



BAND PROGRAM

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**PEMBINA TRAILS
COLLEGIATE**



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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 and grade 9 and 10 band students earn 1.5 credits for the year (this additional .5 for sectionals does not use up any of your ten credit allowance). 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 and 10 students register for jazz band (totaling 2.5 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, 11 and 12 concert band class will be a 35 min timetable period every day for the full year (totaling 1 credit). The respective grade 11/12 Senior Jazz Band will occur at the lunch hour (2-3 lunch hours per week). Please see below for grade 11/12 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 are proud to have a Beginning Band course at all grade levels for 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 1.5 credits for concert band and 1 credit for jazz band totaling 2.5 credits for the year. However, this will only occupy 2 credits of their available 10 credits for grade 9 registration.

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, 11, 12 JAZZ BAND

Jazz band for grade 10, 11 and 12 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 the teachers will schedule in the band appropriate to your experience. This ensemble will perform in regular band concerts as well as for school functions and events.

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 (10) 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.

Beginner Band

This course will occur inside the timetable for all grade levels, for the full year and students will receive 1 full credit. It is designed specifically for students who have not had the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in previous years, or who are new players. There is no band or music experience necessary. This is for students who wish to develop skill on a wind band instrument of their choice with the aim to join their grade level concert band in their following school year. Students will first engage in an instrument selection process to choose their instrument (flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba). Students will then need to rent or purchase their instrument of choice. It is a priority to remove any barriers from students receiving this valuable music education, therefore we will help our families to find the best and most affordable options for them. This course will provide beginner development of instrumental technique, reading skills, active listening skills, historical perspective, musicianship, expression, and creativity. Performance opportunities are also available to our Beginner Band students in the form of clinics, workshops, festivals, day trips and overnight trips. This is meant to be a re-entry point for students who would like to add music to their lives. High school band is a unique opportunity to develop lifelong music skills, connect with others through music and most importantly, to experience profound beauty each day.



SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

If my child has not had a traditional band experience, or feels unsuccessful in band, 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 also have students who have not had the opportunity to join band in the past, and they come on board by joining our Beginner Band course in their first year and then their respective grade band class in the following year. 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 and Brandon Jazz Festival. 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 and our annual Band Craft Sale. We also have a wonderful 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 schools. 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, school wide events 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 concert band and jazz 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 apply Concert Band, Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble credits toward their university entrance average (GPA). They also report that the volunteer, mentorship and community activities in band helps to build their resumé's.

CYNTHIA WEEVERS BIO

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, Vincent Massey Collegiate, Oak Park High School, Laidlaw School, Shaftesbury High School and 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 regularly adjudicate at the Provincial Level One Band Festival and also guest conducted the Manitoba Central Region Senior Honour Band and the Seven Oakes School Division Summer Band Camp.

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 see you at Pembina Trails Collegiate!

ROB CHROL BIO

For 13 years at Gimli High School, I've taught concert bands, jazz ensembles, and leadership courses. We worked with persistence and heart to co-create a learning community rooted in belonging, student ownership, and the pursuit of mastery. Together, the community successfully advocated for the construction of a modern rehearsal room, recording studio, and practice spaces, completed in the fall of 2020. We also established a credited Music Leadership course that explored the connections between learning through music and the development of healthy, sustainable self-awareness toward positive leadership skills. I am so grateful for my time with those incredible human beings.

I earned my degree in music education from the University of Manitoba, simultaneously studying jazz performance on saxophone. In the years since, I have helped music learners develop their skills and sense of self through private lessons on saxophone, clarinet, and jazz theory. In 2020 I completed a Master of Educational Research at the University of Calgary where I explored an interdisciplinary approach to fostering authenticity and courage in learning, teaching, and leading. I am very curious about how the emerging understanding of neuro-psycho-social development can help us build learning and working communities that encourage healthy development of the whole person.

Beyond my work in schools, I love performing as a jazz saxophonist around the province. I facilitate opportunities for adult learning at conferences, professional developments, and as a guest-lecturer at the University of Winnipeg. I am the current Chair of the Canadian Board for the International Music Camp and have been involved in supporting that beautiful place for 19 years. Now, I am fortunate to get to be part of the incredible community at Pembina Trails Collegiate. I am so excited for the adventures and opportunities we will create together! I hear PTC is the place to be.