

April 22, 2014

**To Parents of Grade 6 Students:**

In September, schools have the opportunity to offer Grade 7 Band. To assist us with the decision-making process, we are determining student and parent interest at this time. This opportunity should be taken seriously, as it may be the best chance in your child's life to learn instrumental music.

Grade 7 Band is a district-based program that espouses the following philosophy:

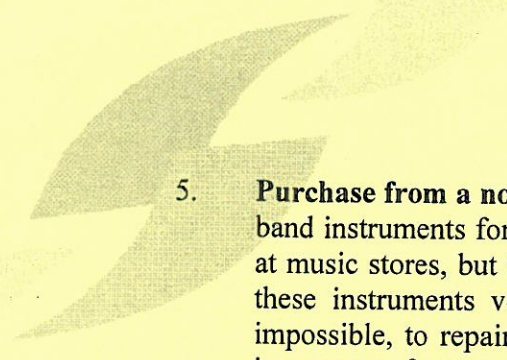
*"The Surrey School District elementary band program is designed for Grade 7 children. A component of the Fine Arts Strand, this program is delivered by specialist teachers. In keeping with the Ministry's Principles of Learning, it is a child-centred program in which children are introduced to the challenges of a band experience."*

*Intended learning outcomes include the acquisition and development of individual and group skills commensurate with ability, plus presentation opportunities, and appreciation and enjoyment of the arts."*

The program is taught by specialist band teachers twice weekly during the regular school day. Most students acquire their own instrument in one of the following manners (if acquiring an instrument presents a particular problem for your family, please contact the school and every effort will be made to find an individual solution):

1. **Rent or rent-to-own a new instrument:** Rental from a music company is the method most recommended by your band teachers. Cost ranges from \$12.00 to \$45.00 per month, saxophone being the most expensive, while clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and flute are the least expensive. A substantial portion of the rent will be applied to the purchase price if you decide to buy the instrument at a later date. You may rent directly from the music store of your choice.
2. **Purchase a new or used instrument from a music store:** Purchasing outright is the least expensive means of buying an instrument in the long run, although it does not provide as much flexibility as renting.
3. **Purchase used instruments from private party:** Sometimes bargains can be found, but be wary; in almost every case they require servicing! Please make certain it is serviced before the first band class in September.
4. **Borrow:** Once again, be wary; a borrowed instrument almost always needs servicing. Please have it serviced before the first band class in September.

**LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING**

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5. **Purchase from a non-music store:** Recently, non-music stores have been offering some band instruments for sale. These instruments are usually less expensive than those found at music stores, but the quality of the instrument is often inferior. Students usually find these instruments very difficult to play properly and they are often difficult, if not impossible, to repair. The school district highly recommends that you rent or purchase instruments from a reputable music store.

**It is highly recommended that you do not rent or buy any instrument until your child has consulted with the Grade 7 band director in September.**

You and your child should carefully consider this chance to participate in band. Not only will the students learn performing and academic skills related to playing an instrument, but also research shows that learning a musical instrument and being part of the band program highly correlates to achieving success in secondary school.

**Please note that registering for band means participating for the whole Grade 7 school year. Your child's interest and ability cannot be assessed with less than a full year's effort. If your child signs up for band in September, he/she is committing to the course until the following June.**

**We ask that you return the attached form to your school principal by Monday April 28, 2014 to assist us with planning and staffing for September.**

Yours sincerely,

Elisa Carlson  
Director of Instruction

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**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL  
ON OR BEFORE APRIL 28, 2014**

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### **BAND 7 COMMITMENT FORM**

My child \_\_\_\_\_ would like to register in a Band 7 program in September 2014.

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

**LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING**

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