Georges P. Vanier
Secondary School

WELCOME TO BEGINNING 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 to be successful. It is essential to choose an instrument that suits YOU! Your personality, energy level, self-discipline, health challenges, and learning styles 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.

KEEP THIS PAGE!

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 and efficiently
4. Develop self-disciple, concentration, cooperative attitude, and team spirit to accept and encourage all band members
5. Be prepared for each class – arrive on time with instrument, music, 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 ☺

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 also helps you to understand what they are learning 😊

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). An adjustable/portable music stand is a terrific investment to support learning (<$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 from the school and VMPA.

INSTRUMENT OPTIONS IN BEGINNING BAND

KEEP THIS PAGE!

Woodwind Family: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto/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
String Family: Bass (upright / electric) *Limited availability! Bassists will play both upright & electric bass.
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. There is an instrument to suit each person. You may find that the instrument you *"know"* you are going to play is 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 alone, not them AND their best friends. Music is fun when you have the best tools for you!

THE IMPORTANT STEPS:

1. **KEEP PAGES 1 & 2 for your reference!** Complete and hand in the Information sheets and the Instrument Choices Sheet (attached in this package) 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. Convince me with solid points vs "my friend said…"
2. Clearly print your name on these sheets and hand them in to your class assignment box ***on Wednesday, September 16th or Thursday, September 17th during your class time.***
3. Instrument assignment will be discussed with students in class on Wednesday & Thursday. **Parent/Guardians:** be sure to SIGN that you agree to ALL student choices. FINAL pairings of students to instruments will be *posted on* ***Friday, September 18th*** for ALL with next steps for rental procedures.

4. Where you choose to rent an instrument is your family's decision, but please be aware 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 colour other than silver, brass, or gold, and it comes with a pair of gloves*) it's likely a toy and not a 'real' instrument. We call those I.S.Os… "instrument shaped objects." Please ASK me! Rentals from stores can be completed online with Tapestry Music or Long & McQuade.

*NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

STORE RENTAL prices vary considerably depending on the instrument, brand, store, and rental option. 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. If you are considering a purchase, please speak with me first. SCHOOL RENTALS are $125/year ($60 for percussion/bass) and options can be limited. No student will be denied access to an instrument due to financial circumstances. If you have questions, please speak to me directly about instrument choices so your student has a great experience with music.

M/W T/Th

Beginning Band Student Information Form

HAND IN THIS PAGE!

NAME:_____ Favourite _____ : _____

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).

_____
_____
_____

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) and from where?

_____
_____
_____
_____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____

DUE SEPTEMBER 16th/17th, 2026

And PLEASE remember – just because ….

…your friend wants you to play the trumpet
… Auntie Georgina has part of a clarinet in the upstairs closet behind the suitcases
… my cousin's friend's mom said the trombone is the best instrument
… you overheard that the ____ is the 'easiest instrument ever'

does not mean it is the best choice for you.

Trust the process. We'll figure this out together.

Physical Profile

HAND IN THIS PAGE!

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?

_____

_____

_____

Personality Profile

Write the number that best describes your feeling about the following statements.
***** **<u>there are no right or wrong answers</u>** *****

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?

_____

_____

_____

NAME:_____ **CIRCLE YOUR CLASS DAYS:** M/W T/Th

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!)

HAND IN THIS PAGE!

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 to your class box on September 16th /17th during 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 availably, student suitable, the needs of the ensemble, and the approvable 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, just be sure to follow the due dates.

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #1 _____

REASONS:_____

_____

_____

_____

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #2 _____

REASONS:_____

_____

_____

_____

INSTRUMENT CHOICE #3 _____

REASONS:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

For both Adult and Student, please initial beside each of these statements and sign below indicating that you:

Adult	/Student	
		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

HAND IN THIS PAGE!

Student Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian Comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

DUE SEPTEMBER 16th/17th, 2026

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Email: regan.livingstone@sd71.bc.ca