

Dear Gr. 7/8 Music Parent or Guardian;

September 7th, 2021

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had good return to their fall routines with at least some sense of normalcy in these crazy times. 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 Yes, Choir is back! 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 a later grade should speak with me. It is more difficult, but hard work can make it happen!

In regards to Covid-19 safety, music students will be spreading out as much as possible in their classes with the rear door opened for extra ventilation. Hands will be sanitized upon entry and exit of the music room. **Band students will wear masks when entering, leaving, or moving about the room (taking them off only to play). Strings and Choir students will always be masked.** Bell covers are optional this year, but I would encourage students who still have them to use them.

I am still evaluating what concerts or music trips might look like this year, and I imagine it will change as the year progresses. I will be following the guidance put out by the province and our district regarding gatherings and travel. I am optimistic we will be able to have many fun and rewarding opportunities for our kids this year, likely ones that were not possible last year.

Jazz Band will be returning this year! 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.

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!

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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 100 minutes a week for each).

Music classes begin on Tuesday Sept 13th (including morning rehearsals). Instruments are required by Sept 20th at the latest. Earlier is preferred and this will keep your child more involved in classes that week.

Rental Night: On Thursday Sept 16th at 5:00 – 7:00 PM Long and McQuade will be coming to Shoreline with instruments, instrument supplies, and method books. Stop by and pick up everything you need for this year in Shoreline Music!

No child at Shoreline Middle School will be denied access to this educational opportunity because of inability to pay for an instrument, music book, 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.

Gr. 7 Band students will be participating in our Head Start Clinic on Sept 21st and 22nd (Weds/Thurs) 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Fully vaccinated 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.

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



Please don't forget to check our website for schedules, dates, downloads, links, and news!

www.shorelinemusicnews.com

Shoreline Music 2020/21 Required Equipment:

(Print this page off and take it to the music store!)

Band and Strings:

- Instrument (Renting recommended, but serious students may want to buy)
- If not already owned, **a folding wire stand** for home practice and the trip.
- Pencil

Strings:

- **Rosin** appropriate for your instrument.
- Method Book: **Intermediate Strings members will need String Explorer Books 1 and 2** (for appropriate instrument). Book 1 is the book from last year, so most students should already have it. **Advanced Strings need only Strings Explorer Book 2 (same book as last year).**
- **Violin / Viola: Shoulder rest** or VERY THICK sponge and elastic. Please be aware that if students are not able to hold the instrument up properly with a sponge, they may be asked to get a shoulder rest.
- **Cellos: An anchor / cello stop** (It has many names. Basically, we don't want your cello to slide away from you while you're playing it!)
- Optional but Highly Recommended: Chromatic Tuner or Tuner App on phone.

Band:

- Method Book: **Gr. 7 Band members need Measures of Success, Books 1 and 2** for their instrument. Book 1 is the book from last year, so most students should already have it. **Gr. 8 Band members need only Measures of Success Book 2** (same as last year).
- **Percussionists should rent a practice pad and bell kit combo** for home practice.
- Gr. 7/8 Saxes/Clarinets: Please buy a box of number "3" reeds.
- Do not buy number "1 1/2" or "2" reeds.
- Brass players: Valve oil (slide oil for trombones).

No child at Shoreline Middle School will be denied access to this educational opportunity because of inability to pay. 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.

REMINDER: Please do not rent an instrument different from the previous year without approval from Mr. Leeson. Do not rent a bass, guitar, or drum set for Jazz Band practice unless Mr. Leeson has confirmed that your child will be playing it.

RENTING F.A.Q.

1. My child is playing percussion. What do they need to rent?

– Most music stores have a practice pad and bell kit combo available for rental. Please rent one of these. Make sure this includes a stand, sticks, and mallets. The school will provide the snare drum, bass drum, and keyboard percussion instruments during band class. The practice pad and bell kit are for home practice. Students will need to bring their method book to class.

2. When will we need the equipment?

- All Gr. 7/8 music students will need instruments by Sept 20th. However, I'd like to have as many students playing as possible during the prior week so please obtain your instrument as early as possible.

3. I found a cheap discount instrument in a department store. Will that work?

- My experience, both as a band teacher and as someone who worked in a store where instruments are repaired, is that these instruments break frequently and produce poor sound quality. Future repairs may make these instruments more expensive in the long run and may contribute to your child having a less enjoyable experience in band/strings. Not recommended.

4. What are the Instrument Rental Stores in Victoria?

- Long & McQuade 250-384-3622 (756 Hillside Ave, Victoria)
- Tapestry Music 250-590-0752 (828 Fort St.)
- Tom Lee Music 250-383-5222 (2401D Millstream Rd, Victoria)

5. What is the best music store for me to rent from?

- **All three businesses are very reputable.** I encourage you to shop around. Consider the following:
- Strike a balance between price and quality. Ask for the nicest sounding, most reliable instrument for its rental rate. Value! Students don't need an expensive professional grade instrument, but an instrument that frequently breaks, functions poorly, and sounds bad will make things much harder for your child.
- Ask: Will all of your rental money be used towards the purchase of the instrument should you decide to purchase it later?

AT THE STORE, PLEASE ENSURE THAT IT IS COVERED WITH THE NECESSARY INSURANCE AS OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT CARRY ANY INSURANCE FOR RENTED INSTRUMENTS.

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Chris Leeson
<cleeson@sd61learn.ca>
(250) 386-8367