

Cedar Hill Music

Ms. Cindy Romphf (on leave until Jan.) - Band Ms. Melissa McKnight - Choir/Strings

Ms. Margaret Dzbik - Strings/Show Choir

Welcome to our Music Program!



Our music program is proud to offer the following ensembles:

- 3 levels of Concert Band (grades 6 – 8)
- 2 levels of Jazz Band (grades 7 and 8)
- Concert Choir (grades 6 – 8)
- Jazz Choir (grade 6 & grades 7 - 8)
- Show Choir (grades 6 – 8)
- Male Vocal Ensemble "Cantare" (grades 6 - 8)
- 4 levels of Strings (Beginning, Junior, Intermediate and Advanced)

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Welcome back from what we hope was a terrific summer! And a big welcome to all the new families with us this year! The Cedar Hill Music Program offers a wide variety of music ensembles for you to participate in. We are proud of our achievement as a well-rounded, cohesive music program. Included in this newsletter is a tentative schedule of events for the year, music registration form, and information regarding volunteer opportunities.



Students do NOT need any prior experience to join any of our beginning ensembles.

Please feel free to contact us at cedarhillmusic@gmail.com We look forward to hearing from you!

In harmony,
Cindy Romphf, Melissa McKnight & Margaret Dzbik

HOW OUR MUSIC PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED

Within the regular school time, we have three levels of concert band classes, all of which meet three times a week through the entire school year. These levels are based on grade level. In addition, the rehearsal schedule for our other ensembles is as shown below.

Our main goal for the music program is to provide students with well-rounded, comprehensive music classes.

Performing is only one aspect; a thorough understanding of theoretical and compositional elements of music is essential. Therefore, your child will occasionally have written homework along with his/her regular practicing requirements. In addition to our main musical objective, other goals have been included such as dependability, responsibility, punctuality, teamwork and co-operation.

Cedar Hill Music Schedule 2017-2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 – 8:30		CONCERT CHOIR 7:55-8:55 (choir rm)	JAZZ BAND 8 (band rm) INT. STRINGS 7:50-8:55 (choir rm)	JAZZ BAND 7 (band rm) ADV. STRINGS 7:50-8:55 (choir rm)	JAZZ BAND 8
Advisory 8:35 – 9:00		CONCERT CHOIR	INT. STRINGS	ADV. STRINGS	
9:00 - 9:57	BAND: Gr 8 FRIM	BAND: Gr 6 EN (band rm & choir rm)	BAND: Gr 7 FRIM	BAND: Gr 6 FRIM	BAND: Gr 7 FRIM
Nutrition Break					
10:12 - 11:09	BAND: Gr 7 EN	BAND: Gr 6 FRIM (band rm & choir rm)	BAND: Gr 8 FRIM	BAND: Gr 8 EN	BAND: Gr 6 FRIM
11:09 - 12:06	BAND: Gr 7 FRIM	BAND: Gr 7 EN	BAND: Gr 8 EN	BAND: Gr 7 EN	BAND: Gr 6 EN
Lunch		VOCAL JAZZ 7/8 (choir rm) BEG. STRINGS (band rm)	STRINGS SECTIONALS (SEPT. - DEC. - choir rm) VOCAL JAZZ 6 (JAN. - JUNE - choir rm)	CANTARE (choir rm) BEG. STRINGS (band rm)	
12:51 - 1:48	BAND: Gr 8 EN		BAND: Gr 6 EN (band rm & choir rm)		BAND: Gr 8 FRIM
1:48 - 2:45					
3:00 - 3:55	JR. STRINGS (choir rm) JAZZ BAND 7 (band rm)	ORCHESTRA (Jr, Int, Adv Strings)	SHOW CHOIR (choir rm) 3:00-4:30	CONCERT CHOIR (choir rm) VOCAL JAZZ 7/8 4:00-4:30	

CHOICE OF INSTRUMENTS

Beginning Concert Band



Beginning **band** students have the choice to play between the following instruments: Flute, Oboe (with special permission),

Bassoon (with special permission), Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba (with special permission), Percussion (very limited number; percussionists ***must have piano experience***), and Electric or Acoustic Bass (very limited number).

