

REGINA CATHOLIC SCHOOL BANDS

South East Area

Ecole St. Elizabeth, St. Dominic, St. Gabriel, Holy Rosary

2020-2021

Dear Parents and Grade Five Students,

My name is Nadine Ghiglione and I am the band teacher at your child's elementary school. I'm excited to invite your child to join band for the start of school in September.

In the next week, your classroom teacher will be sending you and your child more detailed information of the band program which will include videos of the instruments which may help you and your child determine whether he/she would like to play in the school band program next year. It will also include a attachment to a Jot-Form online registration to join the band for September. Your elementary school has a great number of students presently from grade 6, 7 and 8 involved in band and it is a wonderful musical team to be a part of!!

The Regina Catholic School Band Program is one of the largest band programs in the province. There are 22 bands in our division with over 1,100 school musicians involved in a variety of elementary and high school concert and jazz bands.

Band is recognized as a curricular class, which is part of the music strand in the arts education curriculum. **All instruction is during school hours.** Band students participate by a pull out program from regular classes on a rotating basis for small group lessons.

Please discuss this wonderful opportunity with your child and I look forward to further correspondence with you! The YouTube link below from by the U.S. Army Field Band provides a brief description and demonstration of the instruments that students are able to play in RCSD bands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCTeSjpDsIs>

Respectfully,

Nadine Ghiglione
Regina Catholic South East Area Band Teacher
n.ghiglione@rcsd.ca

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE BAND!

REGINA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOUTH EAST GRADE 6 BAND

St. Elizabeth, St. Dominic, St. Gabriel and Holy Rosary Schools

Dear Parents and Grade 5 Students,

We are excited to be offering band in the fall to YOU, who are soon to be in Grade 6! We want to make sure that we follow all procedures to keep students and staff safe. September will begin with small group instruction and we will only start full band rehearsals when it is safe to do so.

This instrument selection guide, along with the instrument fitting that we will be able to do in September when school resumes, is intended to help each student make a decision on which instrument to play.

This year, I am sending out information about being in band next year. Please read it over, discuss it with your family, then complete and submit the jot form. If you have any questions before you fill out the form, please let me know.

Please fill out this jot form to indicate whether yes or no to your child participating in band in September, 2020.

<https://form.jotform.com/201566255425252>

If this form could be completed by June 22, that would be greatly appreciated.

In the past when I visit with the gr. 5 students, I look at your child's teeth, lips, jaws, fingers, overall size, etc., to see what instrument would work most successfully for him/her. A student may have really wanted to play trumpet, but his/her physical features and being unable to buzz their lips would make it very difficult for him/her to have any success on it. Because of situations like this, I have suggested an instrument on which the student could achieve a natural, good sound and feel confident about playing. I try to have the first or second choice available so that we create a well-balanced band. I do not encourage a child to play an instrument that they did not produce a good sound on.

Just as a team requires players for every position to be successful, so a band needs a balance of the various instruments to sound good. All instruments are fun to play, are equally important and require about equal efforts for one to be successful. Like a sports team, all positions require a balance in number filled to complete a team. Musicians and a full band are the same way.

WATCH BE PART OF THE BAND!

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/jAYK>

INSTRUMENT CHOICES: Woodwind family

FLUTE



CLARINET



ALTO SAXOPHONE



TENOR SAXOPHONE



Brass family

TRUMPET



TROMBONE



BARITONE/EUPHONIUM



Percussion family: Bells and Snare Drum



Please do not go and buy or rent an instrument until the instrument testing is complete. Considerations when purchasing an instrument: please stay away from retail stores like Costco, Walmart, Ebay, Amazon and the like. It is best to rent from a music store: St. John's Music or Long and McQuade Music. They offer rental and purchase programs. The bottom line is that a student plays with success on a great quality instrument. Further information will be provided to you in the fall.

Take time to read through these descriptions and considerations for each instrument and listen to the sound/video examples for each. Hopefully by giving you this information we will together be able to make an informed decision about the instrument that might be best suited for your son or daughter.

FLUTE

Family: Woodwind

Unlike woodwind instruments with reeds, a flute is an aerophone or reedless wind instrument that produces its sound from the flow of air across and opening. Willingness to purchase or rent a director suggested brand of flute is so important.

