MMS Band Information Handbook

**Mackenzie Middle School 212 1St St. N. E. Dauphin, MB R7N 1B7**  204-638-3323

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*“The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is very close to the center of a nation's purpose – and is a test of the quality of a nation's civilization”* -President John F. Kennedy, December 18th, 1962

**Please fill out the Band Information Form at the back of the handbook and return it to your director by September 30th.**

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**COVID-19**

In addition to schoolwide and public safety protocols, there are specific safety protocols for musicians from Manitoba Public Health in their *Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists* factsheet. Details not already covered by other protocols include the following:

* 2m/6’ separation between musicians, even within cohorts.
* Use of a mask is required while not playing a wind instrument.
* Water keys for condensation buildup will be emptied into hand towels carried by all brass players and stored in their cases.
* Wind instruments and mouthpieces are not to be shared.
* Music stands, chairs, and percussion sticks and mallets are not to be shared, and are to be wiped down with disinfectant before use by students. In the event that equipment needs to transfer between students, it will be wiped down first.
* Woodwind players will be reminded to regularly clean the inside of their instruments to reduce water buildup.
* Bell covers are to be used on all instruments except flute, as they have been proven to cut emissions of aerosols in a recent study. This is a divisional protocol. Flutes and other holes on instruments were not found to emit significant levels of aerosols. These will be provided by the school.

We are keeping tabs on current scientific developments, and we will comply with all Public Health orders and divisional or Departmental policies.

**Event Calendar (SAMPLE)**

**Please note that all live performances and trips are SUSPENDED due to COVID-19. We do not foresee trips being reinstated this school year, but Winter or Spring concerts may be possible depending on Public Health orders. Included is a SAMPLE event calendar for a typical year without exact dates.**

**Performances:**

* November: Remembrance Day Service (Grade 8 Concert Band)
* December: Winter Concert (Grade 6 and 7 Concert Bands and Grade 7 Jazz Band)
* December: Winter Concert (Grade 8 Concert Band, Grade 8 Jazz Band)
* June: Spring Concert (Grade 6 and 7 Concert Bands and Grade 7 Jazz Band)
* June: Spring Concert (Grade 8 Concert Band, Grade 8 Jazz Band)
* June: Awards Day (Grade 8 Jazz Band) [CONCERT CLOTHES NOT REQUIRED]

**All performances are mandatory for the groups listed and supersede other commitments. Concert clothes are required unless otherwise indicated.**

**Trips:**

* March: Parkland NorMan Regional Honour Band, Dauphin (Grade 7 and 8 Concert Band): $45.00
* April: Level One Band Festival, Brandon (Grade 7 Concert Band): $40.00
* May: Grade 6 Band Trip to Brandon University, Brandon (Grade 6 Concert Band): $50.00 [CONCERT CLOTHES NOT REQUIRED]
* May: Springfest, Regina [OVERNIGHT] (Grade 8 Concert Band and Jazz Band): $220.00

**Trip costs are approximate and subject to change. Participation in band trips is subject to students remaining up-to-date in their courses and maintaining trustworthy behaviour. Concert clothes are required unless otherwise indicated.**

Our trips require parent chaperones, and any parents wishing to chaperone for band trips should contact their child’s director as early as possible. A Criminal Record Check and a Child Abuse Registry Check are required to chaperone. These are available through the school or at the division office.

**Supplies**

Every band student requires the following supplies:

* A pencil
* A mask
* Concert uniform: **a white button-up shirt with long sleeves and a collar that can take a clip-on tie, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.**
* Woodwind players: Reeds (2 ½ strength for Grade 6, 7, and 8 sax players and grade 6 clarinet players, 3 strength for grade 7 and 8 clarinet players), Cork Grease, and a Cleaning Swab
* Brass players: Valve Oil (for trumpets, French horn, euphonium, tuba), Slide Oil (for trombones)
  + For all brass players: Slide Grease (this is different from slide oil!) and a hand towel to empty water into
* Percussionists: 5B Drum Sticks, Practice Pad

All supplies can be purchased from Dauphin Music & Electronics, 14 1st Ave NW, 204-638-4712. Students are expected to have **their instrument, a pencil, a mask, a bell cover, a hand towel (brass players) and their folder with all sheet music and their method book at every rehearsal. Bell covers, folders, sheet music, and method books are supplied by the school. The replacement charge for lost or destroyed method books is $15.**

**Concert Clothes**

As mentioned in the Supplies section, all students require concert clothes for performances: **a plain white button-up shirt with long sleeves and a collar that can take a clip-on tie, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.** These clothes should be as close to formal clothing as possible, but we recognize the financial challenge of keeping a rapidly growing child in clothes they do not often wear. If you have questions about the suitability of a piece of clothing, send it to school with your child and we can let you know if it’s workable. We recommend checking to ensure the uniform still fits ahead of performances, and if purchases need to be made, **purchase early,** as Dauphin can run out of black pants and white shirts when demand spikes.

