



Georges P. Vanier
Secondary School

G.P. Vanier Music Department

Regan Livingstone ~ Music Teacher

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Welcome to 2024-2025 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 2023-2024 Year in Music!

- Beginning Band, Winter, Year End Performances
- Jr. Band earned MusicFest Canada invitation from Comox Valley Concert Band Festival
- Jazz Band earned MusicFest Canada invitation from West Coast Jazz Festival
- Jr Band travels to MusicFest Canada (Nationals!) in Toronto and earns Silver!
- Grade 8 overnight trip to Victoria – performance at Port Alberni Festival
- School and Community Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Jazz Band to Cumberland and Lake Trail for demo concert
- Grade 8 Band and Jazz Band Elementary School Tour (Queenesh & Huband)

Upcoming *Optional* Travel opportunities include...

- Grade 8's trip to Victoria (March 5-6, 2025)
- Sr. Band to Cuba (April 5-12, 2025)
- Junior Band (Grade 9/10) trip to Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival (May 8-11, 2025)

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 6 → First Concert Celebration (Band 8 and Beginning Band 10)

November 8 & 11 → Remembrance Day Ceremonies (Sr Band)

Tuesday, December 10 → Winter Concert (all ensembles)

Wednesday, February 12 → District Showcase Concert (Vanier Jazz & catchment schools)

Tuesday, June 3 → Year End Concert (all ensembles)

Your first bit of homework: please complete and return page 7 by SEPTEMBER 19th ← also the date of our first VMPA meeting! 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)

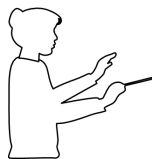
Personal Digital Devices (PDD) and connected Bluetooth devices (headphones, earbuds, watches) are not for classroom use unless given explicit permission from the teacher. A visible and accessible storage space is available for students to store their phone when entering the music room if they do not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

Attendance & Homework in Band

Music classes thrive on active learning and require consistent student-teacher 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 sent home twice per term and that are available online. 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.

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
- instrument in proper working condition
- music & music book
- 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: Green 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 about a month given regular practice and proper care BUT MUST be changed when they crack, chip, or get mouldy (eww!)



Preferred Reed Brands: Vandoren (Traditional or V21), Hemke, Mitchell Lurie, Juno, Royale.
Note: Rico (the orange box) is the least expensive and are useful in a 'playing emergency' as they have enough strength for one or two performances/rehearsals.

Strengths 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ are most commonly used. Some beginning clarinetists 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 Thursday, Sept 19)

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 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!

G.P. Vanier Choir (First meeting at Lunch on Wednesday, Sept 18)

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 to bring your lunch to rehearsal on Wednesday and take the Late Bus on Monday.

Instrument Rental & Head Start Night (Wednesday, Sept 25 4:30-5:30 at Isfeld)

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. 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 until the Head Start!**



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

Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)

A successful music program is only possible with your support. The VMPA is a wonderful opportunity to help make your child's experience in music a terrific one. The VMPA helps with the 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 19 at 6:00pm in the room 180** – the music room.

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 3 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. Some fundraisers have already started!

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

World's Finest Chocolates: Sept 16 (approximate) – Oct 16

Bottle Drives: Saturday, Nov 2, and Saturday, Jan 4, 2025

Poinsettia Sales: Oct 2 – Oct 28

West Coast Seeds: TBD January



ADULT HELPERS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISERS

Please join us at the first VMPA meeting September 19 at 6:00 in the music room to learn how you can support all our students and the music department.

(see page 7)

So many ways to get involved in our music community!



