* **6th grade is THE year for beginning band. It can be difficult to start band in 7th or 8th grade.**
* **Band meets daily during the regular school day.**
* **Band students also have PE during the school year.**
* **Band students CAN do sports and band! GO CANES!!!**
* **Students CAN do band and PE or other connections classes.**
* **6th grade band students do NOT regularly rehearse after school but WILL have 2 required after school/evening concerts. We will work with school coaches to make sure that all athletes are able to meet their team obligations.**
* **6th grade band students do NOT need to know how to play an instrument to join the band – most have little knowledge of how to read music or play an instrument.**
* **6th grade band students will see, hear, and try ALL instruments before deciding what to play.**
* **6th grade band students need an instrument once they decide what to play. There are VERY affordable ways to acquire an instrument by rental or purchase. CAUTION!!! Some instruments on the internet are cheap but bad quality and will break after only a few weeks!!!**
* **Learning to play an instrument and belonging to the school band opens a world of opportunity. Through band, members will learn music, self-discipline, cooperation, problem solving, goal setting, self-expression, memory skills, concentration, poise, and self-esteem. Band members consistently rank in the top of their class academically!**
* **Please email me with any questions or concerns you may have:**
* **Check out the Band section of the JC Middle School website for more info!**

**Matt Jernigan**

**mjernigan@jasper.k12.ga.us**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Does my child need any prior experience?**

No, not any! All skills needed to play an instrument will be taught.

**2. How do I sign up my child?**

I will be signing those that signed up with me in specials. I will be testing the students to make sure they are paired with the instrument that will bring them the most success

**3. When do we get an instrument?**

July/August towards the beginning of school.

The companies we use have excellent instruments and repair services. Both offer a rent to own plan for the instrument. If you rent it long enough, you own it. You may get an instrument from these companies or shop around.

Either way, we would be glad to help with some recommended brands and would be glad to check out any used instruments you may be considering. **Beware** of catalogue or internet companies, and purchases from major discount chains. Very often these instruments are less expensive but are bad quality.

**4. Can my child be in band and in other activities like sports?**

Yes. Many successful band members have been active in sports and many other extracurriculars.

1. **What about uniforms? Books and music?**

Every band student will need our purple JCMS Band T-shirt. Most music is provided but the only book needed to purchase is the beginning band book. *Essential Elements Book 1 (yellow/gold)* is available for purchase for each instrument online at JWPepper.com, Amazon, or from me. $20 for both the book and shirt. If you rent from Harris Band Instruments, they can add the book.

1. **What is the cost of purchasing, renting, or leasing an instrument?**

It depends on the instrument. Usually between $20-$40. You can get specific information about costs from Harris Band Instruments in Covington (770) 787-2095.

Students playing Tuba or Baritone/Euphonium will use a school instrument but will need to buy their own mouthpiece.

1. **What if I can’t afford an instrument for my child?**

No worries, we will do our best to provide one for your child, BUT our supplies are limited.

**CONTACT INFO:** mjernigan@jasper.k12.ga.us Please email me if you have any questions!