Physical Characteristics: Flute players should have a slight "frown" to the upper lip with no teardrop shape in the middle. The flute tone is produced by being able to focus an extremely small airstream to an exact location on the mouthpiece tone hole. The tear-drop-shaped lip will make it difficult to direct the air so precisely. Flute players should also have agile fingers for moving this multi-keyed instrument through a fast musical passage. Students with an extreme overbite (receded jaw) should avoid choosing flute as this makes it difficult to produce quality sounds.

Flute demonstration: "Happy"

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/CAYK>

CLARINET

Family: Woodwind

The clarinet uses a “single reed” and a mouthpiece to produce the sound. Willingness to purchase or rent a director suggested brand of clarinet is so important. Unfortunately, there are some brands of instruments on the market whose poor design and craftsmanship will make it really a challenge for your child to succeed. We can help you avoid that situation.

Physical Characteristics: One necessity of clarinet tone production is the ability to make the chin flat and pointed. If a student has double jointed fingers/hypermobility (extreme bend of fingers), they will have difficulty keeping the holes covered on the clarinet.

Clarinet demonstration: “Super Mario Brothers”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/qBYK>

SAXOPHONE

Family: Woodwind

The alto saxophone is the smaller of the two saxophones offered, **alto** and **tenor** saxophone. The saxophone gives the impression of being both a brass and woodwind instrument, however it is a woodwind instrument. The alto saxophone uses a single reed like the clarinet and is a very popular but expensive instrument to rent. Willingness to purchase or rent a director suggested brand of saxophone is so important. Unfortunately, there are some brands of instruments on the market whose poor design and craftsmanship will make it really a challenge for your child to succeed.

Physical Characteristics: Since the balance of the saxophone is maintained by the use of a neck strap, it is extremely important that students be able to sit up completely straight as it can be heavy on the neck.

Other Considerations: Saxophone players are responsible for keeping a good stock of reeds per month. A box of 10 reeds for the alto sax costs approximately \$23 and can last with proper care 2-3 months. Tenor sax reeds are even more in price.

Alto Saxophone Demonstration: “The Pink Panther”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/9BYK>

Tenor Saxophone Demonstration: “Senorita”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/ZBYK>

TRUMPET

Family: Brass

The trumpet is the smallest member of the brass family. The sound on a trumpet is produced by buzzing your lips into a small mouthpiece. Willingness to purchase or rent a director suggested brand of trumpet is so important.

Physical characteristics: While having braces is somewhat troublesome to a trumpet player, it is not impossible to make good sounds with braces. A slight overbite is okay but an under bite can hinder progress on trumpet. Trumpet players come in all shapes and sizes.

Other Considerations: The trumpet musical parts usually have the melody(main part of the song). Someone who chooses the trumpet should be a confident, strong leader.

Trumpet demonstration: “Star Wars”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/BCYK>

TROMBONE

Family: Brass

The trombone sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a little bit larger mouthpiece than the trumpet. Trombone players should have good “musical listening ears”. The trombone uses a slide instead of valves or keys. The slide is not marked or notched and players rely on their muscle memory and hearing to tell if they are in the exact proper location/position.

Physical Considerations: While some might think that trombone players must have long arms, the truth is there are numerous accommodations that make it possible for the students of all shapes and sizes to play. A slight overbite is acceptable and an extreme under bite may give many challenges. If a student were to have braces, the student would find this mouthpiece to be more comfortable than playing with braces on a trumpet mouthpiece.

Trombone demonstration: “Thriller”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/JGYK>

Trombone demonstration: Theme from “Frozen”

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/fHYK>

BARITONE OR EUPHONIUM

Family: Brass

The euphonium(you-PHONE-knee-yum) is sometimes known as the baritone. It looks very much like a small version of a tuba. Its sound is similar to that of a trombone, but it uses valves like a trumpet instead of a slide.

Physical Characteristics: Baritone/Euphonium players should have moderately full lips. A slight overbite is okay but an under bite could present many challenges. If a student were to have braces, the student would find this mouthpiece to be more comfortable then playing with braces on a trumpet mouthpiece.

