

# Grade 6 & 7 Band Program

Coghlan | Fort Langley | North Otter | Peterson Road

Spring 2024

Dear Grade 5 and 6 Parents,

We are very excited to let you know that next year's grade 6 and 7 students will have the opportunity to take Band again in 2024|25. Students will have the option of selecting Band another Fine Arts/Music option at their school to be determined. We look forward to working with both beginning and experienced musicians next fall culminating some of the great activities that grow out of learning an instrument including concerts, festivals, ESPRESSIVO and the award-winning DW Poppy Elementary Honour Band, who has received multiple invitations to MusicFest Canada, the Canadian National Music Festival.

Beyond experiencing the joy of making music, involvement in band develops of a group of friends that lasts a lifetime and establishes some rather profound environmental influences which will help determine many of your child's successes in school well beyond music. We know that engaged band students represent the top of the academic scale in school, they average higher scores on SAT tests, indicating stronger verbal and math skills. We also know that most band students enjoy a successful academic high school career, go on to post-secondary education and become the leaders in our society. The top academic achiever and the band student are one and the same.

Membership in band is one of the most positive experiences you can offer your child, helping nurture and develop self-discipline, social and communication skills, positive self-image, cooperation and creativity through their study of music. It is an investment in your child's future as these life-skills will be an important foundation for the various responsibilities they take on later in life.

You can register through the DW Poppy Music website online at <http://dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband/> or complete the attached registration form and return it to your child's school by Friday, May 3 or scan and email it to [mfollett@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mfollett@sd35.bc.ca). If your child participated in band as a grade 6 this year, we encourage students to continue with their previous instrument, but if they would like to switch, please let us know so we can make the move that best improves your child's chance of success.

Mark Follett (Elementary Band Teacher via DW Poppy)

[mfollett@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mfollett@sd35.bc.ca)

[www.dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband](http://www.dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband)

ONLINE REGISTRATION AT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Do I have to know how to play an instrument to join?

No. As most students who join band in grade 6 do not know how to play an instrument, we will “start at the very beginning.” If you have experience, this will be a plus as you may find it easier to learn your band instrument. so let us know. For those students who are experienced, we will be moving ahead quickly and will aim to challenge you throughout the year as well!

### 2. Can I participate in sports and band?

Yes, students can participate in band and school sports. Band will be part of the regular schedule of classes and will not conflict with athletics. *Many of DW Poppy's top athletes are also members of the music program.* We have many musicians involved in athletics. When occasionally conflicts arise around our concerts, we work with both the student and the coaches to come up with a workable solution for the team, the band and the student.

### 3. When are rehearsals?

Traditionally, rehearsals take place twice a week during regular school hours. On non-band days, students should be bringing instruments home and should be practicing to prepare for the next rehearsal

### 4. How often does the Band perform?

Traditionally, we perform three concerts during the year: a winter concert in December, a spring concert in March, and a final concert in June. Dates are announced in the fall every year and will be live or recorded, dependent upon the Covid Safety protocols in place next year.

### 5. Do I receive a grade for band?

Yes, you will receive a grade just like you do for the rest of your classes.

### 6. How do I choose an instrument?

Instrument choices need be made based on both the student's interest and physical characteristics. We also need a balanced number of instruments for the band's to be educational, successful and fun. I will help with your child's final decision taking each factor into account but please let me know if there are any concerns along with way.

### 7. When and how should I get an instrument?

You will need your instrument by September 14, 2024 . As soon as you receive your instrument assignment in June, you should organize your rental. You can visit Tapestry Music, online at [www.tapestrymusic.com/lt-rentalprogram.aspx](http://www.tapestrymusic.com/lt-rentalprogram.aspx) (or another music store) to rent or purchase your materials. With these stores, the rent, or a portion of it is applied to the purchase of a quality instrument in good playing condition. You don't need to obtain the most expensive instrument available, but help your child succeed by getting an instrument that will be playable in the beginning and easy to maintain. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENT. Please do not order from Amazon as the instruments are cheap but don't work and cannot be repaired. We STRONGLY encourage renting through Tapestry Music (as they do delivery and pickup for rentals and repairs to the school) or another music retailer.

### 8. What costs are associated with elementary band.

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet and Trombone rentals start between usually start around \$15 per month. Saxophone and Baritone rentals start around \$30-35 per month. Clarinet and saxophone reeds cost around \$20-30 for a box of 10, Rico Royale #2 reeds, which should last the year. Students will also need to purchase a method book ([Sound Innovations Book 1](#) - about \$10), theory workbook ([Master Theory Book 1](#) – about \$10) and a folding wire music stand for home practice (about \$15 as well). For students that cannot afford to rent/purchase an instrument, there may be some other options available. Please contact me if you have any concerns as I want to make sure that every interested student can participate in band.

### 9. May I use or purchase a used instrument?

Sometimes you can find a good deal on a used instrument or you may have one available from family or friends. If you are going to play a used instrument, it is essential to have it checked over by a reliable repair technician before starting. An instrument in poor repair will be frustrating and discourage even the most enthusiastic student. so we recommend you have us check the instrument over first and then take it in to Long & McQuade Music or Tom Lee Music here in Langley for a tune up before September.

School : \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_








\*Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

So I can help your child select an instrument they can be successful on:

1. please trace your child's hand on the revers of this form.
2. let me know if your child has or will be getting braces or has other dental issues.

**Which instrument would your child like to play?**

Please circle the three (3) instruments you would like to play and indicate whether it is their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. These are the options for beginners at the beginning of the year, but if your child is interested in another instrument or already plays another instrument, or you simply have questions about the band program please contact me.

Brass	Woodwind	
<p>Trumpet   2 3</p> 	<p>Flute   2 3</p> 	<p>Alto Saxophone   2 3 (Limited)</p> 
<p>Trombone   2 3</p> 	<p>Clarinet   2 3</p> 	<p>Tenor Saxophone   2 3 (Limited)</p> 
<p>Baritone   2 3</p> 	<p>Please return this form to your school by</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">FRIDAY, May 3, 2024</h2> <p>You can also scan and email it to me at <a href="mailto:mfollett@sd35.bc.ca">mfollett@sd35.bc.ca</a> or register online at <a href="http://www.dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband">www.dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband</a></p>	

- My child already plays the \_\_\_\_\_ and has taken lessons for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- We are unable to afford to rent an instrument and would like information regarding borrowing an instrument from the Langley School District at no cost for students-in-need.