



Winston Churchill School

BAND HANDBOOK

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Introduction:

Welcome to the Winston Churchill School Band Handbook! My hope is that you will find helpful information here that can answer many of the questions that you may have about grade 6 band at Winston Churchill School. My contact information can be found on the school website. Please reach out to me if you require any further information. I look forward to finally making music with students in a traditional concert band setting!

Mission Statement:

The Winston Churchill band department, in partnership with its community, strives to provide a safe and caring environment for all students where each student can find success in the music making. We are committed to:

- 1) Equipping students with fundamental music competencies to feel confident and successful in lifelong music learning.
- 2) Students gaining and improving on skills such as leadership, responsibility, and teamwork.
- 3) Providing opportunities for learners to connect and expand their individual and collective sense of self, community, and the world by listening to, engaging with, and creating music in a variety of contexts.
- 4) Inquiring into music in ways that invite all students to construct and share their understandings of music as experienced in their own lives and the lives of others.
- 5) Sharing in positive experiences in music and fostering a love of learning to develop independent learners capable of responding, living with, and making change in the 21st century.

Band at Winston Churchill School

At Winston Churchill, students will learn an instrument to form a traditional concert band. The band consists of brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments. Students will go through an instrument selection process in September and are required to acquire the instrument they would like to learn by the end of September. We will work with and support parents or guardians and

their student to acquire an instrument. Students may choose any of the instruments that are introduced in class to play for the year. ***Grade 6 band is mandatory for all LPSD students.***

Each year, in band, students will work through the Saskatchewan curriculum, with students progressing in musical skills and knowledge from year to year, adding more to concepts they have already learned. ***Since band is continuous (students continue to build on previous skills and knowledge every year), it can be a challenge to rejoin after dropping it for a year or to change instruments.*** Therefore, if students enjoy band in grade 6, they are encouraged to enroll in band in Grade 7 at the school they will be attending.

Curriculum and Assessment

Band is part of the Saskatchewan Arts Education curriculum. In band, students learn how to play their band instrument and express themselves through music. Band students learn music theory and literacy, composition and improvisation skills, music history, and how their identity and the world around them is affected by the arts. Band also teaches students how to be excellent leaders, citizens, and team players!

How will I learn it? Band class is primarily a hands-on activity, but we also practice theory, do research, explore how music has impacted our identity, and explore how we can make an impact in the world through the arts. It is expected that all students will play and practice their instrument often in order to learn class content and improve! Most in-class learning would be considered group work, but individual practice also plays a large role in band. Units include composition and improvisation, performances, solo work, historical inquiries into musical genres, music, exploring current events, and their ties to the arts, and basic music theory.

How can I be successful in this class? Students are constantly being assessed on their literacy, musicianship skills, and personal growth. This includes theory quizzes, playing tests or activities, composition assignments, and self-reflection practice journals. Band class is designed to give students a safe space to build community, and better understand themselves and the world around

them through music. Therefore, students are encouraged to take risks by exploring new musical ideas and share their wonders and observations about music as they relate to their own lived experiences. The best way to improve is for students to practice their instrument regularly, prepare for theory quizzes using the resources provided in class or online, try out new ideas when composing, participate in classroom discussions, and hand in any other tasks or assignments!

Practicing Hints and Tips:

- Warm up your instrument by playing long notes. Focus on your sound, have a relaxed posture and most importantly: use fast air.
- Brass players should always start with buzzing on their mouthpieces.
- Focus on the notes that you have learned, the exercises in your method book, and the pieces you are playing.
- Practice when you can. For example, even if you only have a few minutes between supper and hockey try to pick one small goal to achieve, like learning the figuring for one note, or mastering one tricky measure in a piece. You will find a huge improvement in your musical abilities with just a little practice! Remember: it is better to practice a little bit everyday than a long period of time once a week.

Google Classroom

This year there will be one Grade 6 Google Classroom setup. Each grade level Google Classroom will provide a place to hand in specific assignments and provide other class specific information. Any other technology or apps being used in band will be introduced to students in class as needed. The Google Classroom code will be given to students in class.

Behavioral Expectations

In band class, students are expected to behave in a way that does not negatively impact instruction or the learning opportunities of self and/or others. In other words, students are expected to demonstrate the proper behaviors of a musician in training: arriving on time, bringing the proper supplies to class,

appropriately contributing to classroom discussions, and putting effort into musical performances, tasks, activities, and assignments. As well, part of the proper behaviors of a musician is to always be respectful of peers, teachers, clinicians, special guests, musical instruments/equipment, and the music we learn or engage with.

Acquiring your Instrument

Students playing clarinet, trumpet, flute, or trombone are encouraged to rent their instrument through St. John's music or one of the other listed music stores (see below). An instrument rental night is held at Bishop Lloyd Middle School each year to make it easy for parents or guardians to rent an instrument for their student from a music dealer. If you choose to purchase an instrument, please discuss it with your student's teacher beforehand to ensure the instrument is in good quality.

Recommended Music Stores

1. St. John's Music Saskatoon

640 Broadway Avenue

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

S7N 1A9

Phone: (306) 242-6292

Email: saskatoon@stjohnsmusic.com

2. Long & McQuade Edmonton

6633 118 Ave NW,

Edmonton, AB

T5B 0P1

Phone: (780) 471-2001

Note: There are three Long and McQuade locations in Edmonton.

