

General Questions about the Concert and Jazz Bands at New Trier

1. **How often does band meet at New Trier?** The bands (both concert band and jazz band) are curricular classes that meet five days a week for one full period. Typically, there are no additional rehearsals before or after school, or during other class periods.
2. **What concert band will I enroll in as a freshman?** All freshmen should select Freshman Concert Band on the course registration form that you received at Academic Life Night.
3. **Do I need to be in concert band in order to be in jazz band?** Yes, you will need to enroll in both Freshman Concert Band and Freshman Jazz Ensemble. Pianists and electric six-string guitar players, however, are exempt from this requirement.
4. **Do I have to audition?** Auditions are not required for enrollment in Freshman Concert Band, however, the band director will be visiting your middle school during the spring to hear you play individually. This will help the band director determine your level of preparedness as you begin New Trier. For Freshman Jazz Ensemble, auditions are occasionally required based upon instrumentation needs.
5. **How many after-school events will I be involved with?** The concert bands perform one concert per quarter for a total of four each year. The majority of dress rehearsals occur during school hours as a field trip. Occasionally, there are additional performances (music festivals) which students will know about within the first week of any school year.
6. **How do I find out more about the jazz program?** All incoming freshmen interested in pursuing jazz at New Trier should access the NT Jazz website for information about the program – www.ntjazz.com/8th-graders
7. **Can I participate in sports and still be in music?** Yes. There are many athletes (Freshmen through Varsity levels) involved in the music program at New Trier. Because music is a class during the school day, the music and sports schedules rarely overlap. When they do, the teacher and coach will work together to help resolve the conflict.
8. **What if I am interested in Orchestra?** Wind and percussion players will have the opportunity to co-enroll in orchestra beginning their sophomore year.

Advice from Current Music Students:

“Take driver’s education during the summer.”

“Consider taking summer school so that you have more periods available for classes during the regular school year.”

“Consider taking an early bird course at the Winnetka Campus, especially in science.”

“Music classes can be taken as either a minor or major, and capstone music classes can be taken at the 4 level.”

“Free periods (study halls) can be useful for practicing your instrument at school.”

“Once you have a good understanding of how New Trier works, plan your program of studies far ahead.”

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