

## Frequently Asked Questions about the SHS Instrumental Music Program

### ***Can I take 9th grade band and another elective?***

Yes! If you want to take two full-year electives in your 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade years, simply postpone gym and/or health (or take them as a 7<sup>th</sup> hour, during the summer, online, etc). Many SHS students choose to do this because there are many more core requirements for the first two years of high school than the last two. Since you have to take a fine arts class to graduate from high school, it's a great idea to take band as a freshman. This will allow you to complete that credit early and form strong and healthy peer connections in high school right away.

### ***What band class do I sign up for as a freshman at SHS?***

All freshmen should sign-up for Concert Band. If you sign-up for a different class, Mrs. Wickman will help make any necessary adjustments to your schedule. In early May Mrs. Wickman will hear all freshman band members play in the Stevenson band room. Mrs. Kilgore will post a sign-up sheet in the band room so individuals can pick a time that is convenient. You will need to prepare a piece of music, 2 major scales, and a chromatic scale. Students who do not attend Holmes should contact Mrs. Wickman to schedule an audition ([hwickman@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:hwickman@livoniapublicschools.org)).

### ***Can I participate in the Stevenson Marching Band AND take a 7<sup>th</sup> hour?***

Yes! Individuals who opt to take PE and/or Health 7<sup>th</sup> hour can still participate in marching band. The 7<sup>th</sup> hour class ends at 3:25 p.m. and most marching band practices start at 4 p.m. If a practice starts before 3:25 p.m., 7<sup>th</sup> hour members must report to marching band by 3:35 p.m.

### ***How do I sign up for SHS Marching Band?***

Marching Band information packets will be available on the Stevenson Music website ([shsmusic.org](http://shsmusic.org)) in early May. You must be registered for a regular music class during the day to participate in marching band.

### ***How can I play in drumline?***

Every percussionist enrolled in a band class is guaranteed a spot on drumline or mallet percussion if they audition. Students that play non-marching instruments (example: oboe, bassoon) that audition may play on drumline only if there are openings. Auditions will be held Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Stevenson. Audition material will be available on the SHS Music website in early May. Drumline students must reaudition each year.

### ***How do I get to be a part of color guard?***

Color Guard clinics are held at Stevenson High School starting in May. Dates will be posted on the SHS Music website once they are finalized. No previous experience is necessary, you will learn some techniques and we will watch how quickly you learn. Color guard students must participate in the clinics to be considered for the team.

### ***If I create my 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule without music and change my mind, can I make the change?***

Yes. If you did not sign up for band/orchestra and want to add it to your schedule, you can change your schedule any time before school starts in the fall by contacting the Stevenson High School Guidance Office. (744-2660 x48150). It's much easier to sign up now because over the summer it can be more difficult to connect with your counselor and course openings may not be available.

### ***What can I do to free up more elective space in my schedule for band/orchestra?***

First, read carefully through the four year sample plans because these illustrate that all students can take four years of band and still meet graduation requirements.

Options include:

1. Utilizing the 7th hour.
2. Postponing Gym and Health to years other than 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. Year 2 of the foreign language requirement can be met by participating in a band/orchestra class. Once an individual completes the required VPAA credit (Performing Arts), additional years in music could be applied to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year foreign language credit.
4. Many courses can be taken online for credit. This may be an option for certain highly motivated students that need to balance requirements and band/orchestra.
5. Several courses can be taken during summer school. This is a great way to earn a credit in just a few weeks rather than an entire semester.
6. Research the “test out” option. Michigan law requires that students be permitted a test out option for a required class. If you believe this would be an appropriate solution for your advanced student, this is an option for you to research.

### ***Is Jazz Band a class at Stevenson?***

No. Jazz Band is extracurricular (meets after school one day/week starting in November). In order to be eligible for Jazz Band an individual must be enrolled in a band or orchestra class during the school day. Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble.

### ***Can I check out an instrument over the summer?***

Yes! If you are registered in a high school band or orchestra class you can check out an instrument over the summer. If you are going to play in marching band next year and want to start practicing the sousaphone, or mellophone etc., summer is a good chance to get used to your new instrument. We also check out our large mallet percussion instruments so our percussionists can practice marimba and xylophone over the summer.

### ***What is one of the greatest high school experiences any student can have?***

Being a part of the music program, of course! There is a place for everyone in our music program at SHS. In addition to the concert ensemble classes, we offer music opportunities in marching band, jazz band, pit orchestra for the all school musical, and chamber ensembles. Whether you are a serious musician that wants to put a lot of time and effort into practicing and performing or you just want to play in band or orchestra but don't have room for a lot of extracurricular activities there is a place for you in our program. There are a lot of music options at Stevenson, and we hope that music continues to be a part of your educational experience.