



## Grade 6 Band Program

### Why Join The Band?

There are so many wonderful reasons to join the band. Aside from the obvious benefits of playing a music, there are a number of surprising academic benefits to students who study music. Students who take lessons on an instrument at a young age stimulate the brain in a unique way. Studies have shown that learning to play an instrument enhances a student's academic performance in math, language arts, foreign language and other academic areas.

### Role of the Student

To be successful, a student must realize that playing an instrument requires hard work, self discipline to practice regularly, and a desire to face new challenges. **Band is a commitment for the year and students who join will remain in band for the duration of the school year.** Band students will learn a new language of symbols, notes, and Italian phrases which requires dedicated study time. As in sports, students are developing muscles, fine motor skills and techniques to make playing easier. Routine practice improves performance. Generally students will need to practice for 30 minutes three times per week outside of the classroom to retain that knowledge and improve musically. **Please note: Students who join Band take Band on alternating weeks with PE.** Although Band students have less PE than non-band students, most Band students are involved in several extra-curricular sports activities within the school and the community.

### Role of the Parent/Guardian

Your child's success in learning to play an instrument depends upon the support at home. It is suggested that parents help establish a practice routine early, in a place which is free from interruption, well-lighted and comfortable. If possible, provide a folding metal stand and a mirror to observe posture and embouchure formation/placement. In the beginning stages, when efforts often resemble noise rather than polished musical tone, encouragement and consideration are extremely important. As your son/daughter progresses, show your pride in his/her musical achievements by arranging time to get together with friends for musical practice. Also, having your budding musician perform for family and friends is a wonderful opportunity for your child to shine!

### Required Equipment

Although Bayside does have a limited collection of instruments, many are 45+ years old and in poor working condition. It is suggested that students rent an instrument from a music store or borrow from family/friends. Please Note – used instruments should be inspected and "tuned up" by a repair person to ensure they are in good working order.

Each student will require a half-inch Black Binder to keep sheet music & theory worksheets. Also, students will need a copy of "**Traditions of Excellence, Book 1**" for their instrument. Reed players (clarinet, saxophone) will need **reeds** (a box of 10, size 2.5) which will need to be replenished throughout the year as they break or wear out. Instruments should also have a **carrying case** and **cleaning kit** to keep the instrument in good working order. Grade 6 Percussion players will need **snare drum sticks** and **hard rubber mallets**, and a **xylophone/glockenspiel**.

Band students will wear black pants, black socks, and black shoes, to the Evening Concerts throughout the school year. A Bayside Band t-shirt will be provided for all performances.

...2

## **INSTRUMENT SELECTION**

Students in Grade 6 Band are given the choice to play Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, or the Xylophone/Glockenspiel. Other than the xylophone, percussion instruments are not offered to the students until Grade 7 to ensure they learn mallet technique and note reading. The transition to percussion is made when students show mastery of these techniques.

At Bayside, I allow students to make their own choice of instrument but will limit some instrument choices in favour of a balanced ensemble. I find it best when students are not forced into an instrument out of convenience, but rather display a genuine desire to play a particular instrument. Of course, there are many factors which will contribute to the students' success: physical stature, teeth/mouth shape, braces. We will be holding an **Instrument Petting Zoo** for students to try out several instruments to help determine the best choice. Please mark your calendar: **May 24 6:30-8pm at Bayside**. This correlates with the Grade 5 Parent Night to allow parents to learn more about Bayside while your son/daughter is test driving the various instruments.

### **WOODWIND FAMILY**

The woodwind family is made up of wind instruments, in which sound is produced by the vibration of reeds in the mouthpiece or by the passing of air across the mouthpiece.

**Flute:** Originally made of wood, the flute is now made from silver or gold. It looks like a narrow tube with a row of holds covered by keys along one side. The player blows air across the small hole in the mouthpiece (much like blowing across a pop bottle) to produce a sound that can be either soft and mellow or high and piercing.

**Clarinet:** Made from wood, the clarinet produces a fluid sound when air is blown between a single reed and the mouthpiece. By pressing metal keys/holes with the fingers of both hands, the player has the ability to play many different notes very quickly.

**Saxophone:** The saxophone is the only woodwind instrument made of brass. A warm sound is produced when air is blown between a single reed and the mouthpiece. By pressing metal keys with the fingers of both hands, the player has the ability to play many different notes quickly.

### **BRASS FAMILY**

Brass instruments produce their unique sound by the player buzzing his/her lips while blowing air through a cup- or funnel-shaped mouthpiece. To produce higher or lower pitches, the players adjust the opening between his/her lips. The mouthpiece connects to a length of brass tubing ending in a bell. Students must have a good ear for pitch to play brass instruments.

**Trumpet:** The trumpet is the highest sounding member of the brass family. The brilliant tone of the trumpet travels through the 6.5 feet of tubing bent into an oblong shape. The player presses the three valves in various combinations with the fingers of the right hand to obtain various pitches.

**Trombone:** The mouthpiece of the trombone is larger than that of a trumpet, and gives the instrument a more mellow sound. Instead of valves, the trombone has a slide which changes the length of its approximately 9 feet of tubing to reach different pitches.

**Baritone:** The baritone sounds similar to the trombone, the tone is big and round. It is played similarly to the trumpet as it has three valves which players press with the fingers of the right hand.

### **PERCUSSION FAMILY**

With a name that means "hitting of one body against another," instruments in the percussion family are played by being struck, shaken or scraped.

**Glockenspiel:** The glockenspiel resembles a small xylophone, but it is made of steel bars. The glockenspiel is typically played with wooden or plastic mallets, producing a high tuned sound that is bright and penetrating. The name glockenspiel comes from the German language and means "to play the bells."

**Grade 6 Band Registration for 2018-2019**

Complete and return this form to Bayside Middle School before May 15, 2018\* to indicate your child's interest in enrolling in the Grade 6 Band Program.

**\* Please Note: Forms will NOT be accepted before 8:00 am, Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and faxes/scans will not be accepted. Classes will be created on a first-come, first-served basis and a waiting list may be necessary.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

- I will be providing an instrument for my budding musician.
- I will require a school instrument.

**Instrument Choice:** (pick first, second, and third)

**WOODWINDS:**

- \_\_\_ Flute
- \_\_\_ Clarinet
- \_\_\_ Bass Clarinet
- \_\_\_ Alto Saxophone
- \_\_\_ Tenor Saxophone

(may switch to bari sax later)

**BRASS:**

- \_\_\_ Trumpet
- \_\_\_ Trombone
- \_\_\_ Baritone (may switch to tuba later)

**PERCUSSION:**

- \_\_\_ Glockenspiel\*
- (\*NOTE: students wishing to play percussion & drums in grade 7 and 8 must learn Glockenspiel)

Please describe your child's previous music experience/lessons if applicable. Students DO NOT need any experience to join Grade 6 band.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please DO NOT rent/purchase an instrument before receiving confirmation of your child's enrolment in Band. You will receive confirmation via the email address you've provided, by the end of June.**

**Band is a commitment for the year and students who join will remain in band for the duration of the school year.**

**Please note: Students who join Band take Band on alternating weeks with PE.**