

Hello 8th Grade Band Families,

Below is the fourth installment of Hinsdale South band's 8th grade FAQ enrollment emails. We hope these will be helpful as you complete the registration process.

Today's Topic: What do I register for?

All freshmen playing wind instruments (woodwinds and brass) enroll for Concert Band.

All freshman percussionists enroll for Concert Percussion Ensemble.

But my student would like the challenge of an upper level band.

I'm excited to hear this. But freshman level and non-freshman level bands are grouped together to alleviate course conflicts for all band students. While it might be what your individual student wants, it can cause conflicts for all band students now as well as later in high school.

I've heard students can take jazz ensemble as a class

- This is right, even though our jazz ensemble meets as a '0' hour class before school. This is done so jazz students do not need to use another class spot for jazz or have conflicts with after-school rehearsals/activities.
- Jazz students are issued a grade and may also take jazz for honors credit.
- In recent years, the Hinsdale South Jazz Ensemble has performed at Northern Illinois University, University of Chicago, Jazz in the Meadows Festival, Purdue University, and The Jazz Showcase in Chicago.
- Students who play traditional jazz instruments (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, bass, vibraphone, and guitar) are not the only ones who can play in jazz ensemble. Students playing any band instrument are welcome to

enroll. They may choose to learn a traditional jazz instrument (we'll teach you) or can play their usual band instrument.

- Students in jazz are expected to be a part of the concert bands as well. Lessons from concert bands also aid a student's jazz playing.

How about percussion ensemble?

- Percussion ensemble students generally work on percussion ensemble music as well as supplemental materials.
- Percussion ensemble students also play in one or more of the three wind bands during our band concerts (concert band, honors wind symphony, or symphonic band) and marching band during the fall. The specific parts they play with these other bands are chosen for both the student's individual development as a musician and to promote their learning of band concert music. They might be playing a snare drum with one band and a crash cymbal with the next. Our curriculum is designed to help the student learn upper level percussion ensemble music which then allows them to learn typical band concert music quickly.
- In the weeks leading up to our concerts, we have a couple of evening rehearsals where we put the percussion ensemble together with the wind bands to prepare their concert music.

Additional information.

- All band courses can be taken for honors credit.
- During the fall, all band students participate in marching band. This also happens during summer band rehearsals leading up to July 4th performances, and band camp. More specific information for summer rehearsal dates and times will be sent once facilities can be booked.
- After the marching band season is over, we generally have one night rehearsal a week involving all band students in order to make four different bands play as one during performances.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. You can access more information about bands at Hinsdale South on our websites:

<https://www.hinsdalesouthband.com/class-of-2026.html>.

We're looking forward to sharing a fantastic four years of music with your family!