

Charlotte

A Tradition of Excellence!
Sixth Grade Band



Charlotte MS Bands
 1068 Carlisle
 Charlotte, MI 48813

You're Invited!

Welcome!

For over 70 years the Charlotte Bands have been providing outstanding educational opportunities for the students of Charlotte. As we begin to prepare for next year in school we would like to officially invite your student to become a member of the Charlotte Bands. This is a very exciting time for students and parents and you may have questions about our band program—the following will provide you much information about the Charlotte Bands.

Besides the enjoyment of playing music participating in band provides students an opportunity to develop as a complete student. The benefits conveyed by music education can be grouped in four categories:

- Success in society
- Success in school and learning
- Success in developing intelligence
- Success in life

We hope you enjoy our introduction to the Sixth Grade Band, and we look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of the directors.

Mr. Kirk Gronda, Director
 541-5717
grondak@charlottenet.org

Ms. Stacie Detgen, Director
 541-5716
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Information Meeting: Thursday, May 8

Charlotte Performing Arts Center @7:45 p.m.

(Immediately following the Sixth Grade Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.)

- Meet with directors
- Ask questions
- Make an Appointment for an Instrument





Trombone/Low Brass Class

(Please note this is an example schedule—while these are the six different instrument classes, the specific block number and pairing changes slightly each year.)

Each day, students in the Sixth Grade Band meet for band class with students who play similar instruments. During this class teaching is focused on learning the skills needed to play that specific instrument. Each class is approximately 50 minutes long.

A typical sixth grade band teaching schedule might look like this:

3 rd Block	Clarinets	French Horns
4 th Block	Flutes/Saxophones	Percussion
5 th Block	Trombone/Tubas	Cornets

Your student would be in ONE of these instrument classes

Since we have two directors these classes will meet at the same time in two rooms. As we get closer to a concert the two classes will practice together and finally, the WHOLE band will meet together one time to run through our concert music—this is always an exciting day! The skills required to play each instrument are slightly different and it is through this “like-instrument” philosophy that we can properly teach each student. Generally, we perform three concerts during the year.



Band in 7th and 8th Grade

During 7th and 8th Grade band students are again part of a band class. As a member of one of the Cadet Bands the students get to participate in concerts plus a variety of extension activities: Band Night with the CHS Oriole Marching Band, District and State Band Festivals, Solo and Ensemble Festival, District Honors Band, Band Bounce, All-State Band, summer camps, private lessons.



Charlotte Performing Arts Center

We are very fortunate in Charlotte, in having the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) which is one of the finest concert halls in the Mid-West. All of our formal band concerts are performed on-stage there including all of Sixth Grade Band concerts.

The combined Cadet Bands on-stage for the Holiday Concert Grand Finale



Why Music

“The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of the nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose - and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization.” – *John F. Kennedy*

Playing a musical instrument significantly enhances the brain stem's sensitivity to speech sounds. This relates to encoding skills involved with music and language. Experience with music at a young age can “fine-tune” the brain's auditory system. – *from a study supported by Northwestern University, grants from the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation. Nina Kraus, director of NWU's Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory and senior author of the study, which appeared in April 2007 Nature Neuroscience.*

Band At Charlotte High School

The award winning bands at Charlotte HS have a long, rich tradition and continue to be a focal point for the school district and community. In just a few short years your student will have the opportunity to take their place among those students. As a member of the Charlotte HS Bands they will have numerous additional opportunities including:

- Oriole Marching Band
- Band Camp
- Band Bounce
- National Tours
- Honors Bands
- Chamber Music



CHS Oriole Marching Band



Band Camp 2007

In addition to their musical activities Charlotte Band student-musicians are academic leaders and participate in nearly every school, church and community activity. For many years band members have participated on athletic teams and many serve as leaders in both programs. In short, it is absolutely possible to do both "sports and band", meet all graduation requirements, and be a leader in school.



All-American Music Festival, Orlando, FL

How to get an Instrument

A good quality instrument is essential for success in music education and there are several methods for you to acquire an instrument to use in Sixth Grade Band.

