

How To Get Started (Band)

The first step is to set up a time where the Director, Bryant Allard, can meet the school principal or person in charge of setting up the program. In the bay area, Bryant has a regional manager that can meet with this person. We would discuss the details of the program, answer any questions, and see if the program looks like it would work at your school. The next step is as follows:

1. The first step is to try to decide on the day and time frame that would be best for the school and M.U.S.E. This way, when we move ahead and begin to promote the program to the students and parents, the parents will have a better idea how all of this will work into their child's schedule.
2. It's really important to be able to make a presentation to the students to get them excited about taking an instrument and being in band. There are several ways of doing this:
 - A. M.U.S.E. Instructor(s) visits each class for a 15 minute presentation bringing many of the different instruments we offer in band and demonstrating how to get a sound on each. We spend a few minutes answering questions and then leave registration forms with the teacher to be handed out by the end of the day.
 - B. M.U.S.E. Instructor(s) can do a larger presentation with several classes of grades together as an assembly. Again, we would demonstrate instruments, answer questions, and either hand out forms to teachers at that time or leave forms in office to be distributed.
 - C. The third option is a more hands on presentation where 2-3 teachers come out to the school and set up stations in a larger space (library, gym, or any room that can hold 30+ students)where students can come up and try some of the instruments. We can sanitize mouthpieces so not to share germs. Depending on the size of the school and the number of students, we can usually accommodate all grades within a few hour time period with students coming in groups of 20-30 for a 20 minute period of time. We call this presentation our instrument "Petting Zoo".
3. The best time for these presentations is in the spring before students leave for the summer. This gives parents time to plan, receive information about the program prior to the fall, and to take part in some of our August orientations sponsored at several different locations and dates. In some locations we actually bring out instruments for the kids to try again and parents can actually rent an instrument that same day and be already for the school year.
4. There is a minimum number of students needed to be able to start the program. If it looks like there is not enough interest, we would notify the school and parents before they go out and rent an instrument. We like to have between 15-20 students minimum in order to get started.
5. The band program is offered to grades 4-8. If instrument presentations are scheduled in the spring, we would need to see grades 3-7). The strings program is offered to grades 3-8 and our keyboard program is offered to grades 2-8.