3. Bandstand

4824 93 Ave NW,
Edmonton, AB
T6B 2P8

LPSD Owned Instruments

Students also have the option of renting a school owned instrument. The instrument rental fee is \$100.00. Students playing larger instruments such as tuba, or baritone are encouraged to rent their instrument through the school if they do not have their own. An instrument rental form will need to be completed before an instrument can be assigned to a student. For percussionists, practice pads can be signed out at no cost for at home practice use. Percussionists are also required to purchase their own set of sticks for in class and at home practice (see the below supply list).

Instrument Repairs and Care

Students are expected to take care of their instrument and keep it in good working shape. However, there are times where instruments will need to be repaired due to the regular wear and tear of the instrument. *Please note that if a student is renting an LPSD instrument, the \$100.00 rental fee only covers regular wear and tear only. The individual student is responsible for costs over and above regular wear and tear.* If your instrument is a LPSD owned instrument give it to your students band teacher so that they can arrange for repair. If a student feels their instruments may need a repair, please let their teacher know. If you are renting an instrument from a music store (St. John's or Long and McQuade), you can take the instrument to Sew in Tune for maintenance and repair.

Commonly Asked Questions About Acquiring an Instrument:

Q: I missed instrument rental night at the start of the year How do I acquire an instrument for my student?

A: There are two options for acquiring an instrument for your student:

1. Renting from a music dealer.
2. Renting from the school.

Q: *How do I acquire an instrument from a music dealer and which music dealer should I use?*

A: Parents or guardians are encouraged to rent from any of the dealers listed in this section of the Band Handbook. However, Bandstand provides the option of renting online which makes it easier to arrange in the event that you and your student missed instrument rental night.

- Parents or guardians rent an instrument from Bandstand using the online instrument rental form
<http://www.bandstand.ca/home.htm?location=rentalreserve>
- If you rent from Bandstand, you have the option of the instrument being shipped directly to you or having it delivered to your school.
- Parents or guardians are also welcome to arrange to rent from St. John's Music or Long & McQuade.

Q: *How do I find out the cost of an instrument rental?*

A: The price of an instrument rental will vary depending on the make and model of the instrument. Typically, dealers will have a variety of different price ranges for rentals.

- Bandstand has a variety of new, lightly used, or older instruments available to rent. Instrument costs will vary depending on the quality (new, lightly used, or older) and type of instrument.
- Please use the following link to find out more about specific instrument types and costs
<http://www.bandstand.ca/home.htm?location=rentals/pricing.html>
- You can contact other music dealers to inquire about instrument pricing as it will vary.

Q: *How do I acquire a school rental?*

A: If you are interested in a school rental, an instrument rental form can be sent home with your student or emailed to you directly. The instrument rental form will need to be returned to your student's band teacher or the office. Please let your student's band teacher know if you are interested in renting through the school via email. Typically, the instrument rental forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year. However, instrument rental forms can be made available at any time throughout the year. Once the form with payment is received, it will take 1-3 business days to have an instrument issued to a student.

Q: *Are students being assigned instruments and which instruments can they pick from?*

It is important that students learn to play an instrument that they will want to learn. Students are allowed to pick from a traditional concert band instrument. The instruments students can pick from are: *flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion.*

Supply Lists

Students are responsible for bringing the required instrument, instrument supplies, method books, music, paper, and pencils to every band class. ***Students will be starting this year by playing their instruments, but will be expected to use an instrument mask (provided by the school) at all times.*** It is recommended but not required that students purchase a collapsible music stand for practicing at home. All supplies can be purchased from any of the recommended music stores on page 6 and music stands can be purchased either online or at a music store.

Method Books:

Grade 6 students are given a method book. These method books will be assigned to the students at the start of the year and will be returned to the band

teacher in June if requested. Students are encouraged to only write in their assigned method book using a pencil.

Instrument Supplies:

Flute	-Tuning Rod -Cleaning Cloth
Oboe	-2x medium soft reeds (as needed) -Cleaning Swab
Clarinet and Bass Clarinet	-1 box of clarinet or bass clarinet reeds: strength 2 ½ (Rico Royal, Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren) -Plastic reed guard or reed holder -Cleaning swab - Cork grease
Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone or Baritone Saxophone	-1 box of alto, tenor or baritone saxophone reeds strength 2 ½ or 3 (Rico Royal or Vandoren) -Plastic reed guard or reed holder -Cleaning swab

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cork grease -Neck strap (avoid straps that are very stretchy and/or very cushioned)
Trumpet, French Horn, Euphonium or Tuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Valve oil -Tuning slide grease
Trombone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Slide cream -Small water spray bottle -Tuning slide grease
Percussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A pair of Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks for at school and at home practice - Optional: Practice pad for at home practice.

*Note: Reed players please discuss with the band teacher at Winston Churchill if you are considering changing reed strengths or mouth pieces.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding band at Winston Churchill School School please contact your student's band teacher. The band teachers ontact information can be found at <https://winstonchurchill.lpsd.ca/about/our-staff>

Important Dates

Important dates and information will be shared included in the Band Handbook that is emailed out in September of each school year. Details regarding specific events and dates will be emailed out to all parents and/or guardians.