

Participating in Both Band and Orchestra

Instrumental music teachers in the Iowa City Community School District pride themselves in providing students with a wide range of opportunities and experiences. While we want to encourage students to take full advantage of these opportunities, we realize that it is important for parents/guardians to help students maintain realistic and well-balanced schedules. Our goal is to provide accurate information that will help you and your student determine whether or not to pursue the option of participating in both band and orchestra at the junior high level.

BEING SUCCESSFUL IN BOTH BAND AND ORCHESTRA - As you guide your student through the process of registering for junior high classes, we want you to have a clear picture of what to expect should they choose to enroll in both band and orchestra. Considerations need to include:

1. **Time Commitment** - Participation in band and orchestra means twice as much practice time, twice as many weekly lessons, and roughly twice as many performances.
2. **Organization** - Participation in band and orchestra requires planning and organization. Students must plan ahead to have the correct instrument at school each day and keep track of two different lesson schedules.
3. **Motivation** - Students who participate in both band and orchestra will be held to the same standard as students who only participate in one instrumental music class.
4. **Instrument Availability** - Students who are eligible to rent school instruments should note that schools are able to provide only *one* instrument per student.

HOW SHARED BAND/ORCHESTRA SCHEDULES WORK - Administrators, guidance counselors, and instrumental music teachers work closely together to coordinate schedules so that students can participate in both band and orchestra. Band and orchestra classes meet during the same class period each day. Students who are enrolled in both band and orchestra alternate between these classes every other day. In addition, these students receive one band lesson and one orchestra lesson per week. Band and orchestra performance schedules are carefully coordinated so that they do not conflict.

MAKING SURE YOUR STUDENT IS READY - Because students who alternate between band and orchestra spend only half as much time in either class, it is important students possess the necessary skills to ensure success. Directors will periodically listen individually to each student's playing and recommend strategies to help the student prepare for success. For example, the director may request that a student take individual lessons for a period of time before joining large group rehearsals. This is intended to benefit the student by ensuring that he/she has a positive musical experience and will not feel "left behind."

Regardless of whether your student decides to participate in one or both music classes, the instrumental music teachers in the Iowa City Community School District are committed to working together to provide a positive, high quality musical experience. **To register your student for band and orchestra (every other day), please email Michelle Cook at Cook.Michelle@iowacityschools.org by Monday, January 28th, 2019.**