

Band (Concert & Jazz)



Abbotsford Traditional
Middle School

Learning music is an exciting adventure and enriching experience that will provide your child with opportunities and experiences that will be remembered for a lifetime. Our goal at ATMS is to give students the experience of playing music together and individually while developing the highest possible levels of musical achievement in keeping with each child's interests, skills, and abilities. It is also our goal to foster listening skills, positive attitudes, self-reliance, and a spirit of cooperation. Music offers students a creative outlet that reflects his or her individual personality and style. Research proves that students in school music programs average higher grades in all subjects and develop faster academically than other students. While playing in a band, students become part of a group that depends largely on teamwork and cooperation. All in all, being a part of a school music program can provide benefits to your child that cannot be found elsewhere.

What is Concert Band?

Concert Band is a musical ensemble intended to teach you about music through instrumental performance. In other words, we will learn about music by playing music ourselves! Band classes take place in an instructional setting with an emphasis on musicianship (i.e. musical literacy, instrumental technique, etc.) and enjoyment.

Do I need to know anything about music to take Band?

No! Students are not expected to have any previous musical knowledge or experience. We will learn how to read music and play our instruments as part of the class. If you do already read music, great! You can concentrate more on playing your instrument.

Which instrument can I play?

Beginning Band

To begin with, first year band students will have the option of playing the following instruments: Flute, Trumpet, Clarinet and Trombone.

When basic skills are achieved, students will have the option (but do not have to) to move to another instrument, including: Alto Saxophone, Euphonium, Percussion*, Tenor Saxophone, Bass*

*Students who would like to move to bass and percussion will have to audition and will be chosen based their overall understanding of musical concepts, instrumental skills, and teachability.

Grade 7 & 8 Band

Second and Third year band student also have the option to play: Oboe, French Horn, Baritone, Saxophone and Tuba.

Please keep in mind that in order to function properly as a Band, we need to have a balanced instrumentation. This means we need a reasonable number of people on each instrument therefore some instruments will be limited to only a few musicians.

What is Jazz Band?

Jazz Band is a co-curricular, participation-based course that offers students the opportunity to explore and experience skills and styles specific to the jazz idiom in a big band setting. One year of experience on a student's chosen instrument is required before students can join Jazz Band.