

## Step-Up, Follow-Up!

In February, at our annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade “Step Up Day,” your child learned about the band program in a twenty minute preview. Now is the time to sign up! Simply contact the front office or complete the registration form on our website at [www.yourcharlotteschools.net/lam](http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/lam)

If your child is on the fence, that’s ok! Beginning Band is a “trial year”. There’s no obligation to continue band into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please note, that the band program averages 90+% retention from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade band. Chances are... they’ll LOVE it.

### Research shows that participating in band...

- ♫ Improves reading and math performance
- ♫ Raises IQ and scores on standardized tests
- ♫ Teaches real-world concepts such as leadership, teamwork, interpersonal relationships, organization, and time management.

The **LAMS COUGAR BAND** is the largest student organization on campus. It operates as one big, happy, diverse musical family!

- ♫ Throughout your time in band at LAMS, you can walk through the halls knowing that you have plenty of friends you can count on!
- ♫ No other class will bring you so much excitement, give you so much fun, so many friends, or so many ways to make you LOVE being a part of a team!

**Mr. Tim Ostrow**, LAMS Director of Bands

**Phone:** (941) 697-5800 Ext. 255

**Email:** [tim.ostrow@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:tim.ostrow@yourcharlotteschools.net)

**Web:** [www.aingerband.org](http://www.aingerband.org)

## Music Is...

- ♫ SCIENCE, MATH, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, HISTORY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION and
- ♫ ART... music allows a human being to create emotion. Science cannot duplicate the things that music gives you – humanism, feeling, emotion.

## About Us

Ainger offers ability-based bands including beginning, intermediate, and advanced bands. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are placed into the intermediate or advanced band based on their performance their first year. They also have the opportunity to audition for jazz band.

In addition to *daily* class instruction, musical experiences for beginners include an instrument test drive followed by a beginner “boot camp” in August to get the kids playing quickly with sectionals, a student/parent “Informance” and barbecue in November, two concerts in December and April, and two rehearsals prior to each concert.

In addition to *daily* team bonding activities, social experiences for beginners include pizza socials, a pool party, a “pledge to practice” drive with awards, a FREE bus trip to a marching band festival and a HS concert band festival, solo and ensemble in February, and the famous Band Lock-in!

More performance experiences are offered in the upper level varsity bands including concert and jazz festivals, parades, and joint performances with the LBHS band and community performers. Extra social events include a trip to Disney World, Busch Gardens, and Universal Studios.



## Welcome to the Cougar Band Program!

The guide for everything  
you need to know  
about Band at  
L.A. Ainger Middle School



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I want to be in band, but I don't know anything about music and I don't know how to play an instrument...**

The vast majority of beginners have never played an instrument in their lifetime. Beginning band is designed to teach you everything you need to know about how to play an instrument and how to read music!

### **There are many things that I want to do in Middle School. How can I do all of those things *and* be in band?**

Band kids are typically very involved students! We have many students who participate in football, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, and other school sports and activities. Being well rounded and trying many different activities is part of the middle school experience. Since the majority of learning in band occurs during the school day, conflicts rarely arise.

### **What about after school rehearsals?**

There are 7 after school activities for beginning band members all school YEAR including an instrument test drive, a "boot camp," and rehearsals/concerts. If you have a conflict with an afterschool band event, Mr. Ostrow is flexible as long as there is parent communication.

### **What instruments are available for me to play in Beginning Band?**

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. You can play oboe, bassoon, drums, piano, bass, and guitar in jazz band in 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **How will I figure out which instrument to play?**

Students will have the opportunity to try out *all* of the instruments listed above – this is called "Instrument Fitting." This will help determine what instrument is best suited for each student based upon natural ability and instrumentation. Instrument fitting prep will take place during the first full week of class. Following this prep, we will host an "Instrument Test Drive" with students and a parent in the cafeteria after school on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. This is where students try out their top three instrument choices with a professional to guide them through the process. Concluding this experience, the students and parents briefly sit with Mr. Ostrow or Mr. Eyrich to acquire an instrument.

### **I know what my child wants to play, should I purchase or rent the instrument before classes start?**

I highly recommend waiting until the instrument fittings have occurred. Nothing is more frustrating for a student than trying to learn an instrument that does not physically suit the student. In addition, the student might be interested in another instrument after the process.

### **Do I have to purchase an instrument for my student if they join band?**

There are two options for acquiring an instrument for your student: rent from LAMS (limited selection of instruments) or rent from an approved local music store that offers a "rent-to-own" program.



### **How much money does band cost?**

Not very much! It does cost *some* money to be involved in band – your instrument rental fee, the purchase of accessories for that instrument, and a \$10 music fee. Fundraising opportunities are held throughout the year to make sure that all students have the opportunity to participate in all band activities. Band is for *everyone* – Mr. Ostrow, the band boosters, and FAME work with students from all economic backgrounds to ensure that every student gets the full band experience whether they can afford it or not!

### **What is required of me as an LAMS Cougar Band member?**

Beginning Band meets every day as a regular class period. Students are asked to practice 15 minutes a day, five days a week and participate in both the Winter & Spring Concerts.

