

Gleneagles Ch'axáy Elementary Band Program

Dear grade 5 & 6 families,

Students in grades 6 & 7 have the opportunity to join the **Gleneagles Band Program** and learn to play a symphonic band instrument. Learning to play a symphonic instrument is both challenging and rewarding. No music experience is necessary to join band. **On Thursday, May 2nd, your child will have an opportunity to explore some of the musical instruments available in our elementary band program: Clarinet, Flute, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion and Bass Guitar. Representatives from Long & McQuade will bring a variety of instruments for students to see and hear in hopes of sparking their interest for next year's band program at Gleneagles Ch'axáy.**

Our band program aims for all students to enjoy music and have fun playing their instruments in a happy classroom environment. Band provides opportunities for students to benefit from the experience of teamwork, following direction and performing in front of others. Gleneagles band aims for all students to be inspired to continue band at their chosen high school. It is never too late to join, even for a beginner instrumentalist joining the grade 7 band.

Band classes are offered twice per week, with one class occurring within the school timetable, and the other occurring before school.

Elementary Band is an optional enrichment music program and there is an annual fee of \$390 if paid by May 31st (\$425 after June 1st).

To register your child for grade 6 and grade 7 band starting in September 2024, follow this link: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/elementary-band>

Be sure to register for **GLENEAGLES CH'AXAY ELEMENTARY**. Fees may be paid online by credit card or by cheque to the school office (cheques made out to **West Vancouver Schools**). Payment by cheque should be indicated during online registration form. It is possible to divide the cost over a number of payments – registration can be confirmed with a deposit of \$50. Contact Mrs. Evans revans@wvschools.ca to arrange payment schedule for that option. Please make note of the full refund policy on the registration site.

Thank you, and we hope to see you in band class!

Ms. Caitlin Inkster

Gleneagles Band & Music Specialist

WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY BAND PROGRAM

JOIN TODAY!



West Vancouver Schools is proud to offer a Band Program for students in Grades 6 and 7. Grade 6 students start as beginners with no musical experience necessary, while Grade 7 students continue to develop music skills in preparation to join our secondary school music programs.

LEARN

- To play a symphonic musical instrument like flute, trumpet, etc
- Musical skills & knowledge
- Scientific research has proven that musical training builds intellectual skills, improves memory, and develops creativity
- Makes you smarter!

DEVELOP

- Passion for music
- Teamwork and collaboration skills
- Increases self esteem

PLAY

- Band is fun and social
- Perform in concerts at school and in the community
- Playing music is a great way to relieve stress

DID YOU KNOW?

Band and music courses at the secondary level count towards Honour Roll and graduation credits starting in Grade 10 AND will be an important part of a student's "profile" for post-secondary applications.



TO REGISTER

Elementary Band is a user-pay enrichment music program.

To register visit: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/elementary-band>

For More Information

Contact Your School Band Teacher or Principal



Instrument Information

In order to create a balanced sounding band, it is important that we have students playing a variety of instruments. Band is like a team that 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. For this reason, students, with parent and teacher help, must select their top two or three instrument preferences during registration for next year and will be assigned one.

The following information may help your child when considering the various options for band instruments.

Flute



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

- Light and compact and easy to care for.
- Soft sounding so a good choice if you live in a smaller home.
- No reeds, oil or grease to purchase.
- Often plays the melody of the songs.
- Getting started takes some persistence as the flute requires special mouth technique and the fingerings are tricky as it is a C tuned instrument while the beginning band plays in Bb (B flat).
- It is good to have a large number of flutes in the band.

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 woodwind instruments such as saxophone.

- Light and compact and easy to care for.
- Medium-soft sound - good choice if you live in a smaller home..
- Played with fingers in view so a great choice for true beginners.
- Takes some persistence to play the higher notes.
- Reeds break/wear out and need to be replaced– approximately \$35 for 10.
- It is good to have a large number of clarinets in the band.

