



# RD. PARKER COLLEGIATE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



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Dear SDML Grade 6 Students & Families,

Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Grade 6 Band is starting soon! This past spring, I visited Grade 5 classes to give a demonstration of band instruments and hand out information about the band program.

We are having one more “Choose Your Instrument Night,” and St. John’s Music will be visiting Thompson as well – **see sign-up dates on the next page if you have not already chosen your instrument or acquired one.**

Instruments that have already been ordered are either being delivered to RDPC by St. John’s Music on September 21<sup>st</sup>, or if they were from Long & McQuade they’ve been shipped to RDPC. In either case, students will get their instrument on their first day of band! (See last page for when classes start.)

Students will need to purchase the book and folder we will use for the next two years for \$15. Please bring to your first band lesson, where you’ll receive your folder.

If you have already chosen and acquired your instrument, you can skip to the last page for details about start-up.

## 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.

## Band Sign-Up

### Step 1 - "Choose Your Instrument" Registration Night

We will be holding one more "Choose Your Instrument" registration in the Letkemann Theatre at RDPC on Wednesday, September 14th. Students will get to try the mouthpieces for all the instruments, to help them make an informed decision about what to play. This will also serve as an information session for parents about the band program.

Please go to [www.rdparkermusic.com](http://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](mailto:slewis@mysterynet.mb.ca).

### Step 2 - Acquire Your Instrument

Families in the SDML Band Program will need to purchase or rent their own instrument\*. If you have not acquired your instrument yet, please stop to see St. John's Music during our Music Store Night, or attend a Virtual Information Session with Long & McQuade Music for help ordering online.

Virtual Information Session with Long & McQuade - Mon, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> over ZOOM

-Visit [www.rdparkermusic.com](http://www.rdparkermusic.com) and click "Grade 6 Band Sign Up" for link & time

In-Person Music Store Night with St. John's Music -

Wed, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-8PM  
RDPC Band Room

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 often 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.

## What instruments can I choose from?

Students can choose from the instruments below. Please note, in the spring we had so many students choose clarinet and percussion that we did not list them below. It is important that our band is somewhat balanced or we will have a hard time functioning, which is why we limit sections if they become too big! We thank you for your understanding. We are asking new students to choose from the following:

- Flute
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium

### Options after Grade 6: Tuba & French Horn:

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.

## Grade 6 Band Schedule

### Grade 6 Band *Lessons @ Your School*

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	- first lesson Monday, Sept 26
Day 2 - Riverside	- first lesson Tuesday, Sept 27
Day 3 - Westwood	- first lesson Wednesday, Sept 28
Day 4 - Deerwood	- first lesson Thursday, Sept 29
Day 5 – Juniper	- first lesson Monday, Oct 3
Day 6 – Wapanohk	- first lesson Tuesday, Oct 4

### Grade 6 Band *Rehearsals @ RDPC*

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

#### Burntwood, Juniper, Wapanohk & Westwood

Mondays 3:45-4:30 – first rehearsal Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Riverside & Deerwood

Wednesdays 8AM-8:40 - first rehearsal Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Concerts

Concerts will take place at RDPC in the Letkemann Theatre. Student attendance at all concerts is mandatory – we are a team and need everyone in attendance to perform our best. We are really looking forward to sharing our music with you this year!

Concerts are open to the public, free admission.

**Grade 6 Band Concert Dates:** Wednesday, December 15 @ 7PM

Tuesday, June 13 @ 7PM

I am really looking forward to getting started! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Mrs. Lewis  
204-677-6222  
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