Beginning Strings

Beginning **string** students have a choice to play between the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass.



All Music Students

These ensembles require a ***full year*** commitment. Please think about this commitment and have a serious discussion between child and parent concerning this. Please keep in mind that for ensembles that meet outside of the timetable, attendance is ***essential***; if you cannot make it to these rehearsal times, please talk with Mrs. Romphf or Mrs. McKnight to see if something can be arranged.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

For your convenience, we have set up a **Band** instrument rental night with Long & McQuade on **Wednesday, September 13th** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room. *The same night as the CH Open House



If you are not able to be present at this event, there are other reputable music stores to rent from:

Long & McQuade 384-3622

www.long-mcquade.com

Tom Lee Music 383-5222

www.tomleemusic.ca

Tapestry Music 590-0752

www.tapestrymusic.com

Prices will range from store to store so we recommend doing your research prior to renting.

WHAT IS A GOOD BRAND OF INSTRUMENT?

The quality of the instrument is extremely important as a good one will assist in making the playing of that instrument more enjoyable.

Please be wary of buying instruments from box stores such as Costco, Walmart, etc. These instruments are of very poor quality and are unreliable. When they break, they are not repairable.

Do not buy any coloured plastic "brass" instruments as they are not suited for the ensembles in our music program.

Make sure that when renting an instrument, they include the following:

Percussionists need to have at least 1 pair of drumsticks, a practice pad and a bell set with mallets.

Woodwind Instruments - cork grease, an instrument swab/cleaner, and for saxophone a neck strap.

Brass Instruments - Valve oil, and for trombones slide grease and NOT slide oil.

Reeds: Clarinets and Saxophones must have at least 3 reeds. For beginners, use at least a size "2 1/2". **Also, using a synthetic reed may be preferable as they are very durable, sound fairly good and much cheaper in the long run.**

Some questions to ask when making your decision are:

☒ Once I have bought an instrument what guarantee does it have?

☒ If I should change rental instruments, for example clarinet to trumpet, will **all** my rental money be able to be used towards the purchase of any instrument the company sells should we choose to purchase later?

☒ Will **all** of my rental be used towards the purchase of **any** instrument the company sells should we choose to purchase later?



ONCE YOU HAVE ACQUIRED THE INSTRUMENT PLEASE ENSURE THAT IT IS COVERED WITH THE NECESSARY INSURANCE, AS OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT CARRY ANY INSURANCE FOR THESE.

What Students Need In Class and At Home

What do you need in class?

- ✓ **Instrument** – must be in excellent playing condition.
- ✓ **Supplies**
 - Reed Players* – 3 reeds, cork grease, and a cleaning cloth
 - Brass Players* – valve/slide oil and a cleaning cloth
 - Bass Players* – patch cord
 - Percussionists* – must bring your own sticks
- ✓ **Pencil**
- ✓ **Folder** (For music worksheets)
- ✓ **Music** – once students have been given a piece of music, they are responsible for it and must bring it to every class. Lost sheet music must be replaced at the student's expense of 25 cents.

What do you need at home?

- ✓ ☒ Folding music stand
- ✓ ☒ A quiet and private place to practice
- ✓ ☒ A regular time in your schedule to practice
- ✓ ☒ Tuner (*optional)

Required Texts

These very affordable texts are available at any music store. Prices range from \$7 - 12.

