

Cedar Hill Music

Ms. Cindy Romphf - Director of Bands/Choir Ms. Melissa McKnight - Director of Choirs/Strings

Welcome to our Music Program!



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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 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 detailed information regarding our music program, our COVID-19 Protocols for the music classroom, music registration information and more!

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 and Melissa McKnight

Is It Safe For My Child To Go Back to Participating in Music Ensembles?

While there are still many unknowns about the 2021-2022 school year, one thing is for certain: the importance of music in our schools and the impact it has on students' lives has not changed.

Educators and administrators across the country are working tirelessly to strategize ways to return to school safely. However, many of the current studies are focused on a return to the traditional academic classroom setting.

In order to ease some of your concerns and hopefully provide some peace-of-mind, please read the [CH Music Program COVID-19 Protocol Guide](#) to help you.

With this school year being somewhat different, we are fortunately now able to offer our full music program with our COVID-19 protocols in place:

- Concert Band (grades 6 – 8) , Jazz Band
- Concert Choir (Junior Gr. 6, Senior Gr. 7/8), Jazz Choir, Show Choir, Cantare
- Strings (Beginning Strings, Junior Grade 6, Intermediate Grade 7/8, Advanced Grade 7/8)

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 and Mrs. McKnight to see if something can be arranged.

HOW OUR MUSIC PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED FOR THIS 21/22 COVID YEAR

Within the regular school timetable, we have three levels of concert band classes which meet two or three times a week through the entire school year. These levels are based on grade level. Our choir and strings classes will meet twice a week either before or after school or at lunch. Junior Strings has one of their blocks INSIDE the time table (new!).

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 cooperation.

Cedar Hill Music Program Schedule

Please click on the following hyperlink to see our music schedule:

[CH Music Schedule 2021/2022](#)

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, French Horn, 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.

**Beginning strings will only be offered from September - December. Students will then merge into Junior strings in January.*



Music Program Registration for 2021/2022

To register your child into one or more ensembles of our music program, please fill out the CH Music Program Registration if you haven't done so already:

[CH Music Program Registration](#)

Instrument Rental Information

Unfortunately due to the current climate, we are not able to offer an instrument rental night at our school this year.

However, many of the music stores in Victoria are offering online instrument rentals. One would go to their website and go through the online rental process and the instrument will be dropped off at the school for you! A credit card will be needed to use the online rental. If this is an issue, you are more than welcome to go to the music stores in person as well or you can contact us at cedarhillmusic@gmail.com to explore options.

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 THIS.

[Tapestry Music Online Rental Program](#)

[Long and McQuade Online Rental Program](#)

Please ensure that your child sterilizes their mouthpiece before and after playing. Purchasing “Sterisol” mouthpiece sterilizing spray will greatly help in this endeavour.

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

Woodwind Instruments - “Sterisol” disinfectant instrument spray, Reeds (if applicable), cork grease, an ***instrument swab/cleaner***, and for saxophone a neck strap.

Brass Instruments - “Sterisol” sterilizing instrument spray, Valve oil, and for trombones ***slide grease*** and NOT slide oil.

Reeds: Clarinets and Saxophones must have at least 3 reeds to start with. 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 are much cheaper in the long run***

Percussionists need to have at least 1 pair of drumsticks, a practice pad and a set of mallets (med yarn, hard plastic) in a mallet bag. ***Unfortunately, these are not rented but may be purchased.***

Strings - tuner, rosin, shoulder rest for violins and violas, and anchor straps for cellists.

Some questions to ask when making your decision are:

- Once I have bought an instrument what guarantees 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?

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| <p>What is a good brand of instrument?</p> <p>The quality of the instrument is important as a good one will assist in making the playing of that instrument more enjoyable. We are fortunate enough that all music stores in our area offer excellent brands to rent.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Do not buy any coloured plastic “brass” instruments as they are not suited for the ensembles in our music program.</p> | <p>Required Texts for 21/22</p> <p>These very affordable texts are available at any music store. Prices range from \$7 - 12.</p> <p>Concert Band</p> <p>Grade 6 “The Standards of Excellence” Book 1 (Red)</p> <p>Grade 7 “The Standards of Excellence” Book 2 (Blue)</p> <p>Grade 8 “I Recommend” (Orange)</p> <p>Strings</p> <p>Strings Explorer - Book 2</p> |
|---|---|

What Students Need In Class

1) **Instrument** – must be in excellent playing condition.

