

September 25, 2009

Dear Grade 8 Band Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school! It is great to see your child in Grade 8 Band this year. My name is Mrs. Heather Clarke and I am the Grade 8 Band director. I am sending this letter home to you to let you know what I will be teaching in Grade 8 Band and how your child will be evaluated in my class.

Grade 8 Band is a continuation of Grade 7 Band. For the first month, we will be reviewing all of the musical concepts learned last year in the first book of the Essential Elements band book. In about the middle of October, we will be going on to Book 2. This book is a requirement for both Grade 8 and Grade 9 Band at Gimli High School. I will be sending home more information later in regards to purchasing that book.

On the report card, your child will be given an achievement code (1-5) based on the following criteria:

Performance

Demonstrates understanding of and facility with rhythm, melody, articulation, phrasing, and tone.

- Playing tests
- Practice records – completed and **signed by a parent** verifying practice done outside of class time. Grade 8's are required to practice 100 minutes per week, preferably 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. These sheets must be handed in every 2 weeks for evaluation.

Theory

Demonstrates understanding of note recognition, musical terminology, rhythmic comprehension

Musicianship

Displays responsible musicianship on a daily basis.

- Class participation
- Attendance at concerts and festivals
- Being prepared and organized with the necessary supplies for each class.

Students are expected to bring the following items to every class: **instrument, music folder with band book and sheet music, pencil, and reeds/oil**. They have the possibility of earning 2 points for each band class.

Students will earn 2 points for:

- bringing all supplies (instrument, music, pencil, reeds/oil)
- paying attention
- playing their best

1 point

- forgetting their music or pencil
- disrupting the class
- excessive talking

0 points

- forgetting their instrument
- being sent to the office

Grade 8 Band is scheduled for **Days 2, 4, and 6** of the school calendar. Please remind your child to bring his/her instrument to every class. Attached is a copy of a school calendar for your own reference. It is a good idea to highlight the band days so that you know what day your child needs to bring their instrument to school. In the event of injury, illness, or instrument repair (and your child is unable to play his/her instrument), please send a note or call the school and leave me a message.

The Grade 8 Band will be performing at two concerts during the school year - one in December and one in June. We will also be going to listen to a Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concert sometime in March or April and performing at the Optimist Beginner Band Festival in Winnipeg in April. The cost for the symphony concert is usually around \$10 and students only have to worry about bringing money for lunch when we go to the Beginner Band Festival. For the performances at concerts and festivals, the student dress is all black – top and bottom. Please no logos on the shirts and girls must wear skirts that are knee length or longer. More information regarding concerts and field trips will be sent home closer to the dates.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of making music with the Grade 8 Band. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at the school (642-8581).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Clarke,
Grade 8 Band Director

