



**Georges P. Vanier**  
Secondary School

# G.P. Vanier Music Department

Regan Livingstone ~ Music Teacher

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## *Welcome to 2023-2024 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 excited start making music with you again this year!

Highlights of 2022-2023 Year in Music!

- Beginning Band, Winter, Year End Concerts!
- Sr. Band at Comox School District Concert Band Festival
- Grade 8 overnight trip to Victoria – workshop at UVic
- Grade 9 trip to Vancouver – workshop at VSO
- Sr. Band trip to Calgary – adventures in many locations/modes of transportation!
- School Remembrance Day Assembly
- Sr. Boys Basketball Pep Band

Upcoming Travel and Performance Highlights to include....

- Junior Band (Grade 9/10) trip to Okanagan Concert Band Festival (March 2024)
- Grade 8's trip to Port Alberni/Victoria (April 2024)
- Sr. Band to Cuba (2025)

Please bookmark the Music Department Website that is home to all things Music related. One of the most important items is our known 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 as pages get updated.

Mark these performances dates now! Specific groups involved are noted.

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> → First Concert Celebration (Band 8/Beginning Band 10)

November 10 & 11 → Remembrance Day Ceremonies (Jr/Sr Band)

Tuesday, December 12 → Winter Concert (all ensembles)

Tuesday, June 4 → Year End Concert (all ensembles)

Your first bit of homework for parent/guardians and students: please complete and return page 7 by SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>. If questions arise, please send e-mail me. I am looking forward to another excellent year of music making and fun adventures.

Most Sincerely,

Ms. 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 Ms. Livingstone with and 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 1<sup>st</sup> or as soon as you learn the date. We are a ‘team’ and each ‘player’ is required for a successful performance.**

## ‘Homework’ in Band

Regular home practice is *essential* to achieving success in music. I recommend that students make the commitment of short chunks of music practice in your regular routine for maximum results! We will be talking about Goal Setting and Reflections in each grade. Parent/Guardians, you can expect to see these student documents twice a term as you are part of this process. Templates will be posted on the website.



## Assignment Due Dates

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 will require online submission (MyEdBC, Breezin’ Thru Theory, Music Dept Website)

## G.P. Vanier Choir is coming baaaaaack ... starting Term 2!

The choir is open to every student in the school! We focus on singing and having a good time! Enthusiasm 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 so plan your lunchtime carefully. Keep an eye and ear on the announcements for our start date!

## 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 flat, closed-toe shoes

Black socks

Music Department Tie (Gr.9-12)

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

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



## ***Materials***

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

- pencil with eraser!
- instrument in working condition
- music & music book IN folder (both provided)
- extra reeds, valve oil, cleaning swab

## ***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 on hand when one 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 clarinetists may start on a strength 2 but will quickly move to a 2 ½ strength.

Beginner saxophones will start on a 2 ½ strength.

**Please do NOT purchase a Plastic Reed without talking with Ms. Livingstone!**  
**These are for advanced players in very specialized circumstances only!**

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

Preferred Reed Brands: Juno or Vandoren (Traditional or V21).



## ***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 21, G.P. Vanier, Courtenay, BC

Use masking tape and a sharpie for clear and quick identification, not just a luggage tag!

## ***Cell Phones & Other Portable Electronic Devices***

Mobile and connected Bluetooth devices are to remain OFF during rehearsals and are not permitted to be with the student during class time. A 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 add to confusion. (i.e. Lock Down Procedures)

## ***Jazz Band - Grades 9-12 (First rehearsal is Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am!)***

Rehearsals are held twice a week in the band room starting at 7:30 a.m. This 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 will make sure there is a place for you!

## ***Instrument Rental & Head Start Nights (Sept 20 & 21, 2023)***

Band 8 and Beginning Band 10 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 \$100/year but selection. Online rental order from the stores are encouraged, HOWEVER, if you are Beginning Band Student please wait for further direction before you decide to order an instrument online. Also, 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, resist this urge!**



## *Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)*

**A successful music program is only possible with 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 always need drivers! The school must update our files each year so a CRC (Criminal Record Check) and Driver's Abstract will be needed for this school year even if you completed one last year. More details will be communicated with those who want to help with driving and/or chaperone duties.



We have a VMPA meeting at least once before our winter concert! Topics will include concert set up/fundraisers, travel and other opportunities for our students!

The VMPA 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. As the music teacher, I am not involved with this process.

## *Fundraising Opportunities*

Please see our Music Website for links and updates to our fundraisers and our FAQ page. Some fundraisers have already started!

**Purdys:** orders due by November 24 – Campaign is now LIVE!

**Bottle Drives:** Saturday, November 4, 2023 and Saturday, January 6, 2024

**Grocery Bagging:** (exact dates TBD)

**Poinsettia Sales:** November (exact dates TBD)

**West Coast Seeds:** January 15-31, 2024

**Parking Attendants:** MusicFest, July 2024 (not yet confirmed)



### ADULT HELPERS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISERS

Sort orders (Purdys/West Coast Seeds), Supervise Shifts (Grocery Bagging, Bottle Drives)

**So many ways to help!**

## *Chaperones and Drivers*

If you are able and interested in becoming a Chaperone or Driver for our events this year, go to the School Website → Athletics Page → Checklists and Forms for Coaches.

**All Volunteers** need to complete a Code of Conduct Form.

Chaperones need to complete a Criminal Record Check (good for 3 years).

Drivers need to complete a Driver's Abstract (must be renewed annually).

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***Please Complete and Return by September 14<sup>th</sup>***

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 2023-2024 school year.

**I have received and read the G.P. Vanier Music Department 2023-2024 Handbook & 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 ( ) Purdys ( ) West Coast Seeds ( ) Grocery Bagging ( ) Bottle Drives
- ( ) UNIFORM HELPER ( ) tie distribution/collection at concerts ( ) shirt orders ( ) back up item finder
- ( ) ANYTHING CONCERT SET UP ( ) bake table supervisor ( ) donation drum & seat cushion
- ( ) CONTRIBUTE TO BAKE TABLE
- ( ) HELP WITH ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A CALL ☺

Comments or Questions:

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