Baritone/Euphonium demonstration: "Uptown Funk"

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/iIYK>

PERCUSSION

Family: piano/mallets/snare drum/auxiliary percussion

*In order for you to have percussion (snare drum and bells) as an instrument consideration, ONLY students who **have 2- 3 years or more of piano lessons from a piano teacher** will be accepted. As you will see in the following video's, percussion players will learn the bells and other mallet instruments as well, the student will start on snare drum. They then progress to the other percussion instruments that we have in our full band rehearsal room. Students not only need piano experience but also a great deal of coordination in fine motor skills.*

Snare Drum demonstration:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/5IYK>

Mallet demonstration: Harry Potter Medley

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/NIYK>

Full percussion ensemble demonstration:

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/jJYK>

It is a fact that the study of music is one of our greatest mind trainers and joining the band could be one of the most important steps in your child's education. Some of the benefits your child receives from this experience are discipline, responsibility, self-esteem, team work, as well as enjoyment and lifelong appreciation of music. Any child willing to put in a reasonable amount of effort and practice can succeed.

Outline of the Grade 6 Band Program

All band instruction takes place during school time. Students will have a 30-minute small group lesson once a week at their home school. The lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis so the students do not miss the same class every week. Lessons will be on a day 1-5 system. Example – St. Dominic – Day 1 – gr. 6 flutes 10:45 one week, again on day 1 - 12:40 the next week. We will conduct our lessons at the schools in a safe manner with social distancing implemented.

In the September of 2020, we will postpone full band rehearsals (joining the four elementary school grade 6 players together at Miller High School) until it is deemed safe to do so.

Practice and Effort

Daily practice is the key to success. Please discuss this with your child so they understand their responsibility and commitment. Students will have **weekly assignments and practice charts to fill in. The student will be required to practice 15 -20 minutes a day, 6 days a week.** We feel strongly that you help your child understand commitment and would encourage them to continue in band for the musical year – September to the end of May. Students will also receive a two term report card for band.

Concerts and Activities

The Grade 6 Band performs at various concerts throughout the year. Some of the concerts are: Winter Concert, Band Days Festival, Optimist Festival, Spring Concert and our 2 or 3 spring recruitment tours in the city. **For 2020/2021, we will alter these performances to adhere to safety guidelines.**

Financial Concerns

Band is an integral part of the school program. It is an enhancement of the music strand in the arts education curriculum. Regina Catholic Schools provides funding for instruction and course related materials. However, as this is an elective option for parents there is a financial commitment. Parents are responsible for purchasing or renting an instrument.

You are responsible for obtaining an instrument either through rental or purchase. The rental programs vary from both music stores as they have rent for the year or rent to own programs. Renting an instrument that has been used is perfectly fine. The music store has serviced the instrument and it should be ready to be played. **If renting an instrument is a financial concern, please contact me. This information will be kept private. You will be asked to complete a form that will be reviewed by the principal/committee of the school division. This form will not be available until September.** If you are using an instrument that has not been used for a few years, please have it checked over at an instrument repair shop. If you do have a friend or family member's instrument that hasn't been played for a while, I strongly recommend that you take the instrument to a music instrument repair shop to make it in

playable condition. There are two repair shops in Regina, St. John's Music and Long and McQuade.

In typical years, there is an annual Band Parents' Association fee to cover the cost of the non-instructional aspects of the program. The fee this past year was \$140 per student or \$225 per family (due in November). The fee helped cover costs such as busing to rehearsals, uniforms, Band Days and many other band activities provided for band students. **Because of Covid-19, next year's Band Parent Association fee has not yet been set. The fee will most likely be substantially lower to adjust to next year's programming. We will keep you posted. Limited sponsorship is available for families with financial need for this fee. In September, those families will complete forms for financial assistance. Please contact the band teacher for more information.**

Parents, please fill out the jot form if it a YES, you want your child to join or NO, you do not. If possible, please complete the form by June 22.

<https://form.jotform.com/201566255425252>

We have an exciting year ahead of us and I can't wait until we are able to begin in September!! I look forward to choosing an instrument that is right for you and how you will contribute to the balance of the band. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Nadine Ghiglione
Band Teacher
South East Area Bands
n.ghiglione@rcsd.ca