



BAND PROGRAM

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**PEMBINA TRAILS
COLLEGIATE**



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CYNTHIA WEEVERS BIO

I have taught the concert bands, jazz bands and wind ensemble at Shaftesbury High School for the last nine years, where I also serve as the Arts / Career Development department leader. I began and developed the level 6 wind ensemble in my first year at Shaftesbury, and we successfully performed as one of 4 high schools in the Province at the Provincial Family of Festivals (formerly the Optimist Festival).

After completing my degrees in trumpet performance and in education at the University of Manitoba, I taught private trumpet lessons to over 30 students per week. I then taught high school and junior high band at Fort Richmond Collegiate (where I graduated from!), Vincent Massey Collegiate, Oak Park High School, Laidlaw School and recently, Bison Run School. I completed my Master's degree in Music: Wind Band Conducting at Penn State University in 2011, where I also taught the university campus bands and an undergraduate level conducting course.

I have enjoyed performing with the Winnipeg Women's Jazz Orchestra and the Eastside Jazz Band, and I coordinated the University of Manitoba Jazz Camp for 8 years. I also guest conducted the Seven Oakes School Division Summer Band Camp for 4 years.

Over the last number of years, I have completed wind conducting symposiums at Northwestern University, University of Minnesota as well as the Canadian Wind Conductors Symposium here in Manitoba.

I enjoy spending time with my husband and three amazing sons! I love teaching music and can't wait to begin meeting our music students at Pembina Trails Collegiate!



PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Pembina Trails Collegiate Band Program aims to nurture life-long music lovers. Band is a place for everyone. Many students do not end up going into music as a career (although some do), but what is important is that through music, they develop as human beings. It is fundamental that band students are given the opportunity to experience community outreach by sharing their music with senior's homes, hospitals, sports games, and students in their feeder schools. These experiences build leadership, citizenship, rigor, self-discipline, confidence, purpose, a sense of humanity, and humility.

It is important that our band rehearsals are detail focused, the bar is set high and that we all show up prepared. In music, we push through challenges, preparing us for those challenges that we are faced with day to day as human beings.

Music making builds grit. We practice accepting a challenge head on and pushing through, with the trust that there is beauty and hope on the other side.

Music making practices stillness. In band rehearsal, we train ourselves to slow down and focus on the finite details with a sense of focus that creates stillness, a hot commodity these days. We practice sharing a magical space that exists when one player's sound meets another's in mid-air.

Among many things, music helps our students to process and shed some of their deepest and heaviest emotional layers while celebrating and multiplying the lighter ones, serving to lighten their own emotional load and lift their spirits. Music teaches us to find light through darkness, and above all, to seek moments of profound beauty each day.



CONCERT BAND

Concert band occurs inside the timetable for all band students. The grade 9 concert band students will alternate between concert band and jazz band in the same timetable period each day, for the entire school year. We suggest that all grade 9 students register for jazz band (totalling 2 credits in band). Historically, we have had great success with this model and students tend to love it. Please see below for details on jazz band registration for grade 9. The grade 10 concert band and grade 11 concert band will be a 35 min timetable period every day for the full year (totalling 1 credit). The respective grade 10/11 jazz band will occur at the lunch hour (2-3 lunch hours per week). Please see below for grade 10/11 jazz band details.

In concert band, students will develop their performing and ensemble skills sequentially through the grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 band courses. The music selections serve as the central course material and will advance as the grade level increases. These courses provide development in instrumental technique, reading skills, active listening skills, historical perspective, musicianship, expression and creativity. Each grade level will perform and study music from diverse genres and periods in music history. Performance opportunities are available to the students in the form of clinics, workshops, festivals, day trips and overnight trips. We strive to make band accessible to all, and we welcome registration from students who have not had the opportunity to be part of a band program previously.

60% of the concert band mark is in demonstrating progress of skills and concepts through group performance, individual playing, discussions, class interaction, self assessment, improvisation, transcription, listening, theory and playing tests. 10% of the concert band mark is dedicated to daily warm-up technique and procedure. 30% of the concert band mark is dedicated to contribution, preparation and teamwork. Each student will demonstrate in class, practice completed on assigned material. Students are expected to come to class with all notes, rhythms, articulations and dynamics learned and ready for interpretation and music making. The goal is for each and every student to be making a positive and effective contribution to the ensemble in every rehearsal. Students are expected to model respect, care, empathy, kindness and interest in each other's musical development. The goal is to create a meaningful, personal and lasting musical experience for the entire ensemble.



