

Music Class Sequence: Mission Attendance Area FUSD (For students beginning in 4th Grade)

Band*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning Band

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate Band

This class is a continuation of Band, picking up from the end of Beginning Band. It continues on more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

6th Grade: Advanced Elementary Band

This class involves 6th grade students from all elementary schools in the Mission Attendance Area. It provides a continuation of Band classes, with a focus on large-ensemble performance. This is also an opportunity for students to switch to some of the larger band instruments (such as trombone, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, etc.) It is also an opportunity for band students to meet and interact with students from other schools that they will be in band class with in 7th and 8th grade. This ensemble performs at least twice per year: once at Ohlone College as part of the Mission Attendance Area Concert with the Hopkins JHS and Mission San Jose HS groups, and one other concert in May. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week after school, and is taught by the Director of Bands at Hopkins.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Concert Band

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. Many students switch instruments in the class in order to form a balanced ensemble. These students who switch to a new instrument receive private group lessons (by instrument) once per week from the band director. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. Concert Band performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, as well as traveling to the CMEA Band Festival at California State University, Hayward in April, and performing at a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Symphonic Band OR Wind Ensemble

These are the second in the comprehensive Band sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. This class also continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are each considered to be one of the highest-level middle school/junior high bands in the State of California. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the bands at Mission San Jose High School. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble perform at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the April CMEA Band Festival in Hayward, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Students in this class have the opportunity to audition for the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble, which is a “Big Band” that meets before school 4 days per week. Also, selected students from Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble will be asked to play with the Full Orchestra. (Wind Ensemble is a slightly more advanced group with students accepted by audition.)

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade.*