G.P. Vanier Music Department

Regan Livingstone ~ Music Teacher
4830 Headquarters Road, Courtenay, BC, V9J 1P2
Email: regan.livingstone@sd71.bc.ca Phone: (250) 338-9262
Music Website: www.gpvaniermusic.com
Email "office hours": 6:00am – 4:30pm M-F
Instagram: @gpvaniermusic Facebook: G.P. Vanier Music Department

Georges P. Vanier Secondary School

Welcome to 2026-2027 in Georges P. Vanier Music Department!

Welcome back or welcome to all music students and supporters! I'm looking forward to creating music and memories through our adventures in and out of the classroom this year.

Highlights of 2026-2027 Year in Music!

- Beginning Band, Winter, Year End Performances
- Jr. Band earned Silver Standing at Con Brio Festival in Sun Peaks
- Grade 8 overnight trip to Victoria – workshop with Oak Bay Senior Band
- School Choir performance at Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Senior Band performances at School and Community Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Senior Band Breakfast at White Spot
- Elementary School Tour

Music Department Travel Conduct and Behaviour Contract *(last page of handbook)*
This is applicable for all students as we travel to elementary schools in the spring (Gr 8 & Jazz) and participating in the Concert Band Festival at the Sid Williams Theatre in November (Jr/Sr Band) as part of our curriculum with no fees. This contract will also apply to the below *optional* travel opportunities.

Upcoming *Optional* Travel opportunities include…

- Grade 8 to Victoria (February 2027 – one night)
- Band 9 to Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival (April 29-May 2, 2027)
- Band 10 to Vancouver (April 2027)
- Sr. Band Trip (April or May 2027)

Please bookmark the **Music Department Website** (see header) for all music-related updates, including our performance schedule. Add these dates to your calendar now to avoid conflicts and check back regularly for updates. Specific groups involved are noted.

Wednesday, November 10 → First Concert Celebration (Band 8)
November 10 & 11 → Remembrance Day Ceremonies (Sr Band, Choir)
November 17 or 18 → Comox Valley Concert Band Festival (Jr & Sr Bands)
Tuesday, December 8 → Winter Concert (all ensembles)
Monday, June 7 → Year End Concert (all ensembles)

Your first bit of homework: please complete and return pages 9 on SEPTEMBER 24th ← also the date of our first VMPA meeting AND Welcome Band BBQ! When questions arise, please e-mail me! I am looking forward to another excellent year of music making and fun adventures.

Most Sincerely,

Regan Livingstone

Cell Phones & Other Portable Electronic Devices (see Vanier PDD Policy)

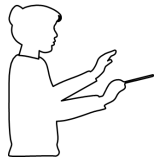
Personal Digital Devices (PDD) and connected Bluetooth devices (headphones, earbuds, watches) are not for classroom use unless given explicit permission from the teacher. A visible and accessible storage space is available for students to store their phone when entering the music room if they do not have a backpack or locker for storage during class time.

Attendance & Homework in Band

Music classes thrive on active learning and requires consistent student-teacher-home interaction to enhance students' understanding and skills. Because our rehearsal schedule alternates by day, missing even one class can result in a student having only a single music session that week. Students who regularly practice make much faster progress than those who miss classes or neglect to take their instrument home.

Regular practice is key to success in music. I encourage students to incorporate short, consistent practice sessions into their routines. We will discuss goal setting and reflections in every grade, with related documents. Students are responsible for handing in all work in a timely manner. Unless otherwise requested, assignments will be handed into the appropriate grade box at the front of the room. Some assignments may require online submission and the use of video recording equipment.

Concert & Performance Expectations



All music students participate in formal concerts throughout the school year, fulfilling many Music Curricular Competencies during the preparation, performance, and follow-up. Additionally, they may perform at various school and community events like assemblies, informal concerts, and pop-up performances.

- *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.*
- *All students assist with set-up **before** and tear down **after** a concert.* Audience help is always appreciated as we reset our spaces to pre-concert standards.

Students absent from a performance due to illness or special circumstances are required to provide an email or 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 Ms. Livingstone that information by October 1st or as soon as you learn the date. We are a 'team' and each 'player' is required for a successful performance.**

Materials

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

- pencil with eraser
- music & music book
- instrument in proper working condition
- extra reeds, valve oil, cleaning swab

Music Department Uniforms

Wear your uniform for all performances unless otherwise informed. You've earned this uniform, so keep it neat and wear it with pride! Don't leave it in lockers or the band room—take it home. For uniform pieces like black pants and shoes, check thrift stores! Uniform shirt purchasing information available late September on our website.

