



R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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STEVIE MACPHERSON - GRADE 9 BAND, GRADE 8 BAND, WCS BAND - SMACPHERSON@MYSTERYNET.MB.CA
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ALLISON TURTON - RDPC CHOIR, JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR, VOCAL JAZZ - ATURTON@MYSTERYNET.MB.CA



September 3rd, 2020

Dear R.D. Parker Music Students and Families,

We are pleased to welcome students back to R.D. Parker Collegiate, and are excited to resume in person music making. The R.D. Parker Music staff has been hard at work planning for your students' return, and have put plans and procedures in place to support safe music making.

As laid out in the *RDPC Welcoming Back Students* document:

BAND/CHOIR

We have been working on a plan for safe music-making for both our band and choir programs.

Band - Following guidelines and recommendations for safe instrumental music making, we are taking steps to implement the following:

- 6' separation between musicians.
- The use of bell covers for trumpet and trombone players, which will be provided by the band department.
- The use of face shields or music stands as a barrier in front of flute players, which will be provided by the band department.
- Improving air circulation in the rehearsal space, by using a HEPA filtration systems for each elementary and R. D. Parker band spaces.

Choir - Following guidelines and recommendations for safe choir programming, we are taking steps to implement the following:

- A minimum of 8 feet separation between vocalists.
- Improving air circulation in the rehearsal space, by using a HEPA filtration systems.



Band/Choir Schedule

As per the *Welcoming Back Students* document, our student body will be divided into two groups and each group will attend in person two days per week. Students have been divided

into two groups based on their last name. Group A students have last names starting with A–K and Group B students have last names starting with L-Z.

Each ensemble will rehearse twice per week, with every student taking part in 1 in-person rehearsal, and 1 rehearsal recording from home. All ensemble rehearsals will be recorded and made available online to students. As part of their distance learning, students will be required to participate and play or sing along with the posted recordings for rehearsals they do not attend in person.

As Band and Choir run on alternating days, students will receive 1 in person rehearsal per week per ensemble, using the following schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Band Schedule	Senior Concert Band (Gr 10 – 12) Group A (A-K)	Junior Concert Band (Gr 9) Group A (A-K)		Senior Concert Band (Gr 10 – 12) Group B (L-Z)	Junior Concert Band (Gr 9) Group B (L-Z)
Choir Schedule	Junior Choir (Gr 9) Group A (A-K)	Senior Choir (Gr 10 – 12) Group A (A-K)		Junior Choir (Gr 9) Group B (L-Z)	Senior Choir (Gr 10 – 12) Group B (L-Z)

For example, a Grade 10 band student named James Brown would be expected to attend an in-person Sr. Band rehearsal on Mondays, and would be expected to play along to the posted recording of Thursday’s rehearsal during their distance learning days.

Band/Choir Lessons

Small Group Lessons will take place again this year, but may look different than in typical years. We will schedule lessons in co-ordination with students during their first few weeks of school. Every effort will be made to accommodate students so they can attend lessons in person, however some lessons may need to take place digitally, depending upon each students’ schedule.

Start-Up Week

The first week of classes will include two start-up days before our first instructional teaching day. Due to the alternating Band/Choir schedule, our start up days will be staggered, with

Junior Concert Band and Senior Choir taking part in the ‘Start Up’ days on September 8th and 9th:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept 7 No School	Sept 8 Group A School Start Up Day (regular class schedule) Junior Concert Band (A-K) Senior Choir (A-K)	Sept 9 Group B School Start Up Day (regular class schedule) Junior Concert Band (L-Z) Senior Choir (L-Z)	Sept 10 Group B First instructional teaching day Regular Band/Choir Schedule Begins	Sept 11 Group B

Senior Concert Band and Junior Choir will cover their ‘Start Up’ details in their first class, which will take place on Thursday, September 10th for students in Group B (L-Z), and Monday, September 14th for students in Group A (A-K).

Jazz Band

Jazz Band will take place at R.D. Parker this year, but will look very different than in past years. Students will receive 1 in-person full rehearsal per week. Auditions will not take place this year, and students are asked to contact Mr. Lewis at kLewis@mysterynet.mb.ca to sign up for Jazz Band this year. Students will then be placed in either the Intermediate Jazz, or Senior Jazz ensemble based upon playing experience.

Jazz rehearsals will take place on the following schedule:

Senior Jazz Ensemble: Mondays 3:45pm – 5:15pm

Intermediate Jazz Ensemble: Thursdays 3:45pm – 5:15pm

Students will not be broken down for these after school rehearsals by last name. All Sr. Jazz students, regardless of last name, will rehearse on Mondays, and all Int. Jazz students, regardless of last name, will rehearse on Thursdays. As these rehearsals will have students from both Group A & B taking part, there will be special practices and procedures for these rehearsals. Jazz rehearsals will be taking place in alternative rehearsal spaces, such as the Library or Gym, to accommodate for greater social distancing between the two student groups. We will also stagger entry and exit times for students in each Group, so that while they will be in the same rehearsal, they will not physically come into contact with students from the opposite Group.

More details will be sent home with startup information for the Jazz Bands. If you are interested in taking part in Jazz Band this year, please contact Mr. Lewis at klewis@mysterynet.mb.ca by Thursday, September 17th.

Vocal Jazz

Vocomotion, RD Parker's Vocal Jazz ensemble, will take place at R.D. Parker this year, but will look different than in past years. Students will receive 1 in-person rehearsal per week, supplemented by online material in lieu of our Thursday rehearsal. Individual auditions will be taking place. Students are asked to contact Ms. Turton to set up an audition time.

Vocomotion will rehearse on Tuesdays 3:45pm – 5:00pm.

Students will not be broken down for our after school rehearsal by last name. All Vocal Jazz students will rehearse on Tuesdays. As these rehearsals will have students from both Group A & B taking part, there will be special practices and procedures for these rehearsals. Jazz rehearsals will be taking place in alternative rehearsal spaces, such as the Library or Gym, to accommodate for greater social distancing between the two student groups.

Entry and exits will be staggered in order for students from opposite groups to avoid coming into contact with one another, though attending the same rehearsal.

More details will be sent home with startup information for Vocal Jazz. If you are interested in taking part in Vocomotion this year, please contact Ms. Turton at aturton@mysterynet.mb.ca by Thursday, September 17th.

Thank you for your time. We are excited to see everyone back in school soon, and look forward to resuming music making.

The R.D. Parker Music Department

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