

# **FAQ'S ABOUT 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BAND AND CHOIR**

**1. What if I've never played an instrument or sang a note before?**

Don't worry. This is why we have band and choir. I can teach you.

**2. How much will band cost?**

Instruments fall into two categories. School owned instruments are baritone, tuba, oboe, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, percussion, and string bass. Individually owned instruments are flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone. School owned instruments are \$50 per year, every year. Individually owned instruments are \$80 three times per year, guaranteeing that you will own the instrument once it is paid in full. If your instrument takes more than one year to pay in full a 20% fee is added to the total cost. If you choose to pay it in full by the end of the first year, there will not be an extra fee. Scholarships are available for those in need.

**3. Will band and choir require homework?**

If you think that practicing your instrument or voice is homework, than yes these students will have homework. I look at it as they are learning a new instrument and are gathering a valuable experience that they are not going to get anywhere else.

**4. Can my child do both band and choir and be successful?**

Of course! Both classes require approximately 15 minutes of practice per day. If a child is struggling to meet these goals, they can be pushed until the weekend.

**5. Can my child join later (at the semester) if we are unsure now?**

They can, but it will be more difficult for them. Everyone is starting at the same place right now, and we are going to have fun listening and learning from each other. If you choose to start later, they will be behind and more likely not to stick with it.

**6. What if I join and then we change our mind and want out?**

I require students to put in one full year.

**7. Will we have an opportunity to try the instrument of choice?**

I will send an email to the list serv for instrument fittings in August. If a conflict arises, we can fit you during the first week of school.

**8. When do we get our instruments?**

Most instruments will be ordered as soon as possible. Instruments usually come in during the week of Camp Nesbit.

**9. What if I need to talk to the teacher?**

Kelly Fontaine is the band director and choir teacher. Please contact by email [kfontaine@hpts.us](mailto:kfontaine@hpts.us) or phone at 906-482-0450 ext. 1530. I look forward to having your child in the band and choir programs at Houghton. We strive for excellence here. We will make you proud.