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

*jeans/leggings/yoga-pants
are not acceptable uniform bottoms
*pant length must be to the ankle
* no rips/tears/embellishments/designs

Reeds

If students need a reed during class, **payment must be received by the end of the following class**.
School Reed Price Guide: Clarinet $2.50, Alto Sax $3.50, Tenor $3.75, Bari/Bass Clarinet $4.50

It is highly recommended that you purchase a few reeds at a time (preferably a box from a music store) so that you have a spare reed on hand when one accidentally breaks. Reeds could last you up to a month given regular practice and proper care BUT MUST be changed when they crack, chip, or get mouldy (eww!)

Preferred Reed Brands: Vandoren, Juno, Hemke, Mitchell Lurie, Royale, D'Addario
Note: Rico (the orange box) is the least expensive and are useful in a 'playing emergency' OR in rotation for the first couple of months if you're a beginner. After that, they will only last for one or two performances/rehearsals.

Strengths 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ are most common. Some beginning clarinettists may start on a strength 2 but will quickly move to a 2 ½ strength within a month. Beginning saxophonists will start on a 2 ½ strength and likely remain there for the duration of their first and second year.

Do NOT purchase a Synthetic/Plastic Reed without talking with Livingstone!
These are ONLY for advanced players in very specialized circumstances!

See me for information about double reeds (bassoon/oboe) or if you have questions.

Jazz Band - Grades 9-12 (First rehearsal 7:30 am Tuesday, Sept 22)

Rehearsals are held twice a week in the band room starting at 7:30 a.m. These means that your instrument is set up and you are ready to begin warming up 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 will make sure there is a place for you! *(Jazz is a 4 Credit Course for Grades 10-12)*

G.P.Vanier Choir (Remembrance Day)

The choir is open to every student in the school and our primary focus will be for the School Remembrance Day assembly with a beautiful version of "In Flanders Fields." Enthusiasm with focus is a MUST! If you can talk – you can sing, all it takes is a little effort. ☺ Commitment to this group is crucial to its success. Plan to bring your lunch to our 14 rehearsals (Monday/Wednesday schedule days) until the performance.

Instrument Rental

Band 8 and beginner students will receive additional handouts about instrument selection and rentals. These will also be on the Music Department website. Students who are not beginners can order their instruments online through Tapestry Music or Long & McQuade or rent from Vanier. School instruments are available to rent for $125/year but selection is limited. Online rental order from the stores are encouraged, HOWEVER, if you are new (band 8 or new musician) please wait for further direction before you decide to order an instrument online. New students will be eager to put their instrument together as soon as it is received…H O W E V E R…**to avoid accidental damage, WAIT UNTIL CLASS!**

All Students: Label Your Instruments!

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

First and Last Name, Grade, School, City, Province,
i.e. Regan Livingstone, Grade 34, G.P. Vanier, Courtenay, BC

Use green painters tape and a sharpie for clear and quick identification, not *just* a luggage tag!

Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)

www.gpvaniermusic.com/vmpa

A successful music program is only possible with your support. The VMPA provides a wonderful opportunity to help make your child's experience in music a terrific one. The VMPA helps with social and fundraising options available to our students to offset student travel opportunities as well as offers an annual bursary to a deserving graduate of the music department who will be pursuing music studies at a post-secondary institution.

Any interested parent, guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or friend who wishes to get involved with the music department, please contact the VMPA executive at **gp.vmpa@gmail.com** or join us at our first meeting, **Thursday, September 24 at 5:30pm in the room 180** after the **Welcome Back BBQ** https://www.gpvaniermusic.com/vmpa.html

Chaperones and Drivers

If you are able and interested in becoming a Chaperone or Driver for our events this year follow the link on our music website under the Travel tab for Chaperones and Drivers

All Volunteers need to complete a Code of Conduct Form and a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Check is valid for 5 years. Driver's Abstract must be renewed annually.

We always need drivers for our local off campus events! Sometimes you will ride on the bus with the students and supervise during travel and at the destination, other times we need help moving students to their performance venue, and most of the time we need equipment and instrument transportation.

