

2019-2020

RMS MUSIC PROGRAM

Handbook

