

C) "High school is going to be so much harder than middle school. I'm afraid I won't have time to be in band."
NO! High school will be harder at first, but you will get used to it. There is plenty of time to be in band, sports, clubs, and difficult classes. Almost 100% of the band is on the honor/high honor roll. Band members are able to excel in band, sports, and academics.

D) "I don't have time to practice, so I'd better not sign up"

No! I know how busy high school students are. Although you do not have to fill out weekly practice time sheets, you should know how much you personally need to practice in order to be prepared for daily class responsibilities and for performances.

E) "I'm not very good, so I'd better not sign up"

No! There are students of all different ability levels in the band. Everyone is welcome. Band is a great opportunity for students to be in a class in which they will be successful, make friends, and have fun. All eighth grade students will be prepared for band. You will attend a few rehearsals before the school year officially starts, during which time you will make friends with upperclassmen and learn your way around the school.

F) "Is music required?"

SHS has a two credit fine/applied arts requirement (although most students take four credits). Music and other classes fulfill this requirement. Since you are already a great musician, continuing with band is a natural way to fulfill the requirement. It is also a great activity to have on your college application.

G) "I'm not sure if I'll like football games and parades."

We play in the stands at six home football games and we march in three parades per year. These "extra" activities are fun and spirited. While not the emphasis of the program, many high school students cite these as their favorite activity. Most SHS students attend the football games anyway; playing with the band makes it even more fun. (As a parent, I would rather have my child with the band) We consider parades to be community service because it is important to the town that we be present. These football games and parades are not a large time commitment and should not deter students from joining band.

H) "How many electives can I take?"

Depending upon your individual schedule, you can take one or two electives.

I) "I would prefer to do something new at SHS"

You can continue with band AND try new things. There is time for both! In addition, band at SHS will still be a different experience from band in middle school. While most electives are simply a class, band is a "program" where you will make friends and be part of a team.

J) "How do you grade band members?"

40% of the band grade is based on attendance at band events (I excuse absences that are legitimate.), 40% of the grade is based on class participation, and 20% is written work and playing quizzes.

If you or your parents have any specific questions about Stonington High School Band, please contact me. I look forward to meeting you soon and to teaching you at the high school next year.

Sincerely,

Katrina Gardner Gottlieb

kgardner@stoningtonschools.org