

Dear Shoreline Parent / Guardian

August 26th, 2023

Welcome back! I hope everyone is enjoying these last few days of summer. I am extremely excited for another year of music at Shoreline Middle School! This letter is meant to give you some information about things to come.

Only have time to skim this letter? Read the items in bold and get the information you need!



This year, Shoreline will be once again be offering three ways to participate in music: Concert Band, Strings Orchestra, and Concert Choir

Gr. 6 Parent/Guardians: Sometime in the first week of school, your child will receive a presentation about the music program. A letter with more info and a link to a google form for registration will be sent out near the end of that same week.

Gr. 7/8 Parent/Guardians: If students were involved with a group last year, they are encouraged to continue in the same activity. Generally, I find the classes become more and more rewarding the further you progress. If students were not involved in music last year, they are always welcome to join.

Students may join Choir in any grade. **Students looking to join Band or Strings for the first time in Gr. 7/8 should speak with me.** It is more difficult, but hard work can make it happen!

This year students will be participating in concerts and music festivals. **Gr. 7/8 Band and Int/Adv Strings will have a short overnight trip to Port Alberni in April.** Expect more details in the fall!

Gr. 7 Students can join Jazz Band this year! (alongside Gr. 8's) Jazz Band operates completely during lunch times and is a fun chance for students to play rock and jazz music with a rhythm section (drums, piano, bass, guitar). To be a member of Jazz Band, students must also be in either Concert Band or Strings Orchestra. For rhythm section instruments, there is a limited amount of spots available and priority is given to students with the most experience. As much as I wish I could create a space where someone could learn piano for the first time, a 50 minutes a week jazz band is unfortunately not that place.

Please also note that joining an ensemble is a year long commitment. For students to get the most out of music, they need to commit for a year. Don't worry! The hard work involved will be well worth it!

Please note that students are not limited to one ensemble. These groups all rehearse at different times and do not conflict. Middle school is for exploring and trying as many things as possible. However, if your child 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 (approximately 90 minutes a week for each).

Important Dates for September:

- September 11th - Gr. 7/8 Music classes and Concert Choir begin.
- September 13th - Gr. 6 music classes begin.
- September 14th - Rental Night with Long and McQuade (see below)
- September 19th and 21st - Headstart Clinics for Gr. 6 and Gr. 7 Band members (no strings or choir)
Gr. 6 Band: 5:30 - 6:30 PM / Gr. 7 Band: 7:00 - 8:00 PM.

Rental Night: On Thursday Sept 14th at 5:00 – 7:00 PM Long and McQuade will be coming to Shoreline with instruments and instrument supplies. Stop by for 15 minutes and pick up everything you need for this year in Shoreline Music!

Gr. 6 and 7 Band students will be participating in our Head Start Clinic on Sept 19th and 21st (Tues/Thurs). Professional musicians for every instrument will be coming to Shoreline to give clinics. 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. Gr. 8 Band students can attend if they would like to receive extra help or (with Mr. Leeson's permission) would like to assist clinicians.

No child at Shoreline Middle School will be denied access to this educational opportunity because of inability to pay for an instrument, etc. Please contact myself, or our principal, Gautam Khosla, if finances are an issue and a solution will be worked out. Your privacy will be respected.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at Shoreline Middle School @ (250) 598-4589 or cleeson@sd61learn.ca if you have any questions or concerns.



Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Leeson
cleeson@sd61learn.ca

