

Dear SD42 Parents/Guardians:

Re: **SD42 Elementary Band Program 2020/2021 – Safety Protocols**

We all share concerns and apprehension about returning back to school and embarking on new educational experiences this year. Throughout the summer, a dedicated team of doctors, health professionals and music teachers have worked hard to develop a plan to keep us all safe while making music this year. The BC CDC has reviewed current scientific research related to making music and **has deemed playing in band to be a SAFE activity**, with safety protocols in place (*as we must have in place for **all** subjects in school*).

Many of our high schools will be limiting the number of students allowed in the elementary band program relative to the space they have available in their schools. Students will be provided with extra space (minimum 2m distance between students). Students will not share instruments. Brass players will empty water keys on absorbent pads and dispose of these at the end of the class. And students will sanitize their hands upon entry and exit. You can review the CDC guidelines for music here (scroll down to “Activities>Singing”): <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools>.

The CDC also acknowledges that **band and choir classes are good for students’ emotional health** by providing them with a community of peers who work together as a team to collectively make art. There is a very comprehensive article published by the Globe and Mail which outlines how the CDC’s guidance for making music safely came to be throughout the summer.

Parents/guardians and students can rest assured that a dedicated team of doctors, health officials, and educators have been working hard for months to ensure a safe return to making music. You can read the article here: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-guide-aims-to-help-music-students-play-along-with-physical-distancing/>

Many things will look a little different this year such as physical distancing, hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning protocols. **That being said, the benefits to starting or continuing your musical journey are substantial:** band develops teamwork, provides students with a safe community, allows students to make friends with other kids who enjoy what they enjoy (and who will be attending the same high school as them in grade 8), helps students to familiarize themselves with their future high school before they make the transition in grade 8, and gives students the opportunity to have many memorable experiences. **We will keep making music a welcoming and exciting place to be, while respecting all of our COVID-19 safety protocols to protect us in the process.**

With these safety protocols in place, we look forward to welcoming students to our band rooms and working with them toward a fun and formative year.

Sincerely,

SD42 Elementary Band Directors

Elementary Band Information by Secondary School:

Garibaldi Secondary

Elementary Band Director: Duane Kirkpatrick (duane_kirkpatrick@sd42.ca)
Band(s): GSS Elementary Band (grades 5-7, no experience necessary)
Class Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 3-4 pm
Location: GSS Band Room
Website: www.gssmusic.com

Maple Ridge Secondary

Elementary Band Director: Brian Weingartner (brian_weingartner@sd42.ca)
Band(s):

- ❖ Beginner Elementary Band (grades 6-7, no experience)
- ❖ Advanced Elementary Band (one year of band experience)

Class Times:

- ❖ Beginner: Monday/Thursday 3-4 pm
- ❖ Advanced: Tuesday/Friday 3-4 pm

Location: MRSS Band Room
Website: www.ridgemuic.org

Pitt Meadows Secondary

Elementary Band Director: Nicholas Renaud (nicholas_renaud@sd42.ca)
Band(s):

- ❖ Beginner Elementary Band A (gr. 6-7 students from PME/HPE, no prior experience)
- ❖ Beginner Elementary Band B (gr. 6-7 students from Hammond/DJE/EME, no prior experience)
- ❖ Advanced Elementary Band (grade 7 with one year of band experience)

Class Times: *varies by quarter. Please consult pmssmusic.com/elementary-band-program/*
Location: PMSS Band Room
Website: www.pmssmusic.com

Thomas Haney Secondary

Elementary Band Director: Tim Burns (timothy_burns@sd42.ca)
Band(s): THSS Elementary Band
Class Times: *please contact Mr. Burns for details.*
Location: THSS Band Room

Westview Secondary

Elementary Band Director: Linda Jensen (linda_jensen@sd42.ca)
Band(s):

- ❖ Beginner Elementary Band A (grade 5-7 students from Laityview, no prior experience)
- ❖ Beginner Elementary Band B (gr. 5-7 students from FVE/MRE/Hammond, no prior experience)
- ❖ Advanced Elementary Band (grade 7 with one year of band experience)

Class Times:

- ❖ Beginner A: Mondays, 8:30-9:30 am (February-June 2021 *only*)
- ❖ Beginner B: Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 am (February-June 2021 *only*)
- ❖ Advanced: Monday/Wednesday 8:30-9:30 am (Nov. 23-Feb 3, *then schedule to be adjusted*)

Location: WSS Band Room
Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/westviewmusic/band-78?authuser=>