



Georges P. Vanier  
Secondary School

# WELCOME TO GRADE 8 BAND!

Learning to play a musical instrument is an extremely rewarding process – are you ready to start the journey of a lifetime? Though it can be time consuming challenging, any musician will tell you that the *enjoyment* and *fulfillment* that come from playing music is worth it! The first step is one of the most important in order to be successful. It is essential to choose an instrument that suits YOU! Your personality, energy level, self-discipline, health challenges, aptitude, and musical ability all affect how quickly and easily you will learn your new instrument. Choosing the instrument that’s right for you will make Band class easier and more fun.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Adhere to all health & safety protocols of the music classroom
2. Accept instruction and suggestions from your teacher
3. Use class time wisely
4. Develop self-discipline, concentration, cooperative attitude, and team spirit to accept and encourage all band members
5. Be prepared for each class - bring your instrument, folder items, and pencil
6. Work to the best of your ability
7. Only use PENCIL (never ink) on any music – bring a pencil to each class 😊

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## PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

Studying a musical instrument takes discipline, time, and effort on the part of your child. In the beginning few weeks, adult ‘supervision’ of home practice sessions helps young musicians learn to manage their time, ensures proper care of instruments and encourages the development of a regular practice routine.



It will also help them learn if they are ‘teaching’ you how to play as they are learning. Beginning Band students need a lot of encouragement to overcome initial challenges of learning a new instrument. Consistent practice is important.

All sounds are progress and given time, those squeaks and honks will turn into music! Simply opening the case without everything falling out is a victory!

1. Provide a space for regular home practice (chair, music stand). Depending upon the instrument, students should stand when practicing to aid breath support and posture. Though sitting on the bed is very comfortable, it does not allow for proper posture and playing position and therefore inhibits student progress. An adjustable/portable music stand is a terrific investment (<\$20).
2. Sign for home practicing on Goal Cards. This is another way that you we can communicate as a trio – student, parent, teacher – on one document.
3. Keep up to date with Music Department events through our website and emails.  
Optional: follow us for announcements and silly things on Instagram @gpvaniermusic.

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## INSTRUMENT OPTIONS IN BAND 8

Woodwind Family: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone  
(single reed players must change their reed approximately every 2-3 weeks or when they break)

Brass Family: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion Family: Mallet Percussion, Cymbals, Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Auxillary Percussion  
(tambourines, rattles, maracas, sleigh bells, triangle, etc.) *\*Percussionist will learn ALL percussion instruments, not just snare drum. Drum kit comes later. Students will need to BUY sticks/*



### INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENT & SELECTION PROCESS

*WAIT! Please don't rush out an get an instrument until we have completed this process!*

Choosing an instrument is a personal and important decision. Take time to consider each instrument. We will be doing in depth discovery of each instrument the first days of class and exploring the resources on our website: [www.gpvaniermusic.com/grade-8-band](http://www.gpvaniermusic.com/grade-8-band)

There is an instrument to suit each person. You may find that the instrument you "know" you are going to play is actually not the instrument suited to you. The first days of band class will involve matching students as closely as possible to their new instrument that is right for them.

#### HOW TO OBTAIN AN INSTRUMENT:

1. **KEEP PAGES 1 & 2 for your reference!** Complete and hand in the Information sheets and the Instrument Choices Sheet (attached in this package). Fill them out completely with your top 3 choices of instrument you would like to play with reasons why you feel you are best suited for that instrument. Every attempt will be made to match you to one of your three choices.
2. Clearly print your name on these sheets and hand them in to your class band box **on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> regardless of if you have band class that day.**
3. Instrument assignment will be discussed & finalized with students in class on Thursday & Friday. **Parent/Guardians:** be sure to SIGN that you agree to ALL student choices.
4. Where you choose to rent an instrument is your family's decision but please note that specific brands of instruments are only available at some stores. Reputable brands include Armstrong, Bach, Buffet, Conn, Conn-Selmer, Fox, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, King, Selmer, Yamaha. If the instrument price looks too good to be true (or the instrument is a bright colour other than silver, brass, or gold) it's likely a toy and not a 'real' instrument. We call those ISO "instrument shaped objects" Please ASK me!

#### **\*NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

STORE RENTAL prices vary considerably depending on the instrument, brand, and store. Used store instruments are always overhauled/cleaned and are usually no older than 2 years old. Purchasing a quality instrument outright can cost from \$200 to \$1500 or more, depending upon the instrument, age, condition, and brand. Is considering a purchase, please speak with me first.

SCHOOL RENTALS are \$100/year (\$10/month or \$50/semester). No student will be denied access to an instrument due to financial circumstances. Please speak to me directly about instrument choices so your student has a great experience with music.

# Grade 8 Band Student Information Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Number/Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, as the answers will help your band director assign your instrument.

1. Do you have any playing experience on a musical instrument? If yes, please describe. (piano, ukulele, guitar, violin, etc).

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2. Are you planning to play a band instrument that your family already owns, is going to borrow or has already rented? If yes, what instrument (make, model)?

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3. How do you plan on getting your instrument to and from school in order to do the required home practice? Bus? Car? Walk?

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**DUE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## ***Physical Profile***

Please CLEARLY put YES or NO beside each of the following:

- Have BRACES \_\_\_\_\_
- Going to get braces (when?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Have asthma or respiratory challenges \_\_\_\_\_
- Have vision challenges \_\_\_\_\_
- Experience migraines \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you would like me to know?

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## ***Personality Profile***

Write the number that best describes your feeling about the following statements.

\*\*\*\*\* there are no right or wrong answers \*\*\*\*\*

Nope! 1 2 3 4 5 Always!

- Enjoy putting great effort into getting something 'right' \_\_\_\_\_
- Comfortable sitting in one place for an hour or more \_\_\_\_\_
- Like to take things easy and be relaxed \_\_\_\_\_
- Happy to follow instructions to the letter \_\_\_\_\_
- Have a quirky sense of humour \_\_\_\_\_
- Have an outgoing personality \_\_\_\_\_
- Have a quiet personality \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you would like me to know?

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS DAYS: 1/3 2/4

## INSTRUMENT CHOICE SHEET

Before you begin...

1. **Reflect!** Consider all the information that you have gathered about the instruments.
2. **Start with sound.** Which sounds do you like the most?
3. **Access.** Do you already have an instrument? Will you rent one from school or a store? How will you get it to and from school? Perhaps you need to have one at school and one at home (this is possible with larger instruments!)

Once you've made your decision...

1. Select your **top three (3)** choices and rank them accordingly.
2. Provide a few sentences supporting why you've chosen each instrument.  
Write up might include: you own it, love \_\_\_ about it, financial, transportation
3. Hand in this form on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in class!

You **will** be matched with one of your three choices. Every effort will be made to match students as closely as possible to their preferred instrument depending upon instrument availability, student suitability, the needs of the ensemble, and the approval of the Band Director. Keep in mind, we do want a balanced band as much as possible so this will mean that you may not get your top choice. (Can you imagine what a band of 15 flutes and 1 trombone would sound like?) If you forget to hand in your sheets, you may be disappointed to find that the position you wanted has already been filled. This does not mean that the process is first come, first served.

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #1 \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #2 \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #3 \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign below indicating that you:

1. Have read all the material provided including listed expectations on page 1
2. Understand and agree with instruments assignment process
3. Know the approximate cost of renting the instruments chosen
4. Parent/Guardian: Support your student's choice of instrument
5. Student & Parent/Guardian: Understand that regular practice is required to be successful in this course

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Comments:

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**DUE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Email: [regan.livingstone@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:regan.livingstone@sd71.bc.ca)