



R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



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Dear SDML Grade 5 Students & Families,

Week of May 9, 2022

Registration for the SDML Grade 6 Band program starts soon! This week I am visiting Grade 5 classes to give a demonstration of band instruments and hand out information about the band program.

SDML's band program runs from Grade 6-12, and is open to all students regardless of previous musical experience. Being in band of course means the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and make music with other students. Besides that, our band is a team, and everything we do in the program is focused around working as a team toward a common goal. You will make new friends outside the bubble of your school, and learn a skill that you can pursue on your own for life!

There will also be many opportunities to travel with school, provincially to internationally. Previous RD Parker Music destinations include Banff, Minneapolis and Orlando! In a typical year our Grade 9-12 students all have the opportunity to travel. Some travel at the Grade 7-8 level happens as well, though not every year.

In Grade 6-8, you will have lessons at your school during the school day, and you will also come to RDPC for weekly rehearsals outside of the school day.

In Grade 9-12, Concert Band is a one credit course from Grade 9-12 during the timetable. You'll already know your classmates in Grade 9 Band as you'll have been in band with them since Grade 6! Jazz Band is also offered as an additional one-credit course for Grade 9-12 Concert Band students.

What instruments can I choose from?

In Grade 6 Band, students can choose from the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Percussion*

*For percussion, piano experience and the ability to read music is highly recommended for success in this section, and parents are asked to email slewis@mysterynet.mb.ca if interested.

Options after Grade 6: Saxophone, Tuba & French Horn:

Students who are interested in playing saxophone in future years should choose clarinet in Grade 6. There will be the option to switch to saxophone in Grade 7 as long as students have been committed to rehearsals and are doing well on the clarinet.

Students interested in playing tuba in high school should choose trombone or euphonium; if interested in playing French horn in high school, we will have you start out on trumpet in junior high.

Sign Up for Band – 2 Steps

Step 1 - "Choose Your Instrument" Registration Night

We will be holding "Choose Your Instrument" registration in the Letkemann Theatre at RDPC during the evenings of May 17th - 19th. Students will get to try the mouthpieces for all the instruments, to help them make an informed decision for next year. This will also serve as an information session for parents about the band program.

Please go to www.rdparkermusic.com and click on "Grade 6 Band Sign-Up" to sign up for your time. Every student will use a set of prepared and sanitized equipment during the registration session, therefore **families must sign up in advance for a time slot**. We cannot accommodate drop-ins.

If you don't have internet access or need help with the sign-up form, please phone 204-677-6222 and ask for Mrs. Lewis to sign up for a time over the phone instead. If you can't make it to any of the registration times but still wish to register, please be in touch by phone or by emailing slewis@mysterynet.mb.ca.

Step 2 - Acquire Your Instrument

Families in the SDML Band Program need to purchase or rent their own instrument*. After you've chosen your instrument, the next step is to reserve your instrument for September! You are welcome to attend one or both of the sessions below to check out your options.

Option A: Virtual rental info session with Long & McQuade Music:

- Tuesday, May 24th at 7PM
- Zoom link will be posted that day – go to www.rdparkermusic.com and click “Grade 6 Band Sign Up”

Option B: Virtual rental info session with St. John's Music:

- Wednesday, May 25 at 7PM
- Zoom link will be posted that day – go to www.rdparkermusic.com and click “Grade 6 Band Sign Up”

If you can't make it to either of the above virtual info sessions, you can still find links to order your instrument on our Grade 6 Band Sign-Up page. We **strongly recommend** ordering from St. Johns or Long & McQuade if you are ordering online. You will find a lot of “bargains” online, but these low-priced instruments are made of weak materials, their moving parts bend and break easily, and they are not repairable. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

*Please note - If you want to register for band but can't spend the money on an instrument, please give me a call at (204)677-6222. We have a limited number of instruments available to lend to families in need, though your choice of instrument may be limited in these cases.

Grade 6 Band Schedule - Lessons and Rehearsals

Grade 6 Band *Lessons*

Lessons are **once per 6-day cycle** during the school day, at your school. They start in September and run all year. You can find the 6-day cycle calendar on our website.

Day 1 - Burntwood

Day 2 - Riverside

Day 3 - Westwood

Day 4 - Deerwood

Day 5 – Juniper

Day 6 - Wapanohk

Grade 6 Band *Rehearsals*

Rehearsals are **once per week** in the RDPC Band Room. They begin **in November** and run the rest of the year.

Mondays 3:45-4:30 - Burntwood, Juniper, Wapanohk & Westwood

Wednesdays 8AM-8:40 - Riverside & Deerwood

Concert Attire

For our performances in December and June, we ask our students to wear the following:

- White collared dress shirt
- Black Dress Pants
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Socks

I am looking forward to meeting everyone! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Mrs. Lewis
204-677-6222
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