

Baldwin High School Instrumental Music – Frequently Asked Questions

Scheduling:

I would like to take an instrumental music class. Which one should I take?

Symphonic Band - Winds – This course is for any brass or woodwind players. You do not need to be in marching band to take this course.

Concert Band – Percussion – This course is for any percussionists. You do not need to be in marching band to take this course.

Stage Band – This course is for saxophones, trumpets, low brass and rhythm section. You must audition and be selected to take this course. You do not need to be in marching band to take this course.

Orchestra – This course is for any string players.

Intro to Guitar – This course is for students with no experience playing guitar or in music. It is not meant for students who already play guitar.

Can I take a music class and still take another elective? Can I take two music classes?

Students coming into ninth grade have the following requirements:

English

Math

Social Studies

Science (Biology or Honors Biology which comes with a lab)

Media/Tech Apps. (half credit)

PE (half credit)

Lunch

Two periods of electives if no lab with biology

Students can use their lunch as another class period if permission is granted from a parent/guardian. Some students choose to take a world language which limits them to one elective period.

The two most common scheduling scenarios for 9th graders:

1. Biology

2. English

3. Civics

4. Math

5. Lunch or Elective

6. PE/Tech Media

7. Elective or Language

8. Elective

1. Honors Bio.

2. Lab/PE

3. Civics

4. Math

5. Lunch or Elective

6. Tech Media/Elective (half year)

7. English

8. Elective

Depending on scheduling availability, sometimes a lab can be scheduled during the same period as an elective; the student would go to their lab one or two days per week and attend the elective during the other days. As PE must only be taken twice in four years, students may also choose to forgo taking PE during their 9th grade year with the understanding that it must be taken in the future. Summer gym is also an option.

In short, it is possible to take a music elective and still have room in your schedule for other elective options, contingent on your situation regarding labs, a world language, and/or taking a class during lunch. It is also possible to take more than one music elective.

Marching Band:

I don't have room in my schedule for a band class. Can I still be in marching band?

Students are welcome to participate in marching band as an extra-curricular activity. These students get to participate in all band events, including the spring trip.

I play a sport. How can I play a sport and do marching band at the same time?

While a challenge, it is very possible to participate in both marching band and a fall sport. While we place great value on rehearsal time, we are also very willing to work with coaches to come up with a fair division of time with our athletes to allow them to stay involved in both band and sports during their time at BHS.

I am concerned about academics. Will I be able to keep my GPA up while doing marching band?

Marching band is a huge time commitment. However, band student regularly finish in the upper ranks of their classes, developing time management skills through participation in band that will assist them in all aspects of life. Students who choose to take a band class even have the option of taking Honors Band. Meeting during the same period as our regular band class, this weighted course gives our students the opportunity to get a boost to their GPA while participating in a few extra, musically edifying events.

How will my summer vacation be affected by summer band rehearsals?

With the exception of band camp, reasonable conflicts with summer rehearsals can be worked around in almost all circumstances. Please talk to Mr. Steele about your potential summer scheduling conflict before assuming that it will keep you from participating in marching band.

I don't play a band instrument or haven't played since elementary school. How can I be in marching band?

Thanks to a dedicated and talented staff, we are almost always able to integrate any interested student into the marching band, regardless of their talent or experience level. Come with a good work ethic and a love of music and we will figure out a way to involve you in the Highlander Marching Band!

I don't have any friends in marching band. What will I do if I don't know anyone?

Many life-long friendships are made during marching band seasons. Come join us, make some new friends, and get to know BHS before the next school year even starts.

I don't think I'm good enough to be in band. What if I fail?

Band is a challenging activity. However, our committed staff and student leaders will do everything they can to help you succeed. Come and try out marching band during mini-camp and you will find that, though a lot of work, marching band is a very rewarding activity.