Concert Band

Grade 6

"The Standards of Excellence"
Book 1 (Red)

Grade 7

"The Standards of Excellence"
Book 2 (Blue)

Grade 8

"I Recommend"

*Basses, please use the Baritone B.C. book

Strings

Beginning

Strictly Strings - Book 1

Junior/Intermediate/Advanced
Strings Explorer - Book 2

SmartMusic

Downloadable at www.smartmusic.com



smartmusic®

SmartMusic is a highly recommended computer program that will greatly help students practice. For \$36 a year, students will be able to practice with accompaniment tracks as well as have access to recordings and free music like Themes from Star Wars, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and much more. More information will be given later this month.

- * This program can also keep track of student practicing so students with this program will not need to hand in weekly practice records.

Classroom Procedures

- If you are late or absent, please bring an explanatory note from your teacher or from your parents.
- When music is given to you, do not lose it. A 25¢ charge will be given for a replacement. This is to cut down photocopying as well as helping you learn responsibility. When we give you something, it is important, so don't lose it!
- Please be respectful to other students, teachers, as well as property (that includes your own instrument).
- Ensure that your name is visible in big, clear, letters on your instrument case.



Evaluation

You will be marked on the following criteria:

- 50% **Performance** (Tone Quality, Note Accuracy, Rhythm Accuracy, Articulation, Dynamics, Phrasing, and Instrument Posture)
- 20% **Written Work & Tests** (Music Theory, Quizzes, Playing Tests, etc.)
- 15% **Effort & Practice Report** (Participation/Home Practicing)
- 15% **Professionalism** (Focus/Discipline, Dependability/Preparedness, Respects Others, and Attitude)

*****Students are required to complete his/her term playing/performance test in order to participate in field trips and to receive his/her term grade.*****

Practice Cards

Practice cards must be turned in every first band class of the week. A parent or guardian must initial it.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Marking is as follows:

3	Excellent	30 minutes, 5 days a week
2	Good	20 minutes, 5 days a week
1	Needs Improvement	10 minutes, 5 days a week
0	Incomplete	< 10 minutes, 5 days a week

* Please indicate on the online report if you practice another instrument in another ensemble or privately because that practice time can go towards your practice card!

Performances

Music is a performing art; it is essential for our ensembles to have public performances. It is also a part of the B.C. curriculum for music. Since we only have 3 major concerts a year (one for the end of each term) and have kept each concert to the length of an hour to an hour and a half, we ask for you to stay for the whole concert. The students work exceptionally hard and want to show off their work so it is a little discouraging to them when they see people leave before the concert is finished. We also ask that if you need to leave or enter the gym please do so in between pieces or during a break in the concert.

Similar to last year, we have split the groups into two nights to try to keep the concerts short. You should expect each concert to run for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Everyone is an important member of the team. **Students are expected to be at all end of term performances** unless excused by your parent/guardian. It is mandatory that students are to participate in end-of-term concerts. If there is any reason a student is unable to make it to any performance, the student must submit an explanatory note from a parent/guardian to his/her music teacher at least **1 week before** the concert date.



Concerts

TERM 1

Tuesday, Dec. 12th

Wednesday, Dec. 13th

Winter Concerts @

Cedar Hill Gym, 6:30 p.m.

TERM 2

Tuesday, Mar. 13th

Wednesday, Mar. 14th

Spring Concerts @

Cedar Hill Gym, 6:30 pm

TERM 3

Tuesday, June. 5th

All Bands BBQ in the Park
Concert @ Cedar Hill Field,
5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12th

Strings and Choir Evening
of Music @ TBA
7:00 pm

Music Festivals/Tours/Retreats

We believe that our students should have as many authentic experiences as possible. On our music excursions, students learn not only about music, but life lessons in organization, team work, discipline, and much more.

These trips however, are not a right, but a privilege. ***A student must be achieving a grade of at least a "B" on the 2nd term reporting period in his/her ensemble and must be doing well in his/her other classes depending on the discretion of the other teachers and the administration.*** Students are also not "excused" from homework and work missed and will need to make it up in his/her own time.

For any music trip/outing ***no student shall be denied the opportunity to participate because of an inability to pay.*** Please contact our principal Mr. Carter Geisbrecht for more information.