Individual Fundraising Opportunities

Please see our Music Website for links and updates to our fundraisers and our FAQ page. Updates to that page and sign up are ongoing and if you can help with ANY of these – please reach out! Or you have one to add – FABULOUS! Bring your ideas!

Chocolate Sales: World's Finest Chocolates/Purdy's
Bottle Drives: Saturday, November 7 and more TBD
Poinsettia Sales: October with December Delivery
Grocery Bagging: TBD
West Coast Seeds: January 25 – February 12

ADULT HELPERS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISERS

Please join us at the first VMPA meeting September 24 at 5:30 in the music room (rm 180) to learn how you can support all our students and the music department.

Many ways to get involved in our music community!

G.P. Vanier's Music Parents Association Welcome Letter

A warm welcome back after the summer break!

For all our returning families, we are looking forward to reconnecting with you again
AND
to all of our new families, we are excited to get to know this year!
Having a Vanier student in the music program automatically means that *you* are a member of the VMPA (Vanier's Music Parents Association).
We want to hear from you and need your help!!

Come to our Welcome BBQ! September 24th, 2026

Vanier Music Room (180)

You are invited to be a part of some
food, fun, and conversation
about how we can make a difference in the music program.

4:00pm(ish) – 5:30pm – BBQ (just bring you – we'll do the rest!)
5:30 pm – 6:00pm – Brief VMPA Meeting

We Need Volunteers!

Get active in the Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)!

- A group of parent volunteers supporting Vanier's music program and students.
- Help strengthen and enrich opportunities for our young musicians.
- Meet other parents and get involved at your own comfort level-any contribution makes a difference.

Opportunities Include:

- Chaperoning trips and performances
- Coordinating / helping with fundraising events
- Donating snacks or supplies
- Serving on the VMPA board/ Attending the meetings

*******No experience is necessary—just a willingness to support our students!*******

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to meeting you!

This page has been intentionally left blank for printing purposes

G.P. Vanier Music Department

2026-2027 Calendar

Keep this page by your calendar!

***PLEASE NOTE:* Dates and Events are Subject to Change**

September 2025
8 – First Day of School
16/17 – Grade 8 Beginning Band Instrument Choice Forms Due
18 – Grade 8 Instrument Selections Posted on classroom door with rental/next step instructions
21 – Pro D Day – *no school*
22 – First Jazz Rehearsal (Gr 9-12 @7:30am)
– School Picture Day
– *Vanier School PAC Meeting 6:30*
23 – First Choir Rehearsal (Remembrance Day Choir)
24 – **VMPA Welcome BBQ & QUICK Meeting open to all music students and families**
30 – *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – no school*

October 2025
TBD - Poinsettia Fundraiser
7 – Flex Day
12 – *Thanksgiving – no school*
13 – Jr. Band Sun Peaks Trip Deposit Due – (non-refundable / cannot use fundraising money)
15 – VMPA meeting
16 – VMPA Music Trivia Night! MPR doors open at 6:30, game starts at 7:00pm!
23 – *Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)*

November 2025
4 – Flex Day
7 – Bottle Drive (see Fundraising page on Vanier Music Website)
10 – Remembrance Day School Assembly – Sr Band Performing
11 – *Remembrance Day* - City of Courtenay – Sr Band Performing (TBD)
12 – First Concert Celebration Night (6:30 in Vanier MPR) (Band 8)
13 – End of Term/Quarter 1
17 or 18 – Comox Valley Concert Band Festival at Sid Williams (Band 9)
19 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
24 – Grade 8 Band Trip Deposit Due – non-refundable
28 – Vanier Winter Market (VMPA)

December 2025
TBD – Poinsettia Order PICK UP
2 – Flex Day
3 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
8 – Winter Concert 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (all ensembles)
18 – Last day of classes before Winter Break

Georges P. Vanier Secondary School

G.P. Vanier Music Department
2024-2025 Calendar

Keep this page by your calendar!

