Georges P. Vanier
Secondary School

G.P. Vanier Music Department

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Welcome to 2021-2022 in Georges P. Vanier Music Department!

A very special welcome to all new band members, parent/guardians and welcome back to all returning students and parent/guardians! I'm very pleased to be back to make music with you again this year.

This is 'usually' the section of the letter where I list all the wonderful performances, trips, and adventures we experienced last year… instead I will tell you what I **do** know about this year. Yes, we can plan for trips and therefore fundraising. More information will be coming when I know more. We will not be going our Fall Jazz Band Retreat; however, we will organize one at some point this year. Any day or overnight travel will be scheduled between March and May 2022.

Please bookmark the Music Department Website that is home to all things Music Department related. One of the most important things to note is our performance schedule for this school year. By transferring these dates into/onto your calendars now, any scheduling conflicts will be flagged well in advance and we can be in communication asap. Additional information is being uploaded regularly to the website so please keep checking in.

Please mark these dates down now. Specific groups involved are noted.

Tuesday, November 9th → Grade 8 Band "Informance" (Band 8)
Wednesday, November 10/11 → Remembrance Day Performances (Sr. Band)
Monday, December 13 → Winter Concert (all ensembles)
Tuesday, May 31 → Spring Concert (all ensembles)

Your first bit of homework for both parents and students: please complete and return page 5 by TUESDAY, SEPT 14th, 2021. If questions arise, please send e-mail me at anytime. I am looking forward to another excellent year of music making and fun adventures.

Most Sincerely,

Regan Livingstone

Mrs. Regan Livingstone

Concert & Performance Expectations

All music students perform in formal concerts during the school year fulfilling many of the Music Curricular Competencies in the process leading up, during, and after the event. In addition, students may be called upon to perform in various school and community functions such as assemblies, informal concerts, and pop-up events.

*Students are required to assist with set-up **before** and tear down **after** a concert.* Many hands make for light work. After concerts we must return our rehearsal and performance areas to their pre-concert state – or better! (just like hiking or camping 😊)

- *Students are to be in full uniform for all performances unless otherwise stated.*
- *Students are required to be at all performances unless suddenly taken ill or excused in advance.* Students absent due to illness or special circumstances are required to provide Mrs. Livingstone with signed note from the parent or guardian. **When a scheduling conflict arises, please provide at least two weeks notice or if dates of tournaments, meets, recitals are already known, please provide Mrs. Livingstone with a note by October 1st or as soon as you learn the date. We are a 'team' and each 'player' is required for a successful performance.**

Goal Cards (GCs)

Please review the following information with your student. Regular home practice is *essential* to achieving success in music. Goal Cards are a tool for students to be accountable for their own learning and are a way to personalize the learning of each musician in the ensemble. There are 3 Goal Cards each term. When GCs are distributed, students will be given time to review the upcoming assignments and set personal goals. At the end of the month, they will reflect upon their progress in order to advance their skills and technique the following month.

Parent/Guardians should see each goal card *at least twice:* when it is handed out to make note of their student's goals (initial in the tiny box) and a second time to add your signature indicating that you have reviewed your student's progress & reflection. Goal Cards must be signed by a parent or guardian in order to be ready for assessment. Lost your Goal Card? Extra copies will be in the "Assignments" folders, on MyEdBC, and the Music Department website.

Assignment Due Dates

Students are responsible for handing in all work on time. Goal Cards are due during the first seven days of the new GC cycle. All other assignments will be given a due date when distributed to the class and some will also be indicated on that month's GC. Assignments include theory, history, and listening activities.

G.P.Vanier Choir

The choir is open to every student in the school! We focus on part singing and having a good time! Enthusiasm is a MUST! If you can talk – you can sing, all it takes is a little effort. ☺ Students will have 10 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to eat their lunches so feel free to bring them with you so that you're ready to start right away. Commitment to this group is crucial to its success so plan your lunchtime carefully. Our start date is yet to be determined but keep an eye and ear on the announcements.

Music Department Uniforms

Uniforms are to be worn for all performances unless otherwise indicated. Through your hard work, you have earned the right to wear a music uniform, so please keep your uniform, neat, clean, tidy and wear it with pride! Uniforms are not to be left in your locker, someone else's locker, or in the band room. Take care of it! Remember that Thrift Stores are good place to look for uniform pieces such as black pants and black dress shoes.

Black Music shirt (Gr 8's: Green T-Shirt)
Black pants*
Black closed-toe shoes
Black socks
Music Department Tie (Gr.9-12)

**jeans/leggings/yoga-pants*
are <u>not</u> acceptable uniform bottoms
**pant length must be to the ankle (not capris)*

Uniform Shirt purchasing information will be discussed in class in September/October and information will be available on our website.