**Instruments**

Grade 6 instrument choices are flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and euphonium. Grade 7 and 8 instrument choices are flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tubas. **Bass clarinets, bari saxes, French horns, euphoniums, and tubas are rented through the school. All other instruments should be rented through third-party instrument dealers.**

**There are three reputable instrument dealers that we recommend renting from:**

* Long and McQuade (Winnipeg) – generally offer free shipping to our school in September: [www.long-mcquade.com/](http://www.long-mcquade.com/) - 204-284-8992
* St John’s Music (Winnipeg): [www.stjohnsmusic.com](http://www.stjohnsmusic.com) - 204-783-8899
* Dauphin Music & Electronics (Dauphin) – trumpets and trombones only: 204-638-4712

**We strongly advise against purchasing instruments online from other retailers.** Many are cheaper or come in exciting colours, but these instruments are generally low quality and have significant playability issues. **We also strongly advise against purchasing used instruments unless you know someone who can test them by playing them before you purchase. We strongly recommend that families rent instruments at first if they do not already own an instrument for their child.** Benefits of renting include flexibility for swapping or returning instruments and the peace of mind offered by some dealers’ insurance options.

It is extremely important that your child has an instrument for the first day back to school so we can get down to business quickly. Ordering an instrument in September can result in lengthy delays that can hurt your child’s success in band. For assistance with navigating any part of this process, please contact your child’s band director at school or via email.

**Instrument Repairs**

**Under no circumstances should a parent or student attempt to repair a broken instrument.** While an instrument’s problem may seem simple to fix, it is easy to do permanent damage while attempting repairs without specialized tools or experience. Your child’s director is able to diagnose issues correctly and do simple repairs, or advise you to send it away to your dealer for complex repairs. If they cannot provide a loaner instrument while repairs are completed, contact your child’s director to work out a solution. Hidden instrument problems can also cause difficulty for your child’s playing. If your child is having unexpected difficulty playing, their director can inspect or test the instrument to see if the instrument is causing the problem and requires repair.

**Switching Instruments**

Switching instruments occurs only at the following times: **1) for Grade 6s, at the Winter Break to introduce new instruments to the band and at the Summer Break to balance the band, 2) for Grade 7s, at the Summer Break to balance the band, 3) in emergencies, where a student is experiencing intense difficulty or if the band loses a member on a critical instrument. Switches at the Grade 8 summer break are the discretion of the DRCSS directors.**

**Instrument switches are decided solely by the director on the following criteria, in order of importance:**

* **Needs of the student, in cases of switches due to difficulty with their current instrument,**
* **Needs of the band for instrument types,**
* **Suitability of the student for the challenge of the switch, as determined by effort in class and evidence of consistent practice, and, for the Grade 6 Winter Break switch, the quality of their application.**

Switching instruments is a difficult process where a student starts essentially from scratch on a new instrument. It requires significant time investment to rebuild the musician’s skills. It is not to be taken lightly. The primary purpose of instrument switching is to balance the band for a good sound, not for the novelty of a new experience.

**Under no circumstances should a student switch their instrument without first obtaining consent from both their director and their parents.** When filling out the registration forms for Grade 7 and Grade 8, **please write your current instrument.**

**Jazz Band**

MMS has two jazz bands, one in Grade 7 and one in Grade 8, which act as enrichment groups that expose students to alternative styles of music like jazz, swing, rock, funk, and Latin. Signups occur in the first two weeks of school, and these groups are open to all who wish to take part. They are also a great primer for the DRCSS’s jazz bands, which are credit courses that count towards graduation. These groups also allow students who play traditional instruments like flute, oboe, clarinet, euphonium, or tuba the opportunity to double on a saxophone, trumpet, trombone or rhythm section instrument, **availability permitting**. **When buses are cancelled in the division, Jazz rehearsals are also cancelled. Scheduling may be changed to accommodate Public Health orders.**

**Grading**

Band uses category weighting to determine grades at all three grade levels.

* 50% - Ensemble Contribution: participating fully in rehearsals, bringing all necessary supplies to class, and demonstrating understanding of skills and concepts
* 20% - Practice Records: practicing the required amount: 4 times per week minimum for 15 minutes for grade 6 (60 min./week) and 20 minutes for grades 7/8 (80 min./week) and returning filled-out practice records with parent signature.
* 10% - Self-Reflections: written assignments that ask students to assess their growth reflect on their progress
* 10% - Written Work: written assignments focused on knowledge of skills and concepts
* 10% - Playing Tests

**Practicing**

The quantity and quality of a student’s practice is the most important factor in their musical success. **All musicians in the program are expected to practice regularly outside of class.** Practice records are specifically weighted at 20% so that a student must turn in practice records if they wish to achieve Honours (80% or higher in every subject, including Band).

**Online Learning**

In the event that we move to a hybrid model or a fully online-learning model as the pandemic unfolds, Band will be integrated into Microsoft Teams. There will be a much greater emphasis on self-reflections, practice records, and written work to assess student learning. Your child’s director is available for extra help during online learning, and we strongly recommend that if you are encountering difficulty with material you are asked to practice, you schedule a video lesson with them so you can get back on track.

 Band Information Form

**NEW: Submit your Information Form digitally instead by aiming your phone camera at the QR code and filling out the form!**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR BY SEPTEMBER 30th. INFORMATION WITH ASTERISKS IS REQUIRED.

Band Member: Last Name\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Instrument\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: Last Name\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address\*:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your email address will not be shared with others.

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive newsletters from my child’s band director about band events and fundraising opportunities

OR

\_\_\_ No, I would not like to receive newsletters from my child’s band director about band events and fundraising opportunities

\_\_\_ \*I have read and understand the contents of the band handbook.

Do you identify as Indigenous? Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (We use this information on a numerical basis when applying for grants for the band program.)

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_