***PLEASE NOTE:** Dates and Events are Subject to Change and Not All Events are for All*

January 2026
5 – First Day Back at School (instruments needed!)
13 – Flex Day
21 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
25 – *Non-Instructional Day (no school)*
25 – West Coast Seeds Fundraiser starts
29 – End of Semester 1

February 2026
5 – Jr Band Trip Payment 2 Due (can use fundraising money)
9/10 – Grade 8 Band Optional Trip to Victoria (tentative dates)
12 – West Coast Seeds Fundraiser closes
15 – *Family Day (no school)*
18 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
24 – Flex Day
26 – Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)

March 2026
District Musical Performances at Highland "Urinetown"
5 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
12 – Last day before Spring Break (March 13-29 Spring Break)
30 - First Day Back from Spring Break

April 2026
TBD – Band 10 Optional Trip
14 – Flex Day
15 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
19 – Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)
23 – End of Term/Quarter 3
30 – Band 9 Optional Trip to Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival

May 2026
2 – Band 9 returns from Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival
12 – Flex Day
20 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
21 – Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)
24 – Victoria Day – no school
25-28 – Grad Celebration Week
TBD - Elementary School Visits; Queneesh, Huband, Miracle Beach - (Jazz & Gr 8)

June 2026
7 - Spring Concert 6:30 - 8:00 (all ensembles),
9 –Flex Day (Grade 12 Band Grad Breakfast?)
12 – Vanier Graduation Ceremony 2027
25 – Last day of Classes

GP Vanier Music Department
HANDBOOK and VOLUNTEERS

Complete and Return THIS PAGE by Thursday, September 24, 2026

Student Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Contact Name(s):_____

Phone # : _____ Email: _____

☐ By checking this box, I authorize the VMPA Executive to use my contact information exclusively for distributing information related to G.P. Vanier Music Department activities during the 2026-2027 school year.

I have received and read the G.P. Vanier Music Department 2026-2027 Handbook & Information Package and have bookmarked the Music Department Website.

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

---

This page is also an opportunity for you to indicate the area(s) in which you may be able to assist 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 student and thriving music program starts with support from home!

( ) INTERESTED IN ATTENDING VMPA MEETINGS (first meeting Sept 24 @ 5:30pm)

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

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

( ) Sid Williams Festival in November ( ) Elementary School Tours in May

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

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

( ) FUNDRAISING ( ) sorting items for pick up ( ) at an event ( ) organizing ( ) chocolate $ collection

( ) UNIFORM HELPER ( ) tie distribution/collection at concerts ( ) extra pieces 'finder'

( ) CONCERT THINGS ( ) bake table supervisor ( ) donation drum & seat cushions ( ) 50/50 draw

( ) VANIER MARKETS ( ) poster distribution ( ) set up/take down ( ) concession ( ) greeters

( ) CONTRIBUTE TO BAKE TABLE WINTER CONCERT

( ) HELP WITH ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A CALL ☺

Comments or Questions:

_____

_____

This page has been intentionally left blank for printing purposes

Georges P. Vanier Secondary School
4830 Headquarters Road, Courtenay, BC V9J 1P2

GP Vanier Music Department
Travel Conduct and Behaviour Contract

This is a binding document and once signed it is understood by all parties that the rules and expectations listed here and on the school permission forms are understood and agreed to.

While on tour students will comply with the following set of rules and expectations.

1. Students are required to represent our school Code of Conduct standards, and our three pillars of Care, Respect, and Self Control, at all times. As ambassadors of our school, students agree to follow all Music Department, School, and School District rules at all times.
2. Students are to abstain from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol, vapes, or any illegal substances. School district policy will apply to these situations.
3. Students are to remain with the group at all times. There will be brief periods where students will be allowed to explore in a designated area, however, failure to stay within those confines, or to leave the area completely will result in consequences such as: missing out on activities, being attached to a chaperone for the remainder of the trip, or if behavior persists, sent home at parental expense.
4. Behaviour considered as sexual conduct is prohibited.
5. All facilities, modes of transportation, and equipment are to be treated with care. This includes schools visited, hotels, airports, recreation centres, buses, ferries, airplanes, etc.
6. All members of the tour group are to be treated with respect. This includes other members of the ensemble, chaperones, audiences, tour guides, bus drivers, hotel guests, etc. You are ambassadors of the school, school district, and our music program.
7. Once curfew hours have started, students are not to leave their rooms until the curfew time has ended in the morning. Should a student need attending to, chaperones are available by the means of communicating outlined on the trip, as the location permits. (i.e. cell phone numbers, hotel phone etc.)
8. Any students participating in activities that may cause harm to themselves or others will be sent home immediately at parental expense.

This contract is effective for the 2026/2027 school year. Due by October 1.

_____ _____

Student Legal Name
(print first & last)

Parent/Guardian Legal Name
(print first & last)

_____ _____

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date:_____