Bass Clarinet

- Larger and heavier.
- Low sound – can be louder.
- Fingers are out of site and requirement some touch memorization.
- Takes some effort persistence to play.
- Reeds break/wear out and need to be replaced– approximately \$30 for 10.
- There are usually only 1 to 3 bass clarinets in the band.

Alto Saxophone



In concert Band the Saxophone 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 wind instruments also used in a jazz Band.

- Medium-large sized
- A loud instrument in the beginning stages until the student gains some control.
- Plays a combination of melody and harmony parts in band pieces.
- Played with fingers out of sight.
- Reeds break/wear out and need to be replaced– approximately \$35 for 10.
- Saxophone section will be limited to a medium number of students.

Tenor Saxophone



Tenor Saxophone is larger than the Alto Saxophone, and is known for supporting the low Brass section of the Concert Band with rich tones in a lower register. In later years, it can also be used in a jazz Band setting.

- Large sized
- A loud instrument in the beginning stages until student gains some control.
- Often plays along with low brass and electric bass guitars during songs.
- Played with fingers out of sight.
- Reeds break/wear out and need to be replaced– approximately \$40 for 10.
- Tenor saxophone section will be limited to a smaller number of students.

Trumpet



Probably the most easily heard wind instrument in the concert Band is the Trumpet. The Trumpet is responsible for much of the melody. The “lead singers” of the band!

- Medium sized instrument
- A louder instrument in the beginning stages until the student gains some control.
- Fingers are in view and often play the melody of the songs.
- Pitch change also occurs with a change in lips and air pressure and requires a “good ear”
- Higher notes take some effort and persistence
- It is good to have a large number of trumpets in the band..

Trombone



Trombone is a bold sounding instrument with fanfare-like percussive melodies. Trombone is one of the instruments also used in a jazz Band and has a unique ability to slide between notes.

- Large sized instruments
- Loud instruments in the beginning stages until student gains some control.
- Trombone uses a “slide” to change pitch.
- Pitch change also occurs with a change in lips and air pressure and requires a “good ear”
- Higher notes take some effort and persistence
- Trombone & Baritone section limited to a smaller number of students.

Baritone Horn/Euphonium (similar to a small Tuba)



Baritone (or Euphonium) 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 gets to play the best solo melodies and countermelodies written for Concert Band.

- Large sized instruments that require daily care and attention and regular cleaning – valve oil
- Loud instruments in the beginning stages until student gains some control.
- Has valves like a trumpet.
- Pitch change also occurs with a change in lips and air pressure and takes some intuition so students benefit from having a “good ear” and be able to hear when the pitch is correct.
- Higher notes can be a challenge.

- Trombone & Baritone section limited to a smaller number of students.

Electric Bass



The Electric Bass plays bass lines that accompany the band. In the Concert Band, the Bass player will read notes and rhythms from sheet music, just like all other Concert Band instruments. Electric Bass skills can also directly transfer to Double Bass (otherwise known as Upright or String Bass), and can be used in jazz Band as well.

- Held like a guitar but playing single notes on strings – no strumming
- Requires an amplifier for home practice.
- Strings need replacing occasionally – \$25-35.
- Electric Bass section will be limited to 3 students.

Concert Percussion (Snare Drum to start at home)



The percussion section is an ensemble within the Band. 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 together. Students who choose percussion must be able to keep a solid beat in time and will need to play unpitched instruments (drums) and pitched instruments (xylophone) alike.

- Students play a variety of instruments big and small and some hand held percussion
- Played by striking with a stick or mallet
- Can be loud during home practice – a snare cover can be used to dampen the sound
- Students also need drum sticks that wear out or can get lost and need replacing
- Previous music experience (such as piano lessons) is beneficial as students need to keep a steady beat
- Percussion section will be limited to a few students.

Keyboard Percussion (Melody Bells at home)

- Played by striking – students will also be asked to play other hand held percussion
- Bells are “pitched” – same notes as upper half of the piano
- Often plays the melody
- Can be played with soft mallets for quieter home practice
- Percussion section will be limited to a few students.