

Senior Tour May 11-15, 2026: MusicFest Canada!

Band 10 & Senior Wind Ensemble 11/12, Senior Jazz, Senior Choir, Vocal Jazz

Dear Senior Music Families,

We are very excited to announce our intent to travel to the Niagara Region in Ontario from May 11-15, 2026 for MusicFest Canada. Beyond the work and play that is always part of our regular tours, this is an opportunity for the students to perform at a national level. Senior Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz received invitations based on their performance at Surrey Jazz last year, and during the summer, invitations were extended for Senior Concert Band (Senior Wind Ensemble and Concert Band 10 combined) and Senior Choir.

COST ESTIMATES: Our travel costs and ability to have specific groups participate is heavily determined by the level of participation. It is not just about numbers of participants, but the ability to field workable bands and choirs. At the moment, rough quote is coming based on last year's pricing is around \$2500-\$2750 for 5 days / 4 nights including most meals, airfare, accommodations, activities and festival fees; however, that is dependant upon number of students, number of ensembles participating, and other activities we undertake in the Niagara and Toronto region while we are there. We are working on getting a more accurate price but get information out early so families could plan appropriately. A Sample/Draft Itinerary will be sent out next week as our tentative performance times are being confirmed now.

DEPOSIT DUE IN SCHOOLCASHONLINE - \$250 by October 1, 2025 (email me if timing is an issue): To know what ensembles are viable to take to nationals, we are asking for a \$250 deposit by Wednesday, October 1. If pricing comes back significantly higher or dates change, those would be refundable and we would look who would still want to participate; however, we need to commit to MusicFest or the other by the end of October.

FUNDRAISING: We hope to be running similar fundraisers to previous years, but if there are parents interested in running other one, requesting donations or applying for grants, that would be wonderful. It would be great to bring back the silent auction for *ESPRESSIVO: Winter Celebration* this year if we have some parents willing to coordinate it. Many students have been able to completely cover significant portions of their tour costs through our fundraising activities. If you are interested in coordinating a fundraiser towards MusicFest (and or Junior Tour), we would like to meet with those interested parents immediately after the Music Parents meeting on Tuesday, September 16 - approximately 7:30pm.

Concert Band 10 Members: Assuming we go, Senior Wind Ensemble and Concert Band 10 will do a combined set for the spring cycle and 10's will be expected to participate in a portion of the lunch hour Monday/Friday rehearsals from January to March for Kiwanis and our Spring concert. In trade, we will have additional in-class time for your CLE coursework (so you have less to do on your own time). Those 10's who are travelling to Nationals with the band would also be expected to participate in a portion of Wednesday mornings through until Nationals. We'll develop that rehearsal calendar once we confirm who is going.

If you have any questions, please email us, and we look forward to a great trip with the kids this spring!

Mark Follett (Band) | Marco Del Rio (Choir)
mfollett@sd35.bc.ca | mdelrio@sd35.bc.ca