



Welcome to Royal Oak Middle School's Band Program

Grade 6 Band – Why join?

When children join band or orchestra they increase their ability to analyze and evaluate information. They learn about teamwork and cooperation and find ways to make new friends through common interests. Music is creative and nurtures independent thinking, which can be applied to other areas of learning. Studies have shown that students who study music improve reading, spelling and math skills as well as listening and motor skills. Each accomplishment helps to build self-confidence.

Role of the Student

To be successful, a student must realize that playing an instrument requires some memory work, some self-discipline to practice regularly and a desire to face new challenges.

Students are learning a new language of symbols, notes and Italian phrases, which requires study. As in sports, students are developing muscles, fine motor skills and techniques to make playing easier. Routine practice improves performance.

Role of the Parent

Your child's success in learning to play an instrument depends a lot on you. Be generous with your praise and be supportive when discouragement or frustration sets in. Attend concerts, recitals, and/ or purchase CDs of good musicians.

Instrument Selection

At Royal Oak, I generally allow students to make their own choice of instrument. For students with physical disabilities, braces on teeth, or those small of stature, I can help choose an appropriate instrument. I would be happy to check over instruments from home or those borrowed from friends and relatives. Royal Oak has a limited supply of brass and woodwind instruments available which are distributed on a first-come basis. Descriptions of each band instrument can be found on the back of this page, and I will demonstrate each instrument in class so that students may see, hear and hold them. Size is often a deciding factor.

Another possible option would be to explore rental or lease-to-own packages at local music stores. There are many advantages such as rental monies going toward purchase price, newer instruments and better selection.

Victoria's Music Stores:

Larsen Music – Cook Street (close to Pandora)

Long and McQuade – Hillside Avenue (close to Douglas)

Tempo Trend Studios – East Burnside Rd.

Tom Lee Music – Millstream Road

In the case of percussion, students are required to start on bells or xylophones to develop mallet technique and note reading. The transition to drums is made when students show mastery of these techniques. Drums are not rented from the school. Students are supplied with a kit bag, bell mallets, and drum sticks, which are theirs to keep. A drum pad is issued to practice at home. Each year a different set of sticks will be added to their kit to make the student a well-equipped percussionist.

I have two bass guitars which are shared between six classes. If students choose this instrument, it is recommended they rent a bass guitar and practice amp from a local store for home practice. Other guitars and keyboard are not used in our band program.

Ms. S. Robertson
Band Director



School Office: Please note date _____ and time _____ received.

ROYAL OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 6 BAND SELECTION FORM

Return completed form to Royal Oak Middle School by **Friday, May 22, 2009**.
Forms are dated upon arrival at your school office and classes filled on a first-come system.

Student's Name: _____

Grade 5 School: _____

Describe any previous musical training (instrument & year(s) played):

Instruments: The Saanich School District provides a limited number of wind instruments available on a first-come basis, so please provide a second choice of instrument. Students wishing to play drums must have previous experience and/or approval of the band director; otherwise they must begin the year on a melodic instrument. Piano is not used by the band at this level.

Instrument of choice: First choice _____

Second choice _____

Please check one:

- Wish to borrow from the school
- Already has an instrument
- Will rent or borrow elsewhere

Regarding the FAAS and Band Program: Band is an elective course at Royal Oak. As band runs all year because of the skill development involved, students in band will take Band every other day, with FAAS on the alternate day. Therefore, the Band program is a full year commitment. Students participate in a sampling of Fine Arts and Practical Arts over the 3 years at Royal Oak School.

* * *

We have read the attached Band Program handout and understand the philosophy, commitment and responsibilities we are taking on.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Home Phone: _____

Check below if more information is required:

- Please phone me, I have some questions about band.
- See my comments on the back:

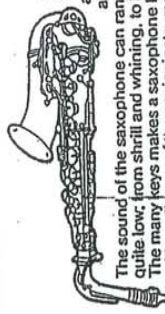
Return by Friday, May 22, 2009

Woodwind Instruments

Except for the Flute, woodwind instruments have a thin piece of wood, called a reed, in the "mouthpiece." When you blow into the instrument, the reed vibrates. This makes the air you blow vibrate, too... and creates the special kind of sound only woodwinds can produce.



