

# **Brea Junior High Instrumental Music Program**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Why should I sign up for band or orchestra when there are so many other electives to choose from?***

Music is not just a class, but a family, and an experience unlike any other. Most of the music students at BJH stay together for years, throughout junior high and high school. They truly find their niche in the instrumental music program, a place where they feel they belong. You cannot get that in any other elective. Junior high music classes meet every day, as opposed to just once a week in elementary school, so you learn much more, and much more rapidly. If you have already spent time and money on music in elementary school, you will be throwing that away if you don't continue in junior high. It's like doing all the work, but not getting the reward!

### ***What will I do in junior high music classes?***

All of the junior high bands and orchestras all participate in at least three major concerts, in December, March, and May in the BJH auditorium. In addition, the Intermediate and Concert Bands as well as the Advanced Orchestra participate in at least 3 concert festivals (competitions) including a possible performance at either Disneyland or Knott's Berry Farm. In addition, all bands play at a high school football game in the fall. The Beginning Band and Beginning Orchestra also participate in musical field trips. Aside from these, there are many other musical opportunities in the school and community of Brea throughout the year. We also provide social events and other fun activities.

### ***Which level band do I sign up for?***

In general, new incoming 7th graders who have completed one or more year of Advanced Band in elementary school should sign up for Intermediate Band. However, every year a few very talented and motivated 7<sup>th</sup> graders are also accepted into Concert Band, which is our most advanced group. Talk to Mrs. Bartell if you think you are prepared for this excellent band. Concert Band auditions take place in June.

### ***I want to try out for Concert Band. How does the audition process work?***

Auditions for Concert Band take place in June before the school year ends. They take place after school at BJH. Audition music and information will be available in early May. ANYONE may try out for Concert Band, so it cannot hurt to audition! For now, please sign up for Intermediate or Beginning Band (see the question above). **After the auditions take place, any students who are accepted into Concert Band will automatically be switched into that class, even if it is not on your registration form.** Please remember, Mrs. Bartell will place you in the class where you will learn the most. If you don't make Concert Band in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, you'll have another chance in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and being in Beginning or Intermediate will prepare you for Concert Band!

***If I start out in Intermediate Band, can I switch to Concert Band later in the year?***

Definitely! As long as you practice regularly and show maturity and responsibility, any student has the potential to change between band classes mid-year.

***What is Jazz Band?***

Jazz Band is one of our newest electives and most popular bands. It is an advanced level class, and requires an audition or permission from Mrs. Bartell to join. It is made up of mostly 8th graders and includes only saxophones, trumpets, and trombones, as well as a rhythm section made up of piano, guitar, bass, and drum set. To be in Jazz Band, you must also be enrolled in Concert Band, or in a few cases, Intermediate Band. Jazz Band, like Concert Band, also represents BJH at festivals and competitions throughout southern California in addition to all BJH concerts.

***What is Orchestra and which Orchestra class is best for me?***

Our new string orchestra program is in its third year. We are now offering beginning and advanced levels of this class. Beginning Orchestra is for students with either limited or no experience who would like to learn to play violin, viola, cello, or string bass.. Advanced Orchestra is designed for students who have either completed Beginning Orchestra or incoming students who have previous experience or private lessons on a string instrument. Orchestra students will participate in all of the same concerts and events as the band students, just with different instrumentation. Students involved in Orchestra can go on to play in the orchestra at Brea Olinda High School.

***If I already play an instrument, can I switch instruments in junior high?***

Although in most cases it's recommended to stay on your current instrument, you may switch instruments. Instruments that are needed in junior high that we do not teach in elementary school include French horn, tuba, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, and baritone/euphonium. Students willing to switch to any of these instruments have a better chance of being selected for Concert Band as well. Additional percussionists, especially those with good piano skills, are also sometimes needed. **If you are interested in switching instruments, please ask Mrs. Bartell first.**

***Can I join both band and orchestra?***

Sure! You can take two electives at Brea Junior High, so there's no reason why you couldn't continue on a band instrument and also learn a string instrument in orchestra.

***Is there any reason I shouldn't join a music class at BJH?***

NO! Music is tons of fun and very rewarding, and there's a band that's right for everybody! You'll make a lifetime of memories in our instrumental music program. You'll be a valuable part of a team, be able to express yourself in a creative way, make lots of friends, and participate in fun events. Music also looks great on your college applications!

***If you have any questions about our award-winning instrumental music program, please feel free to contact Mrs. Glenda Bartell by email at [gbartell@bousd.us](mailto:gbartell@bousd.us).***