

Memo to: Queen Charlotte Band Parents

From: Sylvia Andrew, Band Director

Date : Sept 1, 2017

Re: Introduction to Band Program

Welcome to all new and returning band parents. You are giving your child a wonderful gift by supporting them in music education. I am very excited about working with the bands again this year.

This is a busy time of year for parents, students and teachers. This memo should help you get your young musician off to a good start. If at any time throughout the year you have questions or concerns please contact me at saandrew@edu.pe.ca or call the school, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I am available.

You can expect frequent emails with the subject BAND NOTES. This is my main means of communication with the band families. If you have not received an email from me by the end of the month let me know. There may be a problem with your email address entry on our SAS system.

Home Practice:

Home practice is very important for success on any instrument. Providing a time and place for this is a good thing. You should be hearing the instrument on a regular basis. I tell the students 100 minutes a week will result in a very high mark and personal satisfaction in playing. Short 20 minute sessions are much more productive than long concentrated periods of time.

Evaluations and Assignments:

On a regular basis (weekly) your musician will be recording short exercises and submitting them into google classroom for assessment. This ensures that home practice is being done and lets me monitor their progress. Students may use their phone or other electronic devices to do this. There are deadlines for submission. It is best for students to stay current with the assigned work. Reminders from parents about this is helpful.

Uniforms:

All band students will be issued a band vest in October and it will be collected in June. This is to be worn for all performances with a short sleeve white t-shirt, black pants and black shoes. Gym pants, leggings, short skirts and yoga pants are not appropriate for performances. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

There is a yearly **\$10 band fee** for all students that goes toward the purchase, maintenance and cleaning of the vests. This will be collected the month of September.

Instruments:

Every attempt is made to ensure the instrument assigned to your child is in good working condition. It is every musician's responsibility to take good care of their instrument. This includes regular maintenance. A well maintained instrument is easier to play. Students will be billed the cost of repair/replacement in the event of neglect or abuse. It is particularly important for the students with larger instruments who may have a second instrument that regular maintenance is done on both instruments.

Required Instrument Supplies- These can be purchased at Long & McQuade located at 104 Capital Drive.

Flute- Cleaning rod and cloth (All cases should now have this)

Clarinet- #3 ricko reeds, cleaning swabs (must be cloth and not felt like material) and cork grease

Saxophone- cleaning swabs, cork grease, reeds

Trumpet/baritone/tuba/French horn- Mouthpiece brush/tuning slide grease/Synthetic Yamaha valve oil (DO NOT USE CARLTON VALVE OIL) /cleaning snake

Trombone- Mouthpiece brush/tuning slide grease/slide cream/ small spray bottle from dollar store.

Percussion- Drum practice pad

All instruments- A music stand encourages good posture and playing positions. While not essential it is an investment worth making. A great Christmas or birthday gift.

All supplies are available at **Long & McQuade**, 104 Capital Drive, Charlottetown

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals and concerts are a mandatory part of this course. Students with frequent unexplained absences **may not** be permitted to perform in concerts or festivals.

It is important that students arrive on time for rehearsals. For supervision reasons Grade 7 and 8 students are not permitted to go to their lockers prior to rehearsal. Instrument and music should be at home not in the locker.

Grade 7 – 7:30am Monday morning beginning Sept 18th and Tuesdays from 3.15-4pm

Grade 8- 7:30am Wednesday and Friday morning beginning Sept 15th

Grade9- 7:30am Tuesday and Thursday morning beginning Sept 14th

In the event of a delay in opening due to weather rehearsal is cancelled.

Jazz Band (grade 8 and 9) will start September 27st. A sign up sheet will be posted in the band room. Rehearsals will be Wednesday afternoon 3-4:15.

Concert Assignment:

All students are required to do one concert review assignment. This involves attending a concert featuring wind instruments and writing a review. I will post on the QC website the requirements for the review. As I become aware of concerts in the area I will pass along the information by email. Reviews must be handed in within 7 days of the concert for credit. Reports are to be submitted online to the student's google band classroom.