extension of our program. Often an audition is required. Auditions are held in the Fall, and dates/times will be announced about 1-2 weeks after school begins. Jazz Band meets most Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15-9:15 before school. Our Jazz Band performs out in the community regularly. They are ambassadors for our school! They have performed at Arti Gras, Local Elementary Schools, Downtown at The Gardens, for the Grace Notes Foundation, at the Jupiter Community Center, and more!

What does the IMS Band do? The Independence Middle School Band is a very active band program in our school and community. The bands (depending on which level you are in) perform at numerous concerts, one or two high school football games, community events and a parade! We go on performance oriented trips and fun trips too! This year our Wind Ensemble recorded a Holiday Concert for *The Education Network* for the Palm Beach County School District to be played in December!

What if I want to be in a magnet program as well as band? Many of our band students are enrolled in a magnet program! You may choose to participate in both programs as long as your parents sign a P.E. Waiver form (on back of registration form). Many students are successful in both programs. Music is a wonderful way to round out your child's education. Band participation looks great on a college resume'! High Schools and Colleges look highly upon students who know how to commit to a program, participate in a team, and learn a musical instrument.

What if I want to be in 2 elective classes, like band and art, or band and chorus?

Again, you may choose both classes as long as your parents sign a P.E. Waiver form (on the back of your registration form). Many of our students are talented in more than one art area. The chorus and band teachers work very closely together and often perform and travel together as well.

SIGN UP FOR BAND!!