CHMPA

Cedar Hill Music Parents Association

The CHMPA is an organization where parents and music teachers collaborate to create enrichment opportunities for music students that the school would not otherwise be able to provide. This is done primarily through coordinating fundraising activities, but also includes planning special events. The CHMPA has an executive elected each year at the AGM, and meetings are held monthly during the school year. All music parents are members of CHMPA and are welcome to attend meetings, contribute to discussions, help set priorities and make decisions. In fact, you are encouraged to participate in whatever way you are able – the CHMPA wouldn't exist without you!

Funds raised through CHMPA activities are divided between a general account and individual student accounts. Purchases made through the general account are approved by the CHMPA in consultation with the music teachers and have included high quality musical instruments and equipment, festival fees and transportation, and much more – none of which would have been otherwise accessible to students. Students accumulate money in their individual accounts through their participation in fundraising activities, and can decide with their family how this money is to be used. In most cases, student account funds are used to help cover the cost of trips.

The CHMPA meets every second to last Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. Thank you for your commitment to our music program and we hope to see you at our next meeting!

Volunteer Opportunities

- ★ Fundraising: Magazines, Purdy's Chocolates, Poinsettias, Orchids
- ★ Bake Sales at Concerts
- ★ Volunteering at Concerts
- ★ Chaperoning Music Tours and Retreats
- ★ Car Pooling
- ★ Member at Large on Executive

**Our AGM is
Thursday,
September 21,
2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us at
email.chmpa@gmail.com

Thank you and we hope to see you at our AGM!

Class Descriptions and Start Dates

The Cedar Hill music program offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of performance ensembles. From choir to strings to band, students may choose to participate in 1, 2, 3, or more ensembles throughout the year. ***If a scheduling conflict occurs, please talk to Mrs. Romphf or Mrs. McKnight to see what can be arranged for you.***

Our extensive music program offers the following classes:

Concert Band (grade 6, grade 7, and grade 8): three times a week during the regular timetable. Students who do not choose to participate in band take part in a mini-exploratory block instead. ***Classes begin the week of September 11th.***

Jazz Band (grade 7 and grade 8): twice a week before and/or after school. We welcome all instruments in our jazz bands! Students must participate in Concert Band as a pre-requisite for this course. ***Classes begin the mornings of September 20th (Jazz Band 8) and September 21st (Jazz Band 7).***

Strings (beginner, junior, intermediate, and advanced): these are multi-grade classes that meet twice a week before and/or after school. All of the students participate in their skill appropriate group, as well as play as a full orchestra (Tuesdays after school). ***Classes begin WEDNESDAY, September 13th.***

Concert Choir (grade 6/7/8): twice a week before and/or after school. We will rehearse and perform separately as well as together throughout the year. ***Classes begin the TUESDAY before school of September 12th.***

Male Vocal Ensemble "Cantare" (grade 6/7/8): once a week Thursday during lunch. Students will learn vocal technique and gain confidence while rehearsing and performing. ***Classes begin THURSDAY, September 21st.***

Show Choir (grade 6/7/8): this is a multi-grade class that meets once a week Wednesdays after school. Students are exposed to a musical theatre style of singing (ie. singing with choreography!) Students must participate in Concert Choir as a co-requisite for this course. ***Classes begin WEDNESDAY, September 20th.***

Jazz Choir (grade 7/8) this is a multi-grade class that meets once a week after our concert choir rehearsal. Students are exposed to an introduction to vocal jazz. Use of the sound system and rhythm section will be explored. Students must participate in Concert Choir as a co-requisite for this course. ***Classes begin TUESDAY, September 19th.***

Cedar Hill Music Registration Form

Please completely fill out and bring to your first music class.

