

## SHORELINE MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

Welcome Grade 6 students to the 2016-2017 school year! It is great to be back at school and there is a lot of exciting information to pass on to you about this year's music program at Shoreline! In Grade 6, you have many options to make music and there is something for everyone.

There are 3 different types of music you can be a part of:

1. Band
2. Strings
3. Choir

You can be in one, two, or even all three!

### Concert Band

All students are welcome to join concert band! It doesn't matter if you have played music before or not, Concert Band is a great place to learn. It is a fun, exciting community of students who all come together to make some great music. It takes a combination of hard work, practice, and teamwork but the work is worth it! If you have already been involved in strings or choir, you come with a slight advantage, but everyone starts at the same place.

**Instruments for Grade 6 Concert Band:** Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Percussion. (French Horn and Oboe possible with certain conditions!)

**Instruments not in Concert Band:** Electric Bass, Electric Guitar, Piano, Drum Set, Bagpipes, Didgeridoo, Shamisen, etc.

### Strings Orchestra

Strings – All students are welcome to join strings classes. If you are a beginner or have less than one year of experience playing, join Junior Strings as this group will be at your level. If you have a year or more experience playing, speak with Mr. Leeson about the possibility of joining Intermediate or Advanced Strings (if it works with your schedule). The Strings Orchestra plays a variety of kinds of music and is a great place to learn, make music, and have fun.

**Instruments in Strings:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

### Concert Choir

Choir – All students are welcome to join the Concert Choir. It doesn't matter if you have sung for years or secretly sing when no one is around; We want you! All students in all grades will work together for a great year in Concert Choir. We will sing a variety of music and perform at various concerts and festivals around Victoria.

Dear Parent or Guardian;

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

I would like to welcome you, both parents and students, to the Shoreline music program. There are many opportunities to get involved and students can join in on all of our music making whether it be participating in band, strings or choir. An introduction to the music program has been given to students. At this meeting I stressed the commitment and advantages associated with being a member of all ensembles. Due to class scheduling challenges I must insist that those students choosing band, choir or strings fulfill their **commitment for the entire school year**. I also pointed out that all instrumentalists must practice an equivalent to 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week if they are to be successful; it is amazing what 20 minutes a day can do over the course of even 2 months!

**Please note that students are not limited to one ensemble.** These groups all rehearse at different times and do not conflict. We believe middle school is for exploring and trying as many things as possible. However, if your daughter / son is interested in joining several ensembles, please make sure they are aware of the commitment required to not only attend all rehearsals but also practice both instruments at home.

**If your son / daughter has expressed an interest in joining Choir,** please fill out the top of the attached form and check off that your child is interested in joining. We will have our first brief meeting at lunch on Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remind your son / daughter. Rehearsal times will be Mondays at lunch and Wednesdays after school 3:00 – 3:50 PM.

**If your daughter / son has expressed an interest in joining Strings or Band,** please read the attached form, fill out the appropriate sections, and have your daughter / son return it to Mr. Leeson by **Sept 13<sup>th</sup>**. Mr. Leeson will then review your child's instrument choices and possibly have a brief interview with your child about what instrument she/he should play. Information about instrument rentals and other supplies will then be sent home with your child. Please do not rent or purchase an instrument until your child's choice has been confirmed by Mr. Leeson.

**Important: Please note that we will be having our Headstart clinic on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for ALL Strings and Band members.** This will be held **at Shoreline from 5:30-8:30 PM both evenings**. This will make sure that our year gets off to a great start! Professional musicians will be coming to Shoreline to instruct students on how to play their instruments, starting from square one. Gr. 6 students will have a blast (kind of literally...) playing together for the first time. They will also perform their first short concert on the second evening. Attendance for both nights is mandatory so that no one falls behind. We will be learning A LOT! Please contact Mr. Leeson if you have a conflict with one or both evenings. (Note: This is a one time thing. Not a weekly or monthly event!)

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at Shoreline Middle School @ (250) 386-8367 or [shorelinemusicnews@gmail.com](mailto:shorelinemusicnews@gmail.com).



Sincerely,  
Mr. Chris Leeson  
[www.shorelinemusicnews.com](http://www.shorelinemusicnews.com)



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. LEESON BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged by Parent (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Formal Music Training (if any outside of school eg. Strings, piano lessons, elementary choir, etc.):

\*Please note that we will send most of our correspondence by email. This is done because it reduces paper waste and because it is usually more effective than letters sent home. Your privacy is important and we will not share your email address with anyone. Parent email addresses only please.

**I WANT TO JOIN (CHECK ANY THAT APPLY):**

**BAND** \_\_\_\_\_ **STRINGS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHOIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**IF INTERESTED IN JOINING STRINGS, FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:**

**STRINGS**

Do they have previous experience playing a Strings instrument? Y / N If so, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the instrument you would like to play: Violin Viola Cello Double Bass



**IF INTERESTED IN JOINING BAND, FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:**

**BAND**

NOTE: I will do everything I can to give students their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of instruments. Due to the nature of the band and a balanced sound, not all students will be able to get their 1<sup>st</sup> choice (Imagine if 75 of 80 students chose trumpet. How would we sound?) Please note if you already own an instrument listed below.

**Please Circle One Woodwind instrument you would like to play:**

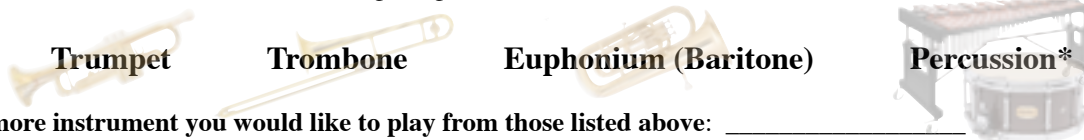
(If nothing is circled I will choose one for you!)



**Please Circle One Brass / Perc instrument you would like to play:**

(If nothing is circled I will choose one for you!)

\*Students wishing to play percussion must have a minimum of two years keyboard(piano) experience. These students must also demonstrate self-control and have little to no discipline problems.



**Indicate one more instrument you would like to play from those listed above:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank the three instruments you chose above in order of preference:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_