Materials

Students are to come to all classes with the following items (see course outline)

- pencil with eraser
- music book IN folder (both provided)
- cloth/wand
- instrument in working condition
- extra reeds, valve oil, cleaning

Cell Phones & Other Portable Electronic Devices

Mobile devices are to remain OFF during rehearsals and are not permitted to be with the student during class time. A safe, portable, storage unit is available for students to store their phone if they do not have a backpack to store it in during class time. This is also helpful during emergency procedures when cell phone use can be dangerous and add to confusion. (i.e. Lock Down Procedures)

Reeds

If students need a reed during class, payment must be received by the end of the following class.
School Reed Price Guide: Clarinet $2.00, Alto Sax $2.50, Tenor $3.25, Bari/Bass Clarinet $4.00
It is <u>highly recommended</u> that you purchase a few reeds at a time - preferably a box from a music store – so that you have a spare on hand when one wears out or accidentally breaks. Reeds could last you about a month given regular practice but MUST be changed when they crack, chip, or get mouldy (eww!) Strengths 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ are most commonly used. Beginner clarinettists may start on a strength 2 but will quickly move to a 2 ½ strength. Beginner saxophones will start on a 2 ½ strength.
See me for information about double reeds (bassoon/oboe) or if you have questions.
Preferred Reed Brands: Vandoren (Traditional or V21) or Juno.

Jazz Band - Grades 9-12 First rehearsal is Tuesday, September 21th at 7:30 am!

Rehearsals are held twice a week in the band room <u>starting</u> at 7:30 a.m. These means that your instrument is set up and you are ready to begin rehearsal at 7:30 a.m. Jazz Band is open to all music students in Grades 9 through 12. The traditional jazz instrumentation includes Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Drum Kit and Percussion but this does not mean that other instruments are not welcome. Please see me if you wish to be in the Jazz Band but do not play one of these instruments - we'll make sure there is a place for you!

Instrument Rental & Head Start Night

Grade 8 Students have received an additional package regarding instrument selection and rental and this is also on the Music Department website. New band 9-12 students will be able to get their instruments earlier or on **Wednesday, September 22nd. This is Rental Night at Queenesh Elementary School from 4:00-5:30 pm**. Online rental procedures are a great way to avoid crowds and instruments can be delivered to the school. School instruments are also available to rent for $100/year but selection cannot be guaranteed.

Beginning students will be eager to put it together as soon as they receive their instrument…
H O W E V E R…
to avoid accidental damage, resist this urge!

The next evening (4:00 – 5:00 pm, Thursday, September 23th), Vanier students who are playing trumpet are strongly encouraged to attend in order to receive instruction on proper care, assembly, and first sounds on their instrument at our district's very successful **Head Start Program.** Afterwards, they will have the skills to assemble and practice their instrument at home! YAY!

Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure that students are able to attend the Head Start Program at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. They will be receiving instrument-specific instruction from professional musicians with all other beginning students in the district. This is an invaluable opportunity for students and parent/guardians alike. In the days following, students will be asked to draw upon the knowledge they gain that evening therefore their attendance is extremely important. Adults are strongly encouraged to sit in with their students during the head start session so that they are able to help their student and maybe even try the instrument themselves at home.

All Students: Label Your Instruments!

All instruments – school, personal, or store rental – are to be labelled on both sides of the case with the following information:

First and Last Name, Grade, School, City, Province
i.e. Regan Livingstone, Grade 99, G.P. Vanier, Courtenay, BC

Use masking tape and a sharpie for clear and quick identification, not just a luggage tag! Tags can fall off when instruments are piled together, put in bus luggage compartments, or get caught on clothing.

Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)

A successful music program is only possible with parent and community support. This is a wonderful opportunity to help make your child's experience in music a terrific one. Any interested parent, guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or friend who wishes to get involved with the music department, please send me an email or have your student return the attached form to me at school.

We will not be meeting in person right away but I hope we will meet IN PERSON at least once before our winter concert.

The VMPA Bursary has a bursary that is awarded annually to a deserving graduate of the music department who will be pursuing music studies at a post-secondary institution either 1-2 years after high school graduation.

Please Complete and Return by Tuesday, September14 th, 2021

Student Name:_____

Homeroom Teacher:_____ **Homeroom. #:**___ **Room #:**_____

Parent/Guardian Contact Name(s):_____

Phone # : _____ **Email:** _____

☐ I give permission for my contact information to be given to and used by the VMPA for information distribution solely related to G.P. Vanier Music Department Activities (concert reminders, helper requests, etc.) for the 2021-2022 school year.

I have received and read the G.P. Vanier Music Department 2021-2022 Information Package and have bookmarked the Music Department Website.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name (print)	Parent/Guardian Signature	Student Signature

This sheet is an opportunity for you to indicate the area(s) in which you may be able to assist us this year. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration, as it is only with your help that we can be an active music department representing our school and community. A successful music program starts with support from home!

( ) INTERESTED IN ATTENDING UPCOMING VMPA MEETINGS (DATE TBA)

( ) DRIVING STUDENTS – number of passengers_____ (driver's abstract filed with office?)

( ) DRIVE EQUIPMENT – ( ) mini van ( ) truck ( ) station wagon ( ) other_____

( ) HELP WITH COMMUNICATIONS (i.e. phone/email) – to assist when necessary

( ) BE A CHAPERONE ( ) overnight ( ) day trip ( ) multi-day trip (CRC filed with office?)

( ) HELP WITH FUNDRAISING

( ) UNIFORM TIE DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTION AT CONCERTS

( ) SUPERVISE DONATION TABLE AT CONCERT

( ) SUPERVISE/COORDINATE BAKE TABLE AT CONCERTS

( ) CONTRIBUTE TO BAKE TABLE

( ) ADVERTISING PERSON – place write ups/ads/pictures in newspaper, radio etc.

( ) HELP WITH ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A CALL ☺

Comments:

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