JAZZ BAND

Jazz band is designed for students who wish to perform in a specialized group studying the various styles of jazz music. Students will study and perform a variety of jazz selections with special attention given to technical competencies, jazz style, jazz concepts, jazz history and improvisation. Emphasis will be placed on the development of instrumental techniques unique to jazz, as well as the understanding of the history, form, style, and orchestration of jazz. The music selections and improvisational skills will advance as the grade level increases. Students must be registered in their respective concert band in order to register for jazz band.

GRADE 9 JAZZ BAND

Grade 9 students do not require an audition to register for jazz band and no experience is necessary. Everyone is welcome and we recommend that all grade 9 concert band students register for jazz band. This tends to be an enjoyable process, and we find that students tend to register for jazz band in grades 10, 11, 12 as a result. The grade 9 concert band students will alternate between concert band and jazz band in the same timetable period each day, for the entire school year. They will receive 1 credit for each concert band and jazz band (totaling 2 credits for the year).

This class is meant to provide leadership opportunities, as well as a mentorship opportunity for those who have already experienced jazz band. It provides a growth experience for those who are new to the genre. Students who are new to jazz band, tend to quickly catch up to those who have had a previous jazz experience. Students new to jazz band will begin on their respective concert band instrument, and hopefully shift to a jazz band instrument over time as they are comfortable (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, rhythm section). If students have already experienced jazz band, they will begin the year on their jazz instrument. This course is meant to develop all players, those who are developing and those who are looking for a challenge. It will prove to be an enriching experience for all!

GRADE 10 AND 11 JAZZ BAND

Grade 10 / 11 jazz band will occur at the lunch hour (2-3 times per week as selected by our ensemble), and students will earn an additional 1 credit for this class. It is suggested that students register for this ensemble if they have had previous jazz experience. If students have not had previous jazz experience, they may register and Mrs. Weevers will connect with the student to help immerse them into the ensemble. For the first year, it will be a grade 10 / 11 jazz band because we do not have grade 12's. However, in future years, it will function as a grade 11 / 12 jazz band as well as a grade 10 jazz band.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble will occur on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm. This class is a grade 9-12 enrichment opportunity, that is an extension of the regular band program (BND 10/20/30/40S). Because it rehearses outside of the timetable, it counts as an additional credit over and above the credit limit allowed. This course is available to all band students in grades 9-12, and all students must be participants in their respective grade level concert bands. No audition is required, and all are welcome to join with the commitment of practice and hard work. Wind Ensemble is intended to provide further inspiration and an opportunity for students to achieve a higher level of competency in the physical and cognitive skills of music through ensemble performance. It is suggested that a student register for wind ensemble if they are looking for an enrichment experience in music. This advanced ensemble performs level six (university level) music and students will be challenged beyond what the regular band program affords. Grade 9's and 10's who play in Wind Ensemble will receive extensive peer support by virtue of working alongside more advanced players, and they develop gradually to meet the rigor of the music. The grade 11 and 12 students have rich mentorship opportunities as a result.



SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

If my child has not had a traditional band experience, or feels unsuccessful on their current instrument, may they still join band?

Yes, absolutely! Our bands are comprised of students from many different middle schools, which results in our students possessing a variety of experiences and skill levels. We even have students who have not had the opportunity to join band in the past, and they come on board in their high school years. We believe in meeting students at their ability level and providing them with the instruction and tools to function in a refined music making scenario. Our bands will perform at high levels in our community, but we believe in supporting students in their desire to join this level of music making.

Do band students go on trips?

Yes, we will! We will likely have the opportunity for students to have two trips per year in the winter and / or spring. Students enjoy this opportunity to engage in a festival experience, while being connected to musicians across North America. We provide many fundraising opportunities throughout the school year to help make these trips affordable to students. We will also have a crew of student music librarians who earn money toward trips. We will aim to make this experience accessible to all band students.

What performance or festival opportunities will you offer?

Each year, we will perform in the Manitoba Band Association Provincial Family of Festivals. We will also hold two jazz band and two concert band concerts per year. We will also have the opportunity to perform in the community. We hope to have a Band Boosters Family Council to help us orchestrate these events.

What mentorship or outreach opportunities do you offer?

Grade 9-12 band students will regularly teach and mentor at our neighboring K-8 school (Bison Run School). Our students will also enjoy opportunities to sit side by side with middle school students in their middle school band. We hope for them to develop authentic leadership skills as well as empathy for young players. Our bands will perform for seniors' homes and sports games throughout the year. We find that students develop humility, and a global understanding of how these small gestures impact their world.

Is band considered a university entrance mark and credit?

Yes, high school band programs are Provincially recognized by universities and post-secondary institutions as being university entrance courses, meaning that they can be applied toward their high school average mark. Grade 12 students are able to earn their band credit as one of their five courses to be used for their university entrance average. They also report that the volunteer, mentorship and community activities in band helps to build their resumé.