G.P. Vanier Music Department 2024-2025 Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and Events are Subject to Change

September 2024

- 4 – First Day of School
- 4 – Purdys Chocolate “Christmas Campaign” begins
- 11 – Grade 10 Beginning Band Instrument Choice Forms Due
- 16 – World’s Finest Chocolate Sales begin this week
- 17 – Vanier School PAC Meeting
- 18 – Sr Band Cuba 2nd Payment Due
- 18 – First Choir Meeting at Lunch
- 19 – First Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:30 am in Vanier Music Room
- 19 – Grade 8 Beginning Band Instrument Choice Forms Due
- 19 – Vanier Music Parents Association Meeting (VMPA) 6:00pm
- 23 – Grade 8 Instrument Selections Posted with rental instructions
- 25 – District Head Start Night 4:30-5:30 pm Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School (Band 8)
- 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – no school

October 2024

- 7 – Poinsettia Fundraiser Starts
- 9 – Flex Day
- 16 – World’s Finest Chocolate Campaign Ends
- 17 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 18 – Trivia Night Fundraiser hosted by VMPA
- 14 – Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- 25 – Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)
- 28 – Poinsettia Order forms due
- 29 – Jr. Band Trip Deposit Due – non-refundable
- 30 – Flex Day (Full Band 8 Rehearsal in D Block)

November 2024

- 2 – Bottle Drive (see Fundraising page on Vanier Music Website)
- 6 – First Concert Celebration Night (6:30 in Vanier MPR) (Band 8 and Beginning Band 10)
- 8 – Remembrance Day School Assembly – Sr Band Performing
- 11 – Remembrance Day - City of Courtenay – Sr Band Performing (TBD)
- 14 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 18 – Grade 8 Band Trip Deposit Due – non-refundable
- 19 – Comox Valley Concert Band Festival at Sid Williams (Jr & Sr Bands)
- 24 – Purdys Chocolates Campaign Orders Due
- 30 – Vanier Winter Market (VMPA)

December 2024

- TBD – Poinsettia Order PICK UP
- 10 – Winter Concert 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (all ensembles)
- 19 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm (to be confirmed)
- 20 – Last day of classes before Winter Break



G.P. Vanier Music Department 2024-2025 Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and Events are Subject to Change

January 2025

- TBD – West Coast Seeds Fundraiser starts
- TBD – Cumberland and Lake Trail Concerts (Jazz Band)
- 4 – Bottle Drive
- 7 – First Day Back at School (instruments needed!)
- 16 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 24 – End of Semester 1
- 27 – Non-Instructional Day (no school)
- 30 – Jazz Night at Vanier

February 2025

- 12 – District Showcase Concert at Vanier (Vanier Catchment School Represented)
- 17 – Family Day (no school)
- 18 – Non-Instructional Day (Pro D Day)
- 20 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm

March 2025

- 5-6 – Grade 8 Victoria Trip
- 13 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 14 – Last day before Spring Break (March 15-30 Spring Break)
- 31 – First Day Back from Spring Break

April 2025

- 5-12 – Sr Band Cuba Trip
- 17 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm (to be confirmed)
- 18 – Good Friday – no school
- 21 – Easter Monday – no school
- 19 – End of Term 3

May 2025

- TBD - Elementary School Visits; Queneesh, Huband, Miracle Beach - (Jazz & Gr 8)
- 8-11 – Jr Band to Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival
- 15 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 19 – Victoria Day – no school

June 2025

- 3 - Spring Concert 6:30 - 8:00 (all ensembles)
- 19 – VMPA meeting 6:00 pm
- 20 – Last day of Classes
- 25 – Vanier Graduation Ceremony

GP Vanier Music Department HANDBOOK and VOLUNTEERS

Complete and Return THIS PAGE by Thursday, September 19, 2024

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 2024-2025 school year.


I have received and read the G.P. Vanier Music Department 2024-2025 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 19 at 6:00pm) 
- () 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) _____
- () FUNDRAISING () sorting items for pick up () at an event () organizing () cash collection
- () UNIFORM HELPER () tie distribution/collection at concerts () shirt orders () extra pieces 'finder'
- () CONCERT THINGS () bake table supervisor () donation drum & seat cushion () 50/50 draw
- () CONTRIBUTE TO BAKE TABLE
- () HELP WITH ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A CALL ☺

Comments or Questions:
