



THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM



Linden Meadows

The Band Program at Linden Meadows is part of a proud, long standing tradition of high quality music programs offered in the Pembina Trails School Division. This Handbook provides an organizational framework and reference guide for students and parents outlining the philosophy, assessment procedures, policies, and expectations for students enrolled in Band in grades 6 – 8 for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Please read through the following material, make note of important dates, and acknowledge receipt of the information contained here by responding either in writing or via email to me at your earliest convenience.

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WHY BAND?

Students today are faced with many challenges that did not exist even ten years ago. The prevalence of social media sites, cell phones and interactive computer games may give the impression that our children are more “connected” than they were a generation ago, but often these technologies can have an isolating effect.

Studying a musical instrument and playing in a Band can help to balance this trend by giving students an opportunity to develop their musical abilities, through hard work and persistence, in an atmosphere that encourages group cooperation and communication in a unique way. Being involved in music engages every aspect of brain function, while making us more aware of our connections with others, not only inside the ensemble, but outside as well. Through the study of music, students can connect with the past and foster their own creative energies for the future. Perhaps no other single subject studied in school has the potential to so fully engage the hearts and minds of its clientele.

Playing in the Band has huge benefits for students artistically, intellectually and socially, and can have particular relevance for students in the middle years as they begin their struggle to find their place in the world and plan for their futures as citizens of the 21st century.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONCERTS

Concerts are an integral part of any performance based music curriculum. They serve as a culminating moment when months of hard work come together to present a polished product. In many ways, concerts are the most rewarding aspect of the program, as students have the opportunity to share their accomplishments with the people who are most important to them. Attendance at concerts is, therefore, extremely important, not only to individual students, but to the Bands as a whole, who rely on the contributions of every member in order to be at their best. With this in mind, I would urge all students, with the support of their parents, to keep track of concert dates and deal with conflicts in a timely manner. These dates and other important events are listed in this booklet, and on the school calendar.

UNIFORM

The school Band uniform is as follows;

- BLACK PANTS/SKIRT
- WHITE BLOUSE/DRESS SHIRT
- BLACK SHOES AND SOCKS

Students are asked to keep Band instruments on the shelves in the Band room during the day. All instruments must be clearly labeled with the students' name.

CONTINUITY

Band programs are designed as a seven-year program option (Grades 6 – 12). Those students who participate in band at the middle school level have the opportunity of continuing this option in any of the senior high schools in the Pembina Trails School Division.

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band consists of all woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Grade 6 students learn to play flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium or tuba. After completing one year of band studies, students can audition to play percussion, french horn, bass clarinet or saxophone for grade 7. Each grade level will form its own Concert Band and each band will consist of all band students in that grade.

PRACTISING

- Regular, scheduled home practice is an essential part of any Band program, but it can be difficult to find the time to practice every day. Research shows, however, that

skill reinforcement is an essential part of learning and is best done in small, regular sessions. With this in mind, I am asking all Band students to make every effort to practice daily, even if there is limited time available to them. Practising is a habit that cannot be taught, it must be engendered. Please support and encourage this habit in our young people. It will pay a lifetime of benefits!

Students in grade 6 must begin with short practice sessions of about five minutes at a time. As strength and endurance are built, more time can be spent at one sitting. By the end of the year students should be aiming for 30 minutes for each practice session.

- Below are some guidelines for effective practice. Parents are asked to support and encourage this activity. Please contact me if you are noticing any issues with practising.

ROUTINE

Make practising a routine during your day and practice at the same time every time you practice.

Appropriate times are after school or just before/after supper or in the morning.

Practice in a quiet place, away from any distractions.

STRUCTURE

Include warm-ups, scales, method book exercises, band parts, and fun time (own choice) for each practice session.

LISTENING

Encourage family members to listen to your practising. Listen to recordings of your instrument.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

All students are required to supply their own instrument, with the exception of tuba, french horn, euphonium, bass clarinet and baritone saxophone.

These instruments are rented from the school division at a cost of \$120 per year. A contract will be provided to students who will be renting these instruments in early September.

All other instruments can be rented from any of the music stores listed below;

MUSIC STORES

<i>Long and McQuade</i>	1845 Pembina Hwy	284-8992
<i>St. John's Music Ltd.</i>	1330 Portage Ave.	783-8899
<i>Accord Music</i>	6-1373 Pembina Hwy	452-1235

INSTRUMENTAL ACCESSORIES

All instruments require accessories for maintaining proper and vital functioning of the instrument. The following instruments need accessories:

- **FLUTE**

soft cotton cleaning cloth, cleaning rod

- **OBOE**

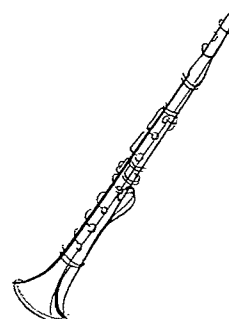
weighted cleaning cloth, reed case and at least two reeds

- **CLARINET and SAXOPHONE**

weighted cleaning cloth

box of reeds (2 1/2 strength) and reed case

mouthpiece brush



- **TRUMPET**

mouthpiece brush

valve brush

valve oil

tuning slide grease

- **FRENCH HORN/EUPHONIUM/TUBA**

valve oil (rotary for horns)

tuning slide grease

mouthpiece case

- **TROMBONE**

mouthpiece brush

slide lubricant (Yamaha)

tuning slide grease

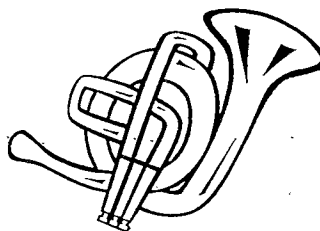
- **PERCUSSION**

drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1 Junior)

stick bag

timpani mallets (Mike Balter MBT3 General)

bell kit and practice pad (rented)



MUSIC STAND It is highly recommended that all students purchase a music stand to use during his/her practice sessions at home. The use of a music stand promotes good posture and playing position.

BAND METHOD BOOK

All Band students will receive a Band method book in September, which they must return at the end of the school year. Lost or damaged books must be replaced at the parents' expense.

Students are responsible for bringing their instrument, method book, music, and folder to *each* band class.