

THE HAYWORTH CHRISTIAN-HIGH POINT HOME SCHOOLERS BAND: TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER!

How many things do you know last at least 25 years? The 2018-2019 School Year marks the twenty-sixth year for the Hayworth Christian-High Point Home Schoolers Band under the direction of Dr. Dennis Renfroe. During that time, more than 400 students from across the Triad have had fun learning to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument in the HC-HPHS concert band.

The band program began in the fall of 1993 as an experiment for home-educated students, meeting on the campus of John Wesley University in High Point. For the past four years, the bands have rehearsed on the campus of Hayworth Christian School. Dr. Renfroe has an earned doctorate in music education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds a valid teachers license in music education from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

What kind of “band” is the HC-HPHS Band?

The HCS-HPHS Band is a symphonic-type concert band, or “wind orchestra,” similar to a marching band but without the uniforms and without the marching around. Typical band instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. String and keyboard instruments are not included in standard band literature, although bass guitar players could potentially play the tuba part. Percussion instruments include both melodic percussion, such as, the xylophone, bells, and marimba, and the battery percussion, such as, snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, and cymbals. The band program at Hayworth Christian School consists of two ensembles: (1) an advanced band for students with a minimum of one year of experience playing a traditional band instrument and (2) a band for beginners, explained below.

When does the band class rehearse?

The first meeting day for the Beginning Band for the 2018-2019 School Year will be held on Thursday, August 23. This will consist of an Orientation-Registration session for parents at which time Dr. Renfroe will introduce the program and answer parents’ questions. Students do not need to bring their selected instruments to the session, which will begin at 3:15 p.m. in the Music Room on the campus of HCS. An opportunity will be provided for students who do not know what instrument they would like to learn how to play to try their hand at several different instruments and to receive guidance from the band director.

The Beginning Band then will meet every Thursday afternoon at Hayworth Christian School from 3:15 to 4:45 throughout the School Year; thus, it is an after-school program. The fall term will end in mid-December with a winter-holiday concert. Then, a spring semester will begin in mid-January, with the same cost as the fall term, culminating in a final concert for the School Year in May.

The Advanced Band rehearses every Wednesday afternoon at HCS from 3:15 to 4:45.

What is the cost for participating in the band?

Cost for participating in the band is \$160 for the semester (approximately sixteen weeks of instruction), which can be paid in installments, if necessary, of \$40 over four months. Parents are responsible for obtaining their child's band instrument and an inexpensive band method book selected by Dr. Renfroe, entitled *Best in Class, Book One* for the specific instrument that the student has chosen. An additional band method book usually is required for the spring semester as the student progresses to the next level in his or her playing ability.

How can I find an instrument for my student?

You can find a relatively cheap, used band instrument online or locally at pawn shops, yard sales, or even nearby music stores. The advantage of purchasing an instrument through a music store is that they often guarantee the quality of the instrument, will repair the instrument if any defects surface, and sometimes offer rent-to-own options for purchasing the instrument.

How old does my child have to be to participate?

While there is no age limit for students eligible to join the Beginning Band, based upon the director's prior experience, students younger than fourth grade may find it difficult to keep up with the demands required for learning to play a musical instrument. Conceptual learning skills are necessary as students are discovering how to read musical notation, which is comparable to studying a foreign language; also, the ability to discipline one's self in order to acquire performing skills is not optional. Learning to play an instrument can be hard work, but once learned, the fun of playing in a band can outweigh the amount of effort invested in the process.

For more information about the Hayworth Christian-High Point Home Schoolers band program, including the Advanced and the Beginning bands, please contact Dr. Dennis Renfroe at 336.847.9350 or email him at drenfroe@northstate.net.