Rental Program

For over 50 years the Charlotte Bands have worked with Masteller Music of Battle Creek. They offer a very simple and safe instrument rental program that approximately 75% of our students use at first. The company was founded by Band Directors and is still owned by Band Directors. Their primary focus is on the educational aspect of the Charlotte Bands and they fully support our instrument and equipment expectations. All of the employees at Masteller stand behind their products and you will receive excellent customer service.

Used Instruments

The directors keep a list of used instruments for sale in the Charlotte community. Many of these instruments are in excellent shape for a reasonable price. This list is always changing based on the information is made available to the directors. Please call one of the directors for updates. Please still make an appointment so that someone can evaluate the playability state of the instrument.

Other Instrument Vendors/On-line sites

There are other music vendors in Michigan who also offer rental programs with various terms. In recent years we have had some students locate instruments on-line as well with mixed results, please be cautious. ***If you do chose to acquire an instrument in this manner please consult with a director first regarding acceptable brands and quality--we want to help you make a quality purchase.***

Common Questions



How is the decision made about what instrument my student should play?

The instrument selection process is one that we, as teachers, take great care with because this directly affects the educational experience for your student. There are two stages in this process.

The first stage is the music listening survey which all of the 5th grade students have already completed. The purpose of this is to help discover which musical areas (pitch, rhythm...) your student has strength. This will provide a general starting point for the instrument fitting process.

Stage two is the instrument fitting. In the first week of May two retired band directors will meet individually with every 5th grade student. During this meeting each student will get the opportunity to try all of the woodwind and brass instruments used in the Sixth Grade Band. Each instrument requires slightly different physical attributes and our goal is to find the instrument that is a best match for your student; this will ultimately lead to them having more success.

Does my student need to know how to read music?

No. No prior musical knowledge is required.

What about braces or orthodontic issues?

Many students in the Charlotte Bands have had, at some point, orthodontic work or braces. The effect of braces for a student is very individual—however having braces does not prevent a student from playing any instrument well.

What is the time commitment expected for Sixth Grade Band students?

All band students in 6th grade take band as a class everyday as part of their normal school day. The only time students are expected to attend an after school function are for three formal concerts—one in November, one in March and one in May.

While instruction and reinforcement occurs in the class on a daily basis students are expected to practice at home on a regular basis. In the initial months this practice will usually be shorter because of the need to develop muscle strength. As the year progresses students begin to average about 30 minutes of practice 5 to 6 times a week.

Can my student be in the band and still participate in other activities?

Yes. Charlotte Band students in all grades have historically been very active in numerous school, community and church activities. Below is a sampling of the activities that band students commonly participate in:



National Honor Society
P.A.L.S.
Mid-West Talent Search
National Merit Scholars
Student Government
Harvard Model Congress
Michigan Youth Arts Festival
Quiz Bowl
Advanced Placement
Courses
Lansing Community College
courses
Michigan State University
courses
4H

F.F.A.
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Siren Shelter Volunteers
Church Youth Groups
Tutoring leaders
Junior Rotarians
Choir
Drama
Journalism
Yearbook
Drafting Competitions
D.E.C.A.
B.P.A.
Charlotte HS Musical

Community Theater
All High School sports
All Junior High sports
C.J.O teams
A.A.U. teams
Community Bands
M.S.U. Children's Choir
Lansing Junior Symphony
Summer Camps
Dance Studios



Benefits Beyond the Music Classroom

Nearly 100% of past winners in the prestigious Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology (for high school students) play one or more musical instruments. This led the Siemens Foundation to host a recital at Carnegie Hall in 2004, featuring some of these young people, after which a panel of experts debated the nature of the apparent science/music link. – *The Midland Chemist (American Chemical Society) Vol. 42, No.1, Feb. 2005*

Students of the arts continue to outperform their non-arts peers on the SAT, according to reports by the College Entrance Examination Board. In 2006, SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 43 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.– *The College Board, Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report for 2006; <http://www.collegeboard.com>*

An education rich in the arts and humanities develops skills that are increasingly crucial to the productivity and competitiveness of the nation's workforce: the ability to think creatively, communicate effectively and work collaboratively, and to deal with ambiguity and complexity. Prof. Ann M. Galligan, Northeastern University, in her paper "Creativity, Culture, Education and the Workforce", Center for Arts and Culture, December 2001