

Casteel High School – Junior High FAQ

Teachers are hired, and the master schedule is created, based on student requests. Please carefully consider your selections, as we will be unable to accommodate elective/teacher changes after schedules have been created. We can't guarantee you will get all your electives but counselors will do their best to accommodate your requests.

Q: What happens if I don't like the teacher with which my student is scheduled?

A: While we don't make teacher changes, it is important that we work collectively as a team to ensure student success. If there is a concern, communication is key. There is a process for parents to follow that helps ensure proper communication as well as determine needs for students who are struggling.

Electives

- Courses offered only at Casteel will be listed in our Course Registration and Academic Planning Guide.
- Semester long courses can be taken either Semester 1 or Semester 2.
- Any classes taken in Junior High will not be applied towards High School Transcripts.
- PE –
 - PED800 (PE) is not a requirement for Junior High.
 - This class is for 7th and 8th grade and is co-ed
 - Athletic Physical Education (Also often called: APA) is a full year course, designed for 7th grade aspiring athletes.
 - Students cannot have 2 PE electives in the same semester (dance, APA, pe, academy classes)
 - Academy classes are only offered for 8th-12th graders
 - Students who sign up for this course should have the intention of participating on the school team.
- World Language
 - 8th graders ONLY- This is a full-year high school level course– make sure you're ready!
 - A 3.0 GPA (B average) is recommended for these classes
 - Although this is a high school class, CUSD does not permit high school credit for 8th graders.
 - If you continue year 2 of the same language in 9th grade, this will go on your High School transcripts and satisfy the 2-year world language requirement for Colleges and Universities. Please note some colleges require more than 2 years.
 - Spanish 1
 - French 1
 - German 1

Orchestra:

Q: Do I need to have previous orchestra experience to join *Beginning Orchestra*?

A: No, you do not need experience to join *Beginning Orchestra*, everyone will be starting fresh.

Q: What instruments are available for beginning orchestra?

A: Beginning orchestra instruments include violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Q: Will I need to audition for *Cadet Orchestra*?

A: No auditions are required for *Cadet Orchestra*, however if you would like to be placed into *Concert Orchestra*, you will have to play an audition to be placed in that group.

Q: If I took orchestra in 6th grade, but feel like I should start over again, can I take *Beginning Orchestra*?

A: Yes, if you struggled to learn your notes, you are welcome to join *Beginning Orchestra* to learn them again.

Q: If I want to play a new instrument should I take *Beginning Orchestra* or *Cadet Orchestra*?

A: You should take *Beginning Orchestra*.

Q: Are there school instruments available to rent?

A: There are some instruments available. Wait until school starts and we will know exactly what is available. If not, you will receive recommendations.

Band:

Q: Do I need to have previous band experience to join *Beginning Band*?

A: No, you do not need experience to join beginning band, everyone will be starting fresh.

Q: What instruments are available for *beginning band*?

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A: Beginning band instruments include ALL wind instruments you would see in The Presidents Own Marine Band (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba)

Q: Will I need to audition for *Cadet Band*?

A: No auditions are required for Cadet Band, however if you would like to be placed into Concert Band, you will have to play an audition to be placed in that group.

Q: Can I join *Percussion* with zero experience?

A: Yes, you may, experience is preferred but if your heart really wants to go with Percussion, please set up a time to speak with Mr. Johnston so he can suggest how you'll be on track to be successful in that class.

Choir:

Q: "How do I audition for advanced choir and what is the audition like?"

A: Students wanting to audition for *Advanced Choir* need to contact Mrs. Clausen to schedule an audition. The audition consists of singing a short solo such as My Country 'Tis of Thee, singing a major scale using solfege (do-re-mi) and sight reading.

Q: "What is the difference between the three levels of JH choir?"

A: *Beginning choir* is for anyone wanting to learn the basics. Open to boys and girls. No experience needed. *Intermediate Girls' choir* is for girls only and focuses on learning to sing in harmony. *Advanced choir* is audition-based, and we learn to sing in 3–4-part harmony. Previous singing experience is necessary.

****Fine Arts Class Audition Information:**

Orchestra Auditions –Contact Miss Choin (choin.victoria@cusd80.com) at her email to audition.

Band Auditions –Contact Mr. Johnston (Johnston.nathan@cusd80.com) at his email to audition.

Choir Auditions –Contact Mrs. Clausen (clausen.camilyn@cusd80.com) at her email to audition.

Dance Auditions –Contact Mrs. South (south.marie@cusd80.com) at her email to audition.