



Georges P. Vanier
Secondary School

G.P. Vanier Music Department

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Welcome to 2019-2020 in Georges P. Vanier Music Department!

A very special welcome to all new band members, parent/guardians and welcome back to all returning students and parent/guardians! I'm very pleased to continue to make music with you again this year.

Please bookmark our new Music Department Website that is home to all things Music Department related. One of the most important things to note is our performance schedule for the year. By transferring these dates into your own calendar, any scheduling conflicts will be flagged well in advance. Additional information is being uploaded regularly so please keep checking in. This handbook is not yet on line so please read through the details now and you can review them at a later date when online.

Highlights from 2018-2019

- Camp Homewood Retreat for Jazz & Choir
- Grade 8 Informance - Performance Night
- Winter Concert (complete with VIP seating, giant inflatables, and awesome baked goods!)
- Spring Concert and Grad Recognition and Canadian Band Association Awards
- TRIPS! TOURS! ADVENTURES! Port Alberni (laser bumper car craziness), Victoria (IMAX, epic meals, great performance, pool party), Calgary Tour (zoo, rock climbing, symphony night, bus life)
- Jazz Band Concert at Simms Park Summer Concert Series

Now for your first bit of homework for both parents and students:

- 1) Post page 5/6 on the fridge or by your home calendar
- 2) Complete page 7 and hand it in by MONDAY, SEPT 9

If questions arise, please send e-mail me at anytime. I am looking forward to another excellent year of music making and fun adventures. SEE YOU AT THE BBQ ON THE 12th!

Most Sincerely,

Mrs. Regan Livingstone

Concert & Performance Expectations



All music students perform in formal concerts during the school year fulfilling many of the Music Curricular Competencies in the process leading up, during, and after the event. In addition, students may be called upon to perform in various school and community functions such as assemblies, informal concerts, and pop-up events.

*Students are required to assist with set-up **before** and tear down **after** a concert.* Many hands make for light work. After concerts we must return our rehearsal and performance areas to their pre-concert state – or better!

- *Students are to be in full uniform for all performances unless otherwise stated.*
 - *Students are required to be at all performances unless suddenly taken ill or excused in advance.*
- Students absent due to illness or special circumstances are required to provide Mrs. Livingstone with signed note from the parent or guardian. **When a scheduling conflict arises, please provide at least two weeks notice or if dates of tournaments, meets, recitals are already known, please provide Mrs. Livingstone with a note by October 1st or as soon as you learn the date. We are a ‘team’ and each ‘player’ is required for a successful performance.**

Goal Cards (GCs)

Please review the following information with your student. Regular home practice is essential to achieving success in music. Goal Cards are a tool for students to be accountable for their own learning and are a way to personalize the learning of each musician in the ensemble. Cards are handed out at the beginning of each month and are due in the first week of the following month. For example – September’s GCs are due during the first seven days of October; therefore, the last day to hand in your September GC is Monday, October 7th. When GCs are distributed, students will be given time to review the upcoming assignments and set personal goals. At the end of the month, they will reflect upon their progress in order to advance their skills and technique the following month.



Parent/Guardians should see each goal card *at least twice*: at the beginning of the month to make note of their student’s goals (initial in the tiny box) and add your signature at the end of the month once you’ve reviewed your student’s progress & reflection. Goal Cards must be signed by a parent or guardian in order to be ready for assessment. Lost your Goal Card? Extra copies will be in the “Assignments” folders, on MyEdBC, and the department website. (example copy also in this package)

Assignment Due Dates

Students are responsible for handing in all work on time. Goal Cards are due during the first seven days of the following month. Late assignments will only be accepted with an accompanying note from home. All other assignments will be given a due date when distributed to the class and some will also be indicated on that month’s GC. Assignments include theory, history, and listening activities.

G.P. Vanier Choir

The choir is open to every student in the school! We focus on part singing and having a good time! Enthusiasm is a MUST! If you can talk – you can sing, all it takes is a little effort. © Our first rehearsal is on **Monday, September 9 at lunchtime**. Students will have 10 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to eat their lunches so feel free to bring them with you so that you’re ready to start right away. Commitment to this group is crucial to its success so plan your lunchtime carefully.

Music Department Uniforms

Uniforms are to be worn for all performances unless otherwise indicated by Mrs. Livingstone. Through your hard work, you have earned the right to wear a music uniform, so please keep your uniform, neat, clean, tidy and wear it with pride. Uniforms are not to be left in your locker, someone else's locker, or in the band room. Take care of it! Remember that Thrift Stores are good place to look for uniform pieces such as black pants and black dress shoes.



