



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

Banding Together: School Bands as Instruments of Opportunity

Exhibition Questions and Activities
Grades 4 to 6

Before Your Museum Visit

- How would you describe a school band?
- Do you think that it is important to have music in schools? Please explain.
- If you were a member of a high school band, which instrument would you choose to play, and why? Which style of music would you play?

Museum Exhibition Tour Activity

- Students will discuss the history and impact of Washington, D.C., school bands on the African American community.
- Students will discuss the many benefits offered to members of a school band.
- Students will view a short video on performances by Washington, D.C., high school bands.
- Students will listen to audio stations that describe the role of the band director, the sections of a band, band practice, and the benefits of joining a band.

After Your Museum Visit

- Describe what you most remember from the exhibition, and explain why.
- Locate an adult who once played in a high school band. Conduct an interview to find out what he/she gained from the high school band experience.
- If you were asked to create a high school band, which issues would you need to consider, and why?