



Spul'ukwuks Elementary School

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Ms. Elaine Stapleton
Principal

Mr Kristi Narbett
Vice Principal

17th September 2020

Dear Grade 5 & 6 Parents/Guardians

RE: Instrumental Selection and Rentals

I hope that all you have kept safe and healthy over the summer. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and to Band! Based on our district cohort model, Division 4 will be starting band this term including our transitional learners. All students will be added to a band class on the portal where assignments will be set and be expected to complete.

First, we are going to have students go through an instrument selection for band. When choosing an instrument, there are several factors that must be considered. Amongst these are: a student's physical compatibility with the instrument, the student's interest, and the needs of the band. Like a sports team requiring a certain number of people at every position, the band must have all the instruments fundamental to creating the sound of a concert band. There are eight instruments for students to choose from:

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|----------|----------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Flute | Alto Saxophone | Trombone | Snare Drum & Bell Percussion |
| Clarinet | Trumpet | Baritone | Bass Guitar |

You are able to view demonstration videos of these various instruments at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCTeSjpDsIs>. Please scrub through the video where each instrument is showcased. Please complete the instrumental selection form attached and hand it into the front office or to Mr Farrugia by the **23rd September**. If you are a transitional learner, please scan your completed form and email it to me at dfarrugia@sd38.bc.ca. It would be helpful in the email if you could also indicate your child's full name and division.

Instrumental Rentals

After you have received an instrument allocation from me (these will be emailed to transitional learners) you will then be able to go ahead and rent an instrument. Please note that **ALL** rentals are now **online** or at the **store**, rather than a rental evening in previous years. As Band classes are not running the full year due to classes being in cohorts, you might wish to prefer to choose to rent an instrument on a month to month basis rather than a full year. Spul'ukwuks is working with **Tapestry Music, Long & McQuade** and **Tom Lee Music**. The fees associated for rentals are available at each of these retailer websites. The direct rental links for these stores and contact details are as follows:

Tapestry Music (Tel: 604-736-3036) 4440 W 10th Ave, Vancouver, V6R 2H9	https://www.tapestrymusic.com/t-rentalprogram.aspx
Tom Lee Music (Tel: 604-273-6661) 3631 No 3 Rd #150, Richmond, V6X 2B9	https://www.tomleemusic.ca/rentals/rent-online/
Long & McQuade (Tel: 604-270-3622) 6760 No 3 Road, Richmond, V6Y 2C2	https://www.long-mcquade.com/rentals/band

In preparation for band class, as well as the instrument, your child will need instrument accessories (i.e, box of reeds, neck straps, valve oil, cleaning kits, etc.), Essential Elements Book 1, a 1" size ring binder folder, pencil and an optional music stand for home. Practising with a proper music stand will promote good posture and better sound production. **I strongly recommend that instruments are NOT purchased at big box stores such as Costco or through online retailers such as Amazon as they are of a lower quality and do not produce a high-quality sound.** This will hinder your child's progress and incur more cost if the instrument requires regular servicing in the shop.

****If there is any financial hardship regarding the rental of your instrument, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and our principal Ms Stapleton, which will allow us to make accommodations on a case by case basis.****

I would also like to reassure you that Band classes will be taking place in the gym this year, allowing students to adhere to physical distancing measures at all times alongside regular washing of hands that is already implemented across the school. Instrument disinfectant will be readily available for students to use when packing their instrument away and your child will be shown how to care for their instrument at home (tutorial videos will also be posted on the band class portal).

If you have any questions, difficulties or issues, I am more than happy to discuss these and can be contacted by email at dfarrugia@sd38.bc.ca or alternatively can be reached through the school office during non-contact time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Farrugia
Teacher of Band & Music