Black Music shirt (Gr 8's: Green T-Shirt)

Black pants*

Black closed-toe shoes

Black socks

Music Department Tie

**jeans/leggings/yoga-pants
are not acceptable uniform bottoms
pant length must be to the ankle (not capris)



Shirt purchasing information is online and will be discussed in class in September.

Materials

Students are to come to all classes with the following items (see course outline)

pencil with eraser

instrument in working condition

music book IN folder (both provided

duotang for GCs and assignments

extra reeds, valve oil, cleaning cloth/wand ***positive attitude!***

Cell Phones

Mobile devices are to remain off during rehearsals and are not permitted to be with the student during class time. A safe, portable, storage unit is available for students to store their phone. This is also helpful during emergency procedures when cell phone use can be dangerous and add to confusion. (i.e. Lock Down Procedures)

Reeds

If students need a reed during class, payment must be received by the end of the following class.

School Reed Price Guide: Clarinet \$2.00, Alto Sax \$3.00, Tenor \$3.50, Bari/Bass Clarinet \$4.50

It is highly recommended that you purchase a few reeds at a time - preferably a box from a music store – so that you have a spare on hand when one wears out or accidentally breaks. Reeds should last you about a month given regular practice but **MUST** be changed when they crack, chip, or get moldy (eww!) Strengths 2 ½, 3, or 3 ½ are most commonly used. Beginner clarinetists may start on a strength 2 but will quickly move to a 2 ½ strength. Beginner saxophones will start on a 2 ½ strength.

See me for information about double reeds (bassoon/oboe) or if you have questions.

Preferred Reed Brands: Vandoren (Traditional or V21) or Juno



Jazz Band - Grades 9-12

Rehearsals are held twice a week in the band room starting at 7:30 a.m. These means that your instrument is set up and you are ready to begin rehearsal at 7:30 a.m. Jazz Band is open to all students in Grades 9 through 12. The traditional jazz instrumentation includes Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Drum Kit and Percussion but this does not mean that other instruments are not welcome. Please see Mrs. Livingstone if you wish to be in the Jazz Band but do not play one of these instruments - we'll make sure there is a place for you!

First rehearsal is Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30 am!

Instrument Rental & Head Start Night

Grade 8 Students have received an additional package regarding instrument selection and rental. New band 9-12 students will be able to get their instruments earlier or on **Wednesday, September 18th. This is Rental Night at Queenesh Elementary School from 4:00-5:30 pm. I will be there to answer questions.** School instruments available to rent for \$100/year.

Beginning students will be eager to put it together as soon as they receive their instrument...
H O W E V E R...

to avoid accidental damage, resist this urge!

The next evening (4:00 – 5:00 pm, Thursday, September 19th), students will be receiving instruction on proper care, assembly, and use of their instrument at our district's very successful **Head Start Program.** Afterwards, they will have the skills to assemble and practice their instrument at home! YAY!

Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure that students are able to attend the Head Start Program at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. They will be receiving instrument-specific instruction from professional musicians with all other beginning students in the district. This is an invaluable opportunity for students and parent/guardians alike. In the days following, students will be asked to draw upon the knowledge they gain that evening therefore their attendance is extremely important. Adults are strongly encouraged to sit in with their students during the head start session so that they are able to help their student and maybe even try the instrument themselves at home.



All Students: Label Your Instruments!

All instruments – school, personal, or store rental – are to be labelled on both sides of the case with the following information:

First and Last Name, Grade, School, City, Province

i.e. Regan Livingstone, Grade 99, G.P. Vanier, Courtenay, BC

Use masking tape and a sharpie for clear and quick identification, not just a luggage tag! Tags can fall off when instruments are piled together, put in bus luggage compartments, or get caught on clothing.

Vanier Music Parents Association (VMPA)

A successful music program is only possible with parent and community support. This is a wonderful opportunity to help make your child's experience in music a terrific one. Any interested parent, guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or friend who wishes to get involved with is welcome to attend.

Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 12th at 5:30 pm in the Band Room following our Annual Music Department Welcome Back BBQ (3:30 – 5:00)
(see website to sign up to contribute to this event)



Meetings are generally brief (45 minutes max) unless significant event planning is required. Our purpose is to promote and support the entire Vanier Music Program and its activities. Meetings provide an opportunity to meet with other music parents as we focus on concert organization, and upcoming fundraising events for tours, equipment, and the VMPA Bursary that is awarded annually to a deserving graduate of the music department.

Music Dates 2018- 2019*

Please mark your calendars today!

