Huntington Beach High School Oiler Band
New member FAQ

Do I need to audition to become a member of the oiler band?
No. The HBHS Band program is open to any HBHS student. Of course, it is preferred that you already know how to play an instrument, but we accept students at all levels, even enthusiastic beginners! We will work with you at your level to improve your skills as a musician.

What classes should I sign-up for?
In the Fall semester, new students enroll in two sections of band — the first is called “Instrumental 1” (formerly our wind ensemble class), and the second is “PE50:Marching Band.” They will be scheduled 6th and 8th periods.

What about P.E. credit?
The 8th period section of PE50:marching band will earn 5 PE credits. This is only available in the Fall during marching band season. You need 20 PE credits to graduate, therefore if you continue in band for four years, you will earn all the necessary credits!

When are rehearsals?
The band meets during 6th and 8th periods, which are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes when we are on block schedule. During the Fall, the band typically rehearses from 1:44-4:30 on Mondays, and 12:55-4:30 on Wednesdays and Fridays. There are some exceptions to this as situations demand.

Who is the director?
Mr. Gregg Gilsoe has been in charge of the music program at Huntington since 1999! Originally from Indiana, he has a B.S. in Music Education from the University of Illinois, a M.M. in Music Performance from USC, and a Certificate in Film Scoring from UCLA. His major instrument is percussion – he still performs professionally – and he also arranges and composes music. He resides in the local neighborhood with his wife and son. His wife is the band director at Costa Mesa High School!
What type of opportunities are available?

In the Fall we concentrate on the marching band season. Beginning in December, we begin concert band season with the Sounds of the Seasons concert. In January the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Bands and Drum Line begin their season which lasts into May or June.

For the past several years we have had two complete jazz bands, the Big Band placed by the director, the Lab Band open to any instrumental student. Many woodwind players like to learn how to “double” on saxophone in this band.

The Drum Line is decided by auditions — typically in December. It is also open to any band member, and again, many students with a piano background like to learn to play the percussion keyboard instruments. “Drummers” from the band are strongly encouraged to participate.

I don’t know how to march, do I have to be in the marching band?

We don’t expect you to know how to march! We will teach all the skills necessary to be a successful marching band member! Since the program focuses on the marching band activity in the Fall, yes you do need to be in the marching band... However, I will also tell you that for many of the band students, marching band season is their favorite time in band! So give it a try!

When do we start?

The band Program officially begins its year with band camp prior to school. Some students get an early jump by participating with the band in the 4th of July parade. There are usually 3 or 4 rehearsals prior to the 4th, and then the band has a fun time in the parade.

Some years there are summer sessions for students to keep up their playing skills. Watch for more details on these.

What and when is “band camp?”

Band camp — not really a camp, but rather a series of intensive pre-school rehearsals — is typically held 1-2 weeks before school starts. The longer rehearsals help us to lay the foundations of music, marching, and team work before the school year begins and our performance season begins. It also gives new students a chance to be on campus and meet new friends prior to school beginning! In addition to intense rehearsals, we also have a lot of fun! It’s important that all members — particularly new members — attend the band camp. Absent students may have limited performance opportunities in the Fall.
**How much time will it take on weekends?**

We perform for all home games, which is typically 4 to 6 Friday evenings during September and October, depending on the football schedule. In late October thru November, we attend several marching band tournaments, primarily on Saturdays. The season ends with the WBA championships the weekend before Thanksgiving. Some years we qualify for further performances the 1st weekend in December.

**My friends don’t play an instrument, can they be involved?**

Sure! They could either begin and learn an instrument, or they might join the color guard.

**What is the Color Guard?**

The color guard is an organization that provides visual support as part of the marching band in the Fall, and that competes on its own (winter guard) during the winter and Spring. Movement/dance skills are developed as well as equipment skills on flags, rifles, and sabers.

**What about the health class?**

It is suggested that band and color guard students take health during the summer in order to avoid impacting your schedule. The district prefers you take it the summer before your freshman year, but if you need to you may take it after.

**Will all this affect my grades?**

Only if you don’t manage your time, and time management skills are a great thing to develop in high school — they will help you your entire life! Get a date/assignment book and put it to use! Mark all performances, tests, project due dates, etc., and make your time work for you!

**Can I be in band and the honors curriculum?**

Absolutely!! Easily half of the students in the music program are “honors” students. There is much research that shows a correlation between the study of music and higher test scores, better study habits, and personal creativity!