Clarinet
Most clarinets are made from composition materials; however, some are made of a special African wood called Grenadilla. All clarinets, regardless of what they're made of, function the same way, and none of them are hard to play. Clarinets have a single-reed mouthpiece, and keys that open and close over holes in the tube to make the different notes.



Saxophone
The saxophone has a tapered brass body and an upturned bell. The sound of the saxophone can range from very high to quite low, from shrill and whining, to bold and brassy. The many keys makes a saxophone look difficult to play, but it's really one of the easier instruments. You can choose the small Alto sax, the medium-sized Tenor, or the big Baritone. The bigger the saxophone, the deeper its voice.

Flute and Piccolo
Because flutes once were made of wood, they are still classified as woodwinds; however, most modern flutes are made of silver, nickel, or a combination of both. Flutes do not have a reed — they are played by blowing over a hole near the end of the tube. Keys cover the tone-holes, and you press down on the keys to produce the different music notes.

The piccolo is a miniature flute, with the highest tone of all the band and orchestra instruments. Many times, composers use the sound of the flute to suggest the high, clear notes of singing birds.



Oboe
The Oboe is a true woodwind... with something extra! It has two reeds, instead of one. And it has a slender tube instead of a mouthpiece. Oboes have very high voices that soar over and through the sounds of other instruments.



Bassoon
The bassoon is also a double-reed instrument, like the oboe—but it has a deep bass voice. The bassoon is a very important instrument in both band and orchestra. Bassoons are usually made of maple wood, and are really extra-big oboes—so big, that the tube is "folded" in the middle. If a bassoon was stretched out, it would be almost nine feet long!

Brass Wind Instruments

All these instruments are made of brass, and have a mouthpiece which is shaped like a tiny cup. Instead of holding the mouthpiece with your teeth and lips... as with woodwinds... brasswinds are played by shaping your lips to fit into the mouthpiece.



Cornet and Trumpet
These two instruments are very much alike, except for the kind of sound they make. The cornet has a rich, mellow tone; the trumpet's sound is bright and clear. The bodies of cornets and trumpets are shaped a little differently, but they are played very much the same way.



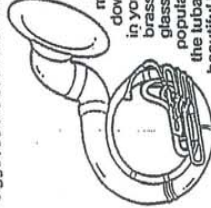
Trombone
The name trombone means "big trumpet"... and the tone quality of the trombone really earns that name. The trombone has a big, rich, tenor voice. Instead of using valves, like the trumpet, the different notes are made by moving a slide. Trombone sounds blend well with other instruments, which makes the trombone very popular in all types of bands and orchestras.



French Horn
The French Horn bell points to the back when you play, and the music sounds well in both bands and orchestras.



Baritone Horn
Although it is usually used as a harmony instrument in both small groups and large bands, the Baritone is also fine for solo work. Its pitch is the same as the trombone, and the tone is big and round. The Baritone is played a lot like the cornet, but it is much bigger, so the sound is much deeper.



Sousaphone and Tuba
These are two of the largest band instruments, with the lowest voices of all. Tubas are always made of brass, and you usually sit down to play them... holding the tuba in your lap. Sousaphones are made of brass or of fiberglass. Since the fiberglass one is much lighter, it is very popular for use in marching bands. Both the tuba and the sousaphone make deep, beautiful booming sounds.



Percussion Instruments

Most of the percussion instruments are used to keep time or "punctuate" the music played by other instruments. They are played by being struck with sticks, mallets or hands. This family includes snare drums, cymbals, bass drums, marimbas, vibraphones and timpani.

