

William Lenoir Middle School

Middle School Band and Chorus

“Frequently Asked Questions”

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Rising sixth grade students have the opportunity to join band or chorus when they begin middle schools. The music programs in Caldwell County are some of the best in the state and have long and wonderful histories! If your child is interested in learning to sing or play a musical instrument, this letter contains “Frequently Asked Questions” that you might find helpful.

ARE BAND AND CHORUS REGULAR CLASSES?

Yes. Band and Chorus classes meet every day during school and students receive a grade just as they would in a math or science class. These classes are year-long and can only be joined their sixth grade year.

IF MY CHILD JOINS BAND OR CHORUS CLASS, WILL THEY STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE CLASSES LIKE ART AND COMPUTERS?

Absolutely! Students have two exploratory classes per day. One of them will be band or chorus class and the other one will be a rotation that will include PE as well as other classes like art, foreign language, and computers.

CAN MY CHILD BE IN BOTH BAND AND CHORUS?

No, not in middle school. There are only two exploratory periods a day and students are required to have two semesters of physical education.

ARE THERE AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES?

No. The only required music activities that happen outside of the school day are concerts. We have two to three concert per year; the two biggest are in December and in May. Some schools have after school tutoring, but this is not required.

MY CHILD REALLY LIKES SPORTS. CAN THEY PLAY ON A SCHOOL TEAM AND BE IN BAND OR CHORUS?

YES YES YES YES YES! This might be the biggest misconception that we deal with every year. Students CAN play school sports and still be in band or chorus, in fact, some of our best musicians are athletes! We even have several music teachers coach school sports!

SHOULD MY CHILD ALREADY KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC OR BE ABLE TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

No. We start with the very basics of music. The first couple of weeks of school will be spent learning to read notes and rhythms.

IS THERE AN AUDITION TO JOIN BAND OR CHORUS?

No, there is not an audition. If you want to be in band or chorus, all you have to do is sign-up!

WILL STUDENTS NEED TO PRACTICE AT HOME?

Yes. All music students are required to practice at home. This is essential for reinforcing concepts that are taught in the classroom. Also, students who practice at home get better at their music, which makes them enjoy their classes more, which makes practice more enjoyable.

WHAT BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO PLAY?

Students will have a choice of the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion. Student will get to choose their first, second, and third choices. An instrument will be assigned based on when a student registers for band. Within the sixth grade year your child may have the opportunity to switch instruments.

SHOULD I GET AN INSTRUMENT NOW IF MY CHILD IS GOING TO BE IN BAND?

NO! Students should only sign-up for band at this time. The assigning and renting of instruments will happen by the end of May. Parents will be contacted with their child’s instrument assignment and rental information.

WILL CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOL PROVIDE MY CHILD WITH AN INSTRUMENT?

Some instruments the school does have to sign out, but it is on a first come basis. On the back of this letter, there is a list of instruments that are school owned and ones that the parents will have to provide.

IS THERE A FINANCIAL OBLIGATION FOR CHORUS?

The only financial obligation will be a small uniform fee (chorus shirt).

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR BAND OR CHORUS?

It’s easy! We will be coming back to each elementary school with letters and information about signing up and renting instruments. Please ask your child for this information in the upcoming weeks.

We look forward to working with your son/daughter when school starts! If you have questions about your child signing up for band or chorus, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

WILLIAM LENOIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Band – Terry Reid, tereid@caldwellschools.com

Chorus – Carla Reid, creid@caldwellschools.com