To back this claim at HBHS: the band’s “team” grade point average is consistently at or near the top of the entire school!; the valedictorium (#1) and/or salutatorian (#2) have been band members over half the time in the last 15 years!; band members have been accepted into (and many received scholarships from) some of the finest universities in the country (USC, UCLA, Cal-Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Michigan, Indiana, Northwestern, Annapolis, San Francisco Conservatory)!
Can I be in sports?
It depends upon the sport, and sometimes the coach. Certain sports conflict more than others, and certain coaches are more willing to work compromises on scheduling conflicts than others. Mr. Gilboe is always willing to compromise — provided any absences will not detract from the work of the other students. It is, after all, his responsibility to make sure the program is of the highest quality.

Can I be in MUN and band?
The real question is can you be in MUN and ANYTHING! The answer is YES — if you want to! Conflicts sometimes arise between band performances and MUN conferences. Many students have made the schedules work for them, while others have found it more difficult to do both, eventually choosing one or the other. Yes it is possible, yes you will need to control your calendar well, yes it could be very rewarding to do both...

Do I need an instrument?
Most students in our program do own their own instruments, with the exceptions of percussion, larger instruments (tuba, baritone, bari sax), color instruments (French horn, piccolo, bass trombone, bass clarinet, bassoon), and marching instruments. The program provides these instruments. To help offset upkeep and repairs, we ask students using these as their primary instrument (including all percussionists) to pay a $50 rental fee for the year.

Is there any additional staff?
Through the Boosters, we are able to hire several additional specialists to help with the program, specifically with color guard, marching, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Can my parents get involved?
We encourage parents to get involved and use their time/skills/connections to make the program the best possible for their and all students. We organize the parent support thru the Band Boosters. This group of parents is our support team at events, our main fundraising source, and a whole lot more! Everything from uniforms, truck transportation, meals at events, help at competitions, chaperoning, etc. to running our own marching band tournament each year the first Saturday of November called the “Surf City Open.” Even parents not otherwise active with the Boosters are asked to pitch in for this event, our single biggest fundraiser of the year.

The Band Boosters meet each month (typically the 1st Thursday at 7:00) in the band room.
Also, each year before school starts we hold a “parent orientation” meeting to help parents better understand the workings of the music program, something that many students hold as their primary activity during high school (and beyond?).

How much will this cost?
As you can imagine, to maintain a quality program, there needs to be additional support and funding provided by the members and their families. The Band Boosters, among other things, help raise money to support the program. Participation fees are charged for services provided by the booster club, such as transportation, specialized instruction, instruments and supplies not funded by the school, etc. By paying these fees, parents are ensuring that the program their student participates in is well beyond the basic program it would be without this support.

Typical fees are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Marching Band (1st sem)</th>
<th>Wind Ensemble (2nd sem)</th>
<th>Drum Line (2nd sem)</th>
<th>Jazz Ensemble (2nd sem)</th>
<th>Color Guard (year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$250 + trip fee on trip years ($100)</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$600 + trip fee ($100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ personal equipment (up to $150)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What about APA?
The Academy for the Performing Arts is a district magnet school at Huntington Beach High School offering classes in musical theater, drama, dance, commercial and recording arts, as well as instrumental music. The music classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, allowing HB Band students to participate in both, which many, but not all, do. The Band/APA students then have music classes 5 days a week.

How do I get into APA?
Membership in APA is by audition only. Contact the APA office at HBHS at 566-2514 ext 4025, or check out the website linked to the HBHS website.
Do I need to go to Huntington to be in APA?
No. APA is open to any student enrolled in the district. However, due to the block scheduling design, students may find it easier, more convenient, and easier to be more involved as an HBHS student. The HB Band program’s schedule is set-up to compliment that of APA’s Instrumental Music program creating less conflicts and thus more opportunities. Students at other schools may find it difficult to fully participate in APA and their home school’s band programs due to scheduling and transportation issues. APA students wishing to transfer to Huntington are usually allowed to do so, particularly if applying early (March, April).

How much does APA cost?
APA has two fundraising arms involved in financial support for the programs. The first is the APA Foundation, which supports each of the departments as it may; the second is the Instrumental Music Guild, which supports only our department.

The foundation has a family honor roll suggested donation currently of $500.

Anything else I should know?
Just that the band and color guard is one of the most spirited and closest-knit groups on campus. Each year when the graduating seniors speak at the year-end banquet, many of them express how this activity was one of the most profound influences of their high school years. They speak of the membership as “family.” Parents express thanks for the positive influence on their children’s lives.

So, fun.
Friends.
Performances.
Great music.
Travel.
Artistry.
Self-expression…

What else could anyone want?!