2) **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 and mallets in a mallet bag

*All wind instruments are encouraged to use bell covers when playing and Sterisol Spray to disinfect their mouthpiece.

String Players - rosin, a tuner, and one set of spare strings, mask (required)

Choir - masks (required)

3) **Pencil**

4) **Folder** (To help organize their music and worksheets)

5) **Music** – once students have been given a piece of music, they are responsible for it and must bring it to every class.

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| <p>Classroom Expectations</p> <p><i>Be Respectful</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to your fellow students, to teachers, to the equipment, etc. <p><i>Be Responsible</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for your instrument, for your music, for all required supplies <p><i>Be Kind</i></p> <p><i>Be Safe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - follow our Covid-19 protocols at all times | <p>Evaluation</p> <p>You will be marked on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, Respect Others, and Attitude) <p><i>**Students are required to complete his/her term playing/performance test in order to participate in field trips**</i></p> |
| <p>Practice Records</p> <p>Practice records must be filled in every last band class of the month. A parent or guardian must be able to confirm the practice amount. Instead of using a paper copy, we are asking students to fill in the practice record online. This can be accessed through the ensemble <i>google classroom</i> or through our website at http://cedarhillmusic.weebly.com/practice-records.html</p> <p><u>FOR ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS:</u></p> <p>Marking is as follows:</p> <p>* 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!</p> | |

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|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Excellent | > 30 minutes, 4 days a week |
| 2 | Good | 20 minutes, 4 days a week |
| 1 | Needs Improvement | 10 minutes, 4 days a week |
| | Incomplete | < 10 minutes, 4 days a week |

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.*

Please have your child sign up for their ensemble google classroom. The codes are provided below. Our music program will offer the following classes for 2021/2022:

Concert Band (grade 6, grade 7, and grade 8): two or 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. **Grade 6 Band:** [ivkznkj](#) **Grade 7 Band:** [wpbo7nn](#) **Grade 8 Band:** [x3srie](#)
Classes begin the week of September 13th.

Jazz Band (grade 7 and grade 8): twice a week before and/or after school.
Grade 7 JB: [6gplng3](#) **Grade 8 JB:** [jawfnsq](#)
Classes begin the week of September 20th.

Strings (grade 6 and grade 7/8): these are multi-grade classes that meet once a week before or after school or within the timetable (*new for juniors this year!*). All of the students participate in their skill appropriate group.
Beginning [lk56bbo](#) **Junior (gr. 6)** [wkdzi3l](#) **Intermediate (gr. 7/8)** [ybzzlbt](#)
Advanced (gr. 7/8) [3dxcq4r](#)
Classes begin the week of September 13th

Orchestra (grade 6/7 and grade 7/8): these are multi-grade classes that meet once a week either before school or after school. All strings students participate in orchestra. Students will be assigned to the appropriate orchestra during the first week of strings classes.
Classes begin the week of September 20th.

Concert Choir (grade 6 and grade 7/8): twice a week before school and at lunch.
Grade 6 [4ak6eec](#) **Grade 7/8** [u4l37pf](#)
Classes begin the week of September 13th.

***Cantare, Show Choir, Vocal Jazz** (grades 6-8): these are multi-grade classes that meet once a week at lunch. *Concert choir is a co-requisite for this class.

We are doing a gradual start with our choral program. Class start dates for these specialty classes will be announced at a later date.

To Be Decided. More information to come.

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 for performances, however we have a limited number of music shirts to lend out. These shirts will be washed after each use.

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 order through School Cash Online by October 9th to ensure t-shirt size. ***Though music shirts can also be purchased throughout the year, shirt size may not be guaranteed after this date.***

**** The School Cash Online link will be sent out to all grade 6 families, however if you would like to be added to the list, please email cedarhillmusic@gmail.com and/or rpley@sd61.bc.ca***



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 meetings dates will be announced soon as it depends on participating member schedules. 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

**** Due to COVID, concerts and field trip opportunities are currently being reviewed.***

Please review the CHMPA Parent Handbook for more information on how the CHMPA is run, how fundraising works, how student music accounts work etc.

[CHMPA Parent Handbook](#)

If you are interested in joining our meetings, please email cedarhillmusic@gmail.com