

April 2020

To Parents of Grade 6 Students:

In September, schools have the opportunity to offer Band for Grade 7 students. To assist us with the decision-making process, we are determining student and parent interest at this time. This opportunity should be taken seriously, as it is a wonderful chance in your child's life to learn a musical instrument. Please be aware that completing this form is not a guarantee of your child's participation in the grade 7 band program, rather an expression of interest to help us in planning next year's program. Final decisions will be made in September, depending on numbers of interested students and spaces available.

We are pleased to continue to be able to offer this learning opportunity delivered by band specialist teachers, for children prior to entering high school.

Why take band?

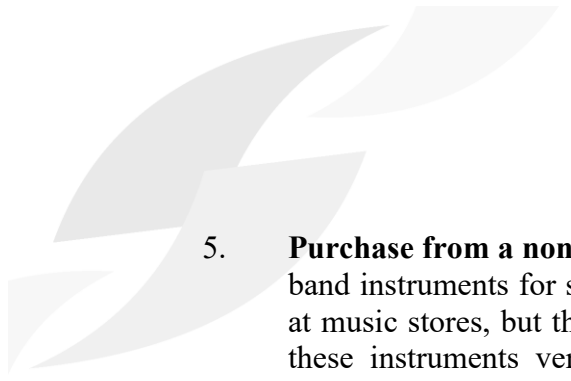
The Ministry of Education's Arts Education curriculum states that:

A strong arts education is foundational to developing creative, educated citizens. The arts connect students with history, heritage, and culture, fostering an understanding of the diverse values and perspectives of global and Canadian societies, including those of Aboriginal peoples. Arts education stimulates students' imaginations, innovation, and creativity, while developing competencies useful to their education and careers.

The program is taught by specialist band teachers during the regular school day. Most students acquire their own instrument in one of the following manners (if acquiring an instrument presents a particular problem for your family, please contact the school and every effort will be made to find an individual solution):

1. **Rent or rent-to-own a new instrument:** Rental from a music company is the method most recommended by your band teachers. Cost ranges from \$12.00 to \$45.00 per month, saxophone being the most expensive, while clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and flute are the least expensive. A substantial portion of the rent will be applied to the purchase price if you decide to buy the instrument at a later date. You may rent directly from the music store of your choice.
2. **Purchase a new or used instrument from a music store:** Purchasing outright is the least expensive means of buying an instrument in the long run, although it does not provide as much flexibility as renting.
3. **Purchase used instruments from private party:** Sometimes bargains can be found, but be wary; in almost every case they require servicing! Please make certain it is serviced before the first band class in September.
4. **Borrow:** Once again, be wary; a borrowed instrument almost always needs servicing. Please have it serviced before the first band class in September.

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5. **Purchase from a non-music store:** Recently, non-music stores have been offering some band instruments for sale. These instruments are usually less expensive than those found at music stores, but the quality of the instrument is often inferior. Students usually find these instruments very difficult to play properly and they are often difficult, if not impossible, to repair. The school district highly recommends that you rent or purchase instruments from a reputable music store.

We ask that you do not buy or rent an instrument until your child has been confirmed to be a member of the grade 7 band. This will not happen until September, at which time the Grade 7 band teacher will consult with individual students within the program around instrument selection.

You and your child should carefully consider this chance to participate in band. Not only will the students learn performing and academic skills related to playing an instrument, but also research shows learning a musical instrument highly correlates to achieving success in school.

Please note that being a part of the Grade 7 band means participating for the whole Grade 7 school year. Your child's interest and ability cannot be assessed with less than a full year's effort. If your child is part of Grade 7 band in September, he/she is committing to the course until the following June.

We ask that you return the attached form to your school principal by the end of April to assist us with planning and staffing for September.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Howard,
District Principal

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL BY
APRIL 20TH.**

BAND 7 COMMITMENT FORM

My child, _____ would like to be considered for a Band 7
(Student name)
program for September 2020. I am aware that completing this expression of interest is not a guarantee of placement in the program.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

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