



INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC

Program FAQ

Why should I join an instrumental music ensemble at Cienega?

Music is often compared to language and persuasive speech in its powerful ability to emote, express, and entertain. Such a comparison only scratches the surface of our comprehension of this great art form. By investing in music education, we accept the fruitful responsibility of engaging with one of the highest art forms of society. It's residual effects are substantial, leaving our students with a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experiences that manifest themselves in any field of study or career/life path.

Fundamentally, music education begins with identity. Cultures are informed by musical practices which are ultimately diffused to the individual. Music offers the unique opportunity for students to develop their concept of identity through artistic expression within the context of their personal community as well as the global community. For this reason, the music classroom should strongly reflect the community in which it exists while offering additional exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar. As a result, students in our program will gain appreciation for canonical practices of music while acknowledging their autonomy to advance musical practice for future generations.

What kinds of instrumental ensembles are offered at Cienega?

All of our ensembles cater to students with a wide variety of skill levels. Each year, we offer two concert bands, two orchestras, a jazz band, and a marching band. We also sponsor student endeavors into solo performance and chamber (small ensemble) groups.

Will I have enough time to participate in music in high school?

Each ensemble has its own, unique time commitments. While marching band, of course requires the most extracurricular time, many of our students balance work, AP classes, and other outside-of-school responsibilities on top of being great members in our program! Yes, the schedule can be slightly overwhelming every once and awhile, but these are great learning experiences for the stresses of high school and adult life. With hard work and good time management skills (which you will certainly develop through participation in band) you will excel! The marching band staff and older members are always available to assist you! We are a team, everyone is important, and we all support each other.

Do I have to audition?

Yes and no. For our top concert ensembles (symphonic band, jazz band, and chamber orchestra) there is an audition process. However, for our other ensembles (including marching band), we welcome all students from various ability/experience levels.

How much does it cost to be in the instrumental music program at Cienega?

The following is a list of program fees. These vary for each ensemble a student participates and all funds are put towards the student experience in the program:

- Marching Fee (\$125) — All marching band (including color guard)
- Activity Fee (\$120) — All band and orchestra classes (including color guard, jazz, & concert band)
- Lab Fee (\$100) — All band and orchestra classes (including color guard, jazz & marching band)
- Uniform Fee (\$30) — All concert bands and orchestras (except students also in marching band)

What is band/orchestra camp?

Each year we host a band & orchestra camp at Cienega High School. These camps are instructional sessions where students attend and work towards establishing the musical fundamentals that will be necessary to performances throughout the school year. Each camp differs in length and students/parents should consult the [News](#) section of our website for dates/times for each camp. Moreover, because we bring in specialists to offer expert instruction on each instrument, there is an additional fee (Marching Fee) which goes towards this instruction as well as food and other resources provided during camps. These camps are required for students participating in either the marching band or orchestra

I play sports at Cienega, can I still be part of the instrumental music program?

Yes! We have a great working relationship with our athletics staff and encourage students to pursue all extracurricular interests. Should there be a scheduling conflict, the student should reach out to Mr. Knox and their athletic coach/supervisor so that we can resolve the conflict.

Do the programs ever travel?

Our marching band travels each year to local away games and regional band competitions. Our concert bands and orchestras also travel occasionally! In recent years, the program has taken trips to Disneyland, Flagstaff, San Diego, and countless other places. Future travel opportunities will be announced well in advance so students and parents have plenty of time to commit and begin saving money.

Will I have enough time to participate?

Students in the marching band generally do very well academically and have very few problems adapting to the busy schedule. Yes, the schedule can be slightly overwhelming every once and awhile, but these are great learning experiences for the stresses of high school and adult life. With hard work and good time management skills (which you will certainly develop through participation in band) you will excel! The marching band staff and older members are always available to assist you! We are a team, everyone is important, and we all support each other.

Do I have to be in marching band to be part of the program?

No! We understand that marching band can be a large financial and time commitment. While we encourage all of our students to join the marching band, it is not required. We strive to provide a fulfilling experience in all of our instrumental music ensembles.

What are the Cienega Instrumental Music Program Boosters and what do they do?

The Cienega Instrumental Music Program Booster's (CIMPB) mission is to promote and encourage support for the Cienega Instrumental Music Program. They do this by working with the staff, working with students, and working with school staff to make the program experience the BEST FOR THE KIDS. Anyone can be a booster participant. Some things the boosters do, besides chaperoning events and helping to move the band around:

- Provide meals and drink for summer band camp and lunch on competition days.
- Assist with the organization of fundraisers.
- Assist with uniform fitting and cleaning.
- Encourage and assist the kids at band competitions.

We have a great group of parents already involved in the booster organization, but there is always room for more. We have a fun time and lots of laughs in everything we do. We try to make the high school music experience fun for the kids.

Being a student/parent in such a large high school music program can be overwhelming at first. While these questions are frequently asked, we understand that additional questions may arise throughout the course of a school year. For additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Knox (knoxgr@vailschooldistrict.org) or a parent booster!