



Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Grade 6 and 7 Band Registration & Instrument Choice Information

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Band registration for the 2021/22 school year is now open to all students currently in grade 5 and 6.

Learning an instrument in a collaborative environment fosters growth in many areas of social development such as cooperation, collaboration, open-mindedness, personal responsibility, self management and resilience. As we learn more about emotional intelligence and cognitive learning patterns, research has shown that studying music has a direct relationship to the measured success of student reasoning, creative thinking, decision-making, and problem solving. Visual and Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Drama, & Visual Arts) are an essential part of a student's education. West Vancouver embraces the arts through education, advocacy, and celebration. With support from administration, parents, and the musical talents of students, next year's grade 6 and 7 bands will provide a safe and positive learning environment that will challenge and further develop the musical skills of students. We are committed to providing quality Band instruction across the School District and will continue to follow the provincial health guidelines moving forward into the 2021/22 year.

BICS Intermediate Band includes:

- **Rehearsals**
 - Two 55 minute rehearsals weekly, (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 1:05 - 2pm, with one additional lunchtime sectional for both the juniors and seniors from 12:20 - 12:55. *Rehearsal schedules will be confirmed in September.*
- **Clinicians**
 - Students will work with a variety of professional musicians and music educators during band clinic sessions
- **Performances***
 - Rockridge Band Zone Festival
 - Winter and Spring BICS Concerts
 - Full-day band trip to a TBA music festival. (In years past we have performed at the Kiwanis and Cantando Music Festivals, and with the West Vancouver Youth Band under the direction of Douglas Macaulay. More details will be available in the fall)

*subject to guidelines from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.
- **Improvisation**
 - Develop soloing, exploring rhythmic and melodic concepts
- **Repertoire**
 - Essential Elements (Technical Studies book with streaming/download options for play-along tracks)
 - Traditional concert band, jazz, pop-rock, etc.
 - Some repertoire will be chosen in collaboration with the students
- **Technology**
 - G Suite: including Google Classroom & Google Meets
 - Smart Music and EEi
 - Incorporating learning apps including Tonal-Energy Tuner and GarageBand
- **Assessment**
 - Ongoing and timely feedback on development of playing skills and growing musicianship
 - Formal Communication of Student Learning each Term

Registration and Fees

Registrations can be completed at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/elementary-band>. Band is an optional enrichment music program, and in order to provide our students with quality music instruction, there is a supplemental annual fee of \$390. Payments can be made online at the time of registration, and are due by September 17th, 2021. If a payment plan is needed, please contact BICS Principal Scott Slater.

Instrument Assignments

In order to organize the most well-rounded band possible, it is important that we have students playing a variety of instruments. As the students may have heard during the information session, a team is made up of many positions, all of which are important and essential to the team's success. Some instruments have to be limited to one or two students.

When registering, students must indicate their **top 3 instrument preferences** for next year, and will be assigned one by their band teacher. *Please note that students who have access to a particular instrument will be given priority on that instrument.*

Please register online by June 25, 2021

Go to <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/elementary-band>

Students may still join after June 26th, however instrument assignments may have already taken place, and instrument selection may be more limited.

Looking forward to a wonderful year of music making!
Sincerely,

Cindy Fairbank,
BICS Band/Music teacher,
Email: cfairbank@wvschools.ca

INSTRUMENTS IN THE CONCERT BAND

WOODWINDS



Flute – Originally, flutes were made of wood, but today virtually all flutes are made of metal. They are still part of the woodwind family because of their “wooden” history, and because they use keys to cover/uncover holes to change the pitches of the instrument.

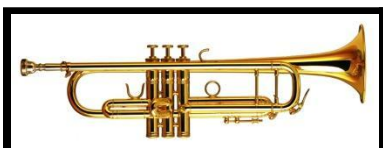


Clarinet – The clarinet gives the concert band its characteristic sound. The clarinet section is the largest section in the concert band. The clarinet is also a great instrument to learn skills that can be transferred to other instruments.



Alto Saxophone – In concert band the sax player's music usually doubles one of the other concert band instruments. Sax players learn to blend their sound with the other instruments, letting the other instrument's tone dominate the sound. Sax is one of the three types of wind instruments used in a jazz band.

BRASS



Trumpet – Probably the most easily heard wind instrument in the concert band is the trumpet. The trumpet is responsible for many fanfare-like and melodic solos and accompaniments.



Trombone – Trombone is a bold sounding instrument with fanfare-like percussive melodies. Trombone is one of the three wind instruments also used in the jazz band.



Baritone – Baritone horn is the true “chameleon” of the concert band because it can change its tonal colors to blend with more instruments than any other. Other times, the baritone horn gets to play the best solo melodies and counter-melodies written for concert band.

BASS/PERCUSSION



Electric Bass – The electric bass plays bass lines normally played by the tuba. In the concert band the bass must read notes and rhythms from sheet music just like all other concert band instruments.



Concert Band Percussion – The percussion section is an ensemble within the band. It has all the voices of the “choir” and limitless numbers of sound colors. Percussionists have been called “the bus drivers” of the band. They drive the band’s rhythmic pulse and help keep all the wind instruments synchronized. Students who chose percussion must be able to keep a solid beat.

Helpful links:

-Introducing the Instruments:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/n47czmyqbmdbnx/Band%20Class%20-%20Introducing%20the%20Instruments%20%281%29.mp4?dl=0>

-Be Part of the Band:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/tUtG>

-Baby Shark in 10 styles -by Band kids

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/OkzI>

Elementary band is a very rewarding and pleasurable experience and I look forward to sharing the joy of music with your child. You and your child are about to make an important decision that will dramatically affect the quality of your child’s education from grade 6 through life.