

all about

Related Arts at Halls Middle School

At HMS, you will take some classes outside your wing called Related Arts classes. Two of these classes are year-long classes (band and chorus) but the others are taught on a 9 week rotation. That means that you will get to take between 5 and 8 of these classes every year! You may take some of them more than once.

Rotation Related Arts Classes at Halls Middle School: These classes last for 9 weeks.

Art - Students are introduced to the visual arts curriculum, exploring a variety of materials and mediums.

Keyboarding– Students learn about basic computer functions, keyboarding skills, internet safety, software applications, and cyberbullying.

General Music - Students are introduced to music, learn to read basic music/rhythm, and learn about music history and genres.

Health - Students study basic body systems, general health knowledge, bullying and decision-making skills.

Physical Education - PE emphasizes recreational activities and healthy living.

Students are scheduled for these classes by our guidance department; you will not be asked to choose. Care is taken to ensure that each student is given a varied Related Arts experience.



All HMS 6th grade students are REQUIRED to take band, chorus, or general music. Please make sure to fill out the Google form (scan the code or see the HMS website) so that you get the class you want!

Everything a 5th Grader Needs To Know About

BAND & CHORUS

at Halls Middle School

Why should I be in chorus and/or band?

There are lots of reasons! Band and chorus are great places to learn about music, get performing experience, and make friends. Many research studies over the years have shown that students who participate in chorus and band have higher grades and test scores. Most of all, band and chorus are FUN!

Do I have to play or sing by myself?

Members of band and/or chorus are part of a group, and we perform as a group. There are sometimes opportunities for solo or small group performances if students choose to take them, but most of the time we sing and play as one big happy family!

Are there after-school practices for band or chorus?

Band and chorus are classes that meet during the school day. There are no required before- or after-school practices for middle school chorus, but band has an after school practice on the day of our concert; you just stay after school until the concert!

Does band or chorus interfere with sports?

No! HMS band and chorus members are involved in all kinds of activities, including basketball, dance, track, church, football, golf, chorus, National Junior Honor Society, Teens for Christ, Beta Club, and many other activities.

I don't know how to read music or play an instrument, and I've never been in chorus. Can I still join?

Of course! In fact, almost all of our 6th grade band students are beginners. Most of them have never played an instrument, and even fewer already know how to read music. Many chorus students are in exactly the same boat! We start at the very beginning, and teach you EVERYTHING you need to know.

If I'm in band and/or chorus, can I still take other related arts classes?

Yes! All students, including band and chorus students, will have the opportunity to take a variety of related arts classes while they are at HMS.

Can I be in both band and chorus?

Absolutely! Lots of students participate in both band and chorus. We even have a special name for these outstanding supermusicians- BCs!

What about concerts? When are they?

There are 2 or 3 concerts per year for each band and chorus group. These performances are required as a part of your grade. Dates will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

What instruments can I play in band?

We start 6 instruments in sixth grade: trombone, baritone, trumpet, clarinet, flute, and bell kit.

Do I get to pick which instrument I play if I'm in band?

Usually, but with a little help. Some students know what they want to play before joining band, but we spend time at the beginning of the school year exploring options together.

Where do I get an instrument for band?

Almost all beginners rent an instrument from Rush's (573-4138, just south of the Henley Street Bridge) or Lunsford's (523-0276, Western Avenue near I-640.) A few students will borrow an instrument from a friend or family member. Others will purchase their own instrument. (Please do not purchase an instrument without checking with Mrs. Kimbro FIRST. There are many low-quality instruments available, and they will NOT work! Your money will be wasted!) You do not need to get an instrument until school begins in August.

What if I can't afford an instrument?

There are a limited number of school instruments available for students to use. They are given out on a first-come, first-serve basis to those in need. Please let Mrs. Kimbro know immediately if you need assistance! All of these instruments will probably be spoken for pretty soon, so act quickly.

I think I want to be in chorus and/or band, but I'm not sure. What should I do?

Join! In sixth grade, we learn all the basics. It's really difficult to catch up in seventh or eighth grade if you miss all of that. Your best bet is to try it and see how it goes! You can always decide not to continue in 7th and/or 8th grade.

What do I do if I have other questions?

Just call or email a teacher! We'll be happy to help you out.

Chorus questions: Mrs. Casteel- karen.casteel@knoxschools.org,

Mrs. Ullom- lyndsey.ullom@knoxschools.org

Band questions: Mrs. Kimbro- tiffany.kimbrow@knoxschools.org

Halls Middle School- 922-7494