

Calgary Science School Band Handbook □ 2008-2009

Welcome! I am looking forward to a great year for the Calgary Science School Band. The activities of this elective can be very satisfying and entertaining to not only the student, but to the entire family. I have prepared a handbook that will assist band families throughout this year. The handbook and parent notices are also posted on the Calgary Science School Music Website.

The parents of the new band students are encouraged to participate and to help encourage their child in this program. We will be performing several times during the year for concerts and performances. This handbook will take you step by step through the signup process and some important details about the band program. Please read through this handbook carefully. I will be available to answer any questions or concerns through email:

andrew.b@calgaryscineceschool.com

Thank-you,
Andrew Bolen

SIGN-UP / INSTRUMENTS

There are some initial costs involved in starting up a band program; however, some of these will sustain over the course of the program. For these costs please read thru page four of this handbook for a list of band supplies.

The initial request for instruments has already been considered in order to develop a balanced band, however, there may be instances where 2nd and 3rd choices may be considered based on a student's physical ability. A signup sheet at the beginning of the year will indicate the instruments students wish to play.

The Instruments that are available to choose from for beginning band are the flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and tuba. Percussion instruments are delegated very carefully. Beginning band students are encouraged to play one of these woodwind or brass instruments before introducing another instrument to the band. Percussion performance will be determined on a variety of bases: involvement, training, and commitment. **Parents are required to purchase or rent an instrument for their child no later than the last week of August 2008.**

There are many places to get an instrument. St. John's Music and Long & McQuade have RENTAL programs that rent or rent-to-own a new or used musical instrument. The school will rent out bass instruments: baritone and tuba to the families at \$40.00 per month. Transportation of these larger instruments can be challenging, but not impossible. Of course, any instruments that may be already in the family can be used. Please observe that the instrument is in playable condition. An instrument that does not work will not be acceptable because the student will not be able to practice or perform with a good tone quality.

St John's Music - ☐☐Phone: (403) 265-6300
105-58th Avenue S.E.☐Calgary, Alberta ☐T2H 0N8☐Fax: (403) 265-7409 Email: calgary@stjohnsmusic.com

Long & McQuade - Phone: (403) 244-5555
105-58th Avenue S.W.☐Calgary, Alberta☐T2H 0A4 ☐Fax: (403) 229-9682
Email: info@long-mcquade.com

EVENTS

Getting the first few notes together for the first performance is always critical for beginning band students in order to gain confidence playing their instrument. Treating every rehearsal like a performance is a key to students' success. There will be various workshops, concerts and performances throughout the year that will be updated on the Calgary Science Music Website.

For all performances and workshop schedules please refer to the calendar of the Spectrum or Calgary Science School Music Website for upcoming events and performances.

PRACTICE & REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

Parents need to encourage their child to practice their instrument every day at home. This is the Band homework, just as students complete homework for other classes. Students will be expected to practice two hours every week. This may be 15 - 20 minutes per day but remember not to practice for long periods of time at the beginning. Give time for the lip muscles and embouchure to develop.

Practice Sheets

Practice sheets will be sent home for students to complete and parents to observe and sign. If the parent encourages the student to practice each day, they will sound much better as the year progresses.

Noon Hour Practice

Additional practice times will be necessary throughout the year and before major concerts. These extra rehearsals will be made up during lunch hours and after school. Various sectionals (for example, only the brass or woodwind players) will be expected to practice at noon hour and will be announced during class time and can be expected two to three times a month.

After School Practice

A compulsory full band once a month after school practice time will be announced in September. These practices will be announced well ahead of time so that the students can make any travel arrangements in advance.

CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Students in the band program must have excellent conduct at all times. If a student disrupts the class by talking, getting out of their seat without permission, and interrupting the class to leave for non-emergencies, the class will fall behind. At this time, we only have band two days a week for sixty minutes, plus setup and clean up. Time is very limited to learn about music and to perform well. The student must follow directions willingly at all times in the band class. If a student constantly interrupts class, he/she will be sent back to their regular class for that band session, and also given extra written homework.

List of Band Supplies

The band student will need some supplies during the year besides an instrument. The school will supply the '*Standard of Excellence Enhanced Comprehensive Band Method (Book 1)*' by Bruce Pearson band method book and music folder. Students are responsible for all accessories that are needed for their instruments. Such supplies may be purchased from Retail Stores such as St. John's Music or the School. **Starter Kits** are recommended to clean and care for the instrument. Starter Kits may be purchased St John's Music. The costs are approximately \$30 each. The Starter Kits for each instrument include a fold-up portable metal **music stand** for proper music practice at home.

These kits generally include the following;

Flute - Cleaning rod with cloth, Polishing Cloth☐

Clarinet (and Bass Clarinet) -, Polishing Cloth, Cleaning swab, Cork grease

Saxophone (Alto and Tenor) - Reeds (LOTS of size 3), Polishing Cloth, Cleaning swab, Neck strap☐

Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba - Polish Cloth, valve oil and brushes

For clarinet and saxophones it is expected that beginning band students will need 2-3 reeds per month. The recommended size of reeds is '2 ½' or '3' although the size of reed varies depending on the student.

PROPERTY CARE

If there is any damage with the instrument, it is important to repair it. Please bring it to the director first to see how minor or major the repair may be. Proper tools to repair or replace the part/key can be used to fix minor problems however; a professional should handle all major repairs. Repair costs are the responsibility of the students, except in the instance of the low brass instruments rented from the school .

One very important rule in band class is that an instrument that belongs to another student or to the school should only be handled or played by the appropriate student. Several students have to pay for "accidents" (broken reeds, key bent, etc,) to other students' instruments each year, which can be avoided by following rules in and out of the band class. Any band student who deliberately damages an instrument belonging to the school or someone else will pay for all damages and may be dismissed from the band program.

GRADES/ATTENDANCE

Band students will be graded on attendance, participation, rehearsal skills, bringing instruments, practice records (signed each week by parent), worksheets/homework assignments, quiz or test. The student will receive a satisfactory grade for completing all of these requirements.

It is expected that the band student will attend EVERY rehearsal. Missing even one rehearsal will cause a student to fall far behind. Students that miss school for long periods of time will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Students must attend **all** performances by the band during the school year as they are considered as performance and participation grades are important in the program. Students attending field trips with the band must remain with the group and the band teacher at all times. No students will be allowed to leave the group or leave the field trip early. If there is a true emergency and the student must leave the group during a field trip, their parent must sign the student out (check out) on the proper permission forms with the band teacher **only**.

SIMPLE PROCEDURES and RULES FOR BAND

- Come in to class quickly, quietly, and get materials for band ready.
- Bring your instrument and music.
- *'I forgot'* is NOT acceptable. ☐
- Do not touch or play any instrument except your own.☐
- Do not chew gum or candy right before or during band. It will cause problems in the performance of the instrument. The instrument will stop working.☐
- Do not talk or get out of your seat without permission. The more disruptions in class, the less we get to play.
- Complete all practice records and homework assignments to help students understand more about the music.
- Work TOGETHER in order for the band to perform to the best of our abilities.

For any questions or concerns please direct to Andrew Bolen
(403) 282-2890 (ext: 101)

Or email: andrew.b@calgaryscienceschool.com

Thank-you,

Andrew Bolen
Music Specialist
Calgary Science School