Student's Name (First and Last): _____

Grade: _____ Advisory: _____

Please check off the ensemble(s) you wish to participate in:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band | <input type="checkbox"/> Concert Choir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Band (For Gr. 7 and 8 only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Choir (For Gr. 7 and 8 only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strings | <input type="checkbox"/> Show Choir |

For **BEGINNING BAND STUDENTS**, you have the choice to play the following: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Electric or Acoustic Bass (limited number). Instruments will be chosen in class the first week of school. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Romphf at cedarhillmusic@gmail.com.

For **STRINGS STUDENTS**, you have the choice to play the following: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. McKnight at cedarhillmusic@gmail.com.

These ensembles require a **full year** commitment. Please think about this commitment and discuss it with your parents. Please keep in mind that for ensembles that meet outside of the timetable, attendance is **essential**; if you cannot make it to these rehearsal times, please talk with Mrs. Romphf or Mrs. McKnight to see if something can be arranged.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Who is the primary contact person? _____

E-mail (Parent #1): _____

E-mail (Parent #2): _____

- ☐ YES! I would like to be added to the Music Program email list and receive program information (Concerts, Trips, Program Updates, etc)
- ☐ YES! I would like to be added to the CHMPA email list.

CEDAR HILL MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION - CHMPA

VOLUNTEER SHEET

Return this form by **Friday, September 15th, 2017**. *Regardless of your availability to volunteer, all parents/guardians are asked to fill out this form so that we know that you have received it and read it.*

***Our AGM is on Thursday, September 21st
at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.***

Our music program is highly dependent on the support of our music parents for its success. Please fill out the information below and check the areas where you would be able to assist in some way. Thank you for much for your time!

Volunteer Opportunities

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Participate in our monthly meetings. The following positions are available to be filled. Please indicate the positions of interest to you.

- **TREASURER** – is in charge of the general and student accounts, deposits money in the bank, writes cheques and makes payments on behalf of the CHMPA.
- **MEMBER AT LARGE - Grade Representative**– Attends monthly meetings and gives input in decisions made.
- **PAC Representative** – liaison between PAC and CHMPA
- **CONCERT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** - Coordinating volunteers and jobs at our concerts.
- **FUNDRAISING** – Organizing and implementing a fundraiser for the program.
 - ☐ Magazine Sales (Autumn)
 - ☐ Purdy's Chocolates (Winter)
 - ☐ Poinsettia Sales (Winter)
 - ☐ Purdy's Chocolate Bars (Spring)
 - ☐ Hanging Baskets (Spring)
 - ☐ Other
- **Sorry, I cannot volunteer my time this year.**

If volunteering please fill out the following information:

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Cedar Hill Music Program

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

It is important for performances that our music students have the same performance uniform for our audience to focus on the music being performed rather than what they are wearing.

Music students may purchase the shirt we use as part of our performance uniform for \$15. We believe this is an affordable price and the shirt makes a good souvenir of a student's time in our program. Some t-shirts will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis for borrowing at performances, however we have a limited number of music shirts to lend out.

Our Music Uniform:

Concert Band and Strings

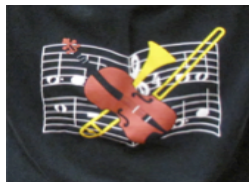
- Black Bottoms (a skirt with thick leggings - no see through nylons; pants - no faded black jeans, sweat pants, track pants, shorts or anything with a logo)
- Black socks
- Black or very dark shoes
- Cedar Hill Music Shirt

Concert Choir

- Black Dress Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes
- Cedar Hill Music Shirt

If you wish to purchase your uniform t-shirt, please complete the following form and return it by Thursday, September 28th to ensure t-shirt size. ***Though music shirts can also be purchased throughout the year, shirt size may not be guaranteed after this date.***

T-shirts will be in youth female and male sizes. There are samples of sizes in the music room.



Student Name: _____
(First and Last Name)

Advisory: _____

T-shirt size: Small Medium Large

Payment will be by:

- ☐ Cash
 - ☐ Cheque (made payable to Cedar Hill Middle School)
 - ☐ Online
-