September 2019

- 4 - First day of classes (Grade 8's do not need/bring instruments this day)
- 4 - Veseys Fundraiser begins
- 12 - Welcome Back BBQ (3:30 - 5:00) & VMPA Meeting (5:30 - 6:30)
- 18 - District Rental Night 4:00-5:30 pm Queenesh Elementary School (Gymnasium)
- 19 - District Head Start Night 4:00-5:00 pm Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School (Meet in Multi-Purpose Room)
- 24/25- Jazz Band/Choir Retreat (Camp Homewood)

October 2019

- 14 - Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- 18 - ProD Day (no school)

November 2019

- TBD - Poinsettia Fundraiser Starts
- 4 - Purdy's Chocolates Christmas Campaign Starts
- 6 - Grade 8 Band 'Informance' Night
- 19/20 - Comox Valley Concert Band Festival (Sid Williams Theatre) (Gr.9-12)
- 26 - Purdy's Campaign Orders Due

December 2019

- 5 - Winter Concert 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (all ensembles)

January 2020

- 6 - First Day Back at School (yes, instruments needed!)

February 2020

- 4 - PaintNite Fundraiser
- 19 - Jazz Night and Coffee House
- 26/27/28 - (dates TBD) BandFest at University of Victoria (Gr 9)
- TBD - LTMS and Cumberland School Visits (Jazz & Gr 9)

March 2020

- 16-27 - Spring Break

April 2020

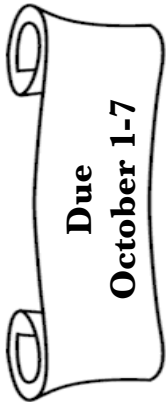
- 7/8 - Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival (Gr 8)
- TBD - Elementary School Visits; Queenesh, Huband, Miracle Beach - (Jazz & Gr 9)
- TBD - Incoming Grade 8 "Instrument Test Drive"

May 2020

- TBD - Rockies Tour 2.0 (Gr 10/11/12 Bands)
- 28 - Spring Concert 6:30 - 8:00 (all ensembles)

June 2020

* when TBD (to be determined) dates are confirmed, notices will be distributed via email and in class and placed on the website. Notices of additional fundraisers and performance dates will also be distributed in the same manner.



**Due
October 1-7**

Class Assignments

Choice Sheets

Due September 13

Written Assignments

As Distributed

White Karate Belt

Set up properly in a timely manner with all materials (instrument, folder, pencil) each class from Sept 27- Oct 4

Yellow Karate Belt (October)

#12 Cardiff by the Sea

Student Goals

1. _____

steps: _____

2. _____

steps: _____

3. _____

steps: _____

initials/date

September 2019

Name:

Class: Band 8 M/W T/Th

Focus: Routine, Consistency, Precision

email: Regan.Livingstone@sd71.bc.ca

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labour Day	3 School Starts!	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Music BBQ 3:30 VMIPA 5:30pm	13 Choice Sheets DUE	14
15	16	17	18 District Rental Night (Queensh)	19 Head Start (Mark Isfeld)	20	21
22	23	24 Homewood (Jazz/Choir)	25 Homewood (Jazz/Choir)	26	27 White Belt Starts (T/Th)	28
29	30 White Belt Starts (M/W)					

Student Reflection (to be completed at the end of the month)

○ ○ ○ ○

NYM A FM EX

Comments from Home (end of month)

Comments from Mrs. Livingstone

Signature: _____

Please Complete and Return by Monday, September 9th, 2019

Student Name: _____

Advisor Teacher: _____ A.G. #: _____ Room #: _____

Contact Parent Name(s): _____

Phone # : _____ Email: _____

I give permission for my contact information to be given to and used by the VMPA for information distribution solely related to G.P. Vanier Music Department Activities (concert reminders, helper requests, etc.) for the 2018-2019 school year.

I have received and read the G.P. Vanier Music Department 2019-2020 Information Package and have bookmarked the Music Department Website.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

This sheet is an opportunity for you to indicate the area(s) in which you may be able to assist us this year. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration, as it is only with your help that we can be an active music department representing our school and community. A successful music program starts with support from home!



- () WILL BE ATTENDING THE SEPTEMBER BBQ AND VMPA MEETING
- () DRIVING STUDENTS – number of passengers _____ (driver's abstract filed with office?)
- () DRIVE EQUIPMENT – () mini van () truck () station wagon () other _____
- () HELP WITH COMMUNICATIONS (i.e. phone/email) – to assist when necessary
- () BE A CHAPERONE () overnight () day trip () multi-day trip (CRC filed with office?)
- () HELP WITH FUNDRAISING
- () BOW TIE DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTION AT CONCERTS
- () SUPERVISE DONATION TABLE AT CONCERT
- () SUPERVISE/COORDINATE BAKE TABLE AT CONCERTS
- () CONTRIBUTE TO BAKE TABLE
- () ADVERTISING PERSON – place write ups/ads/pictures in newspaper, radio etc.
- () HELP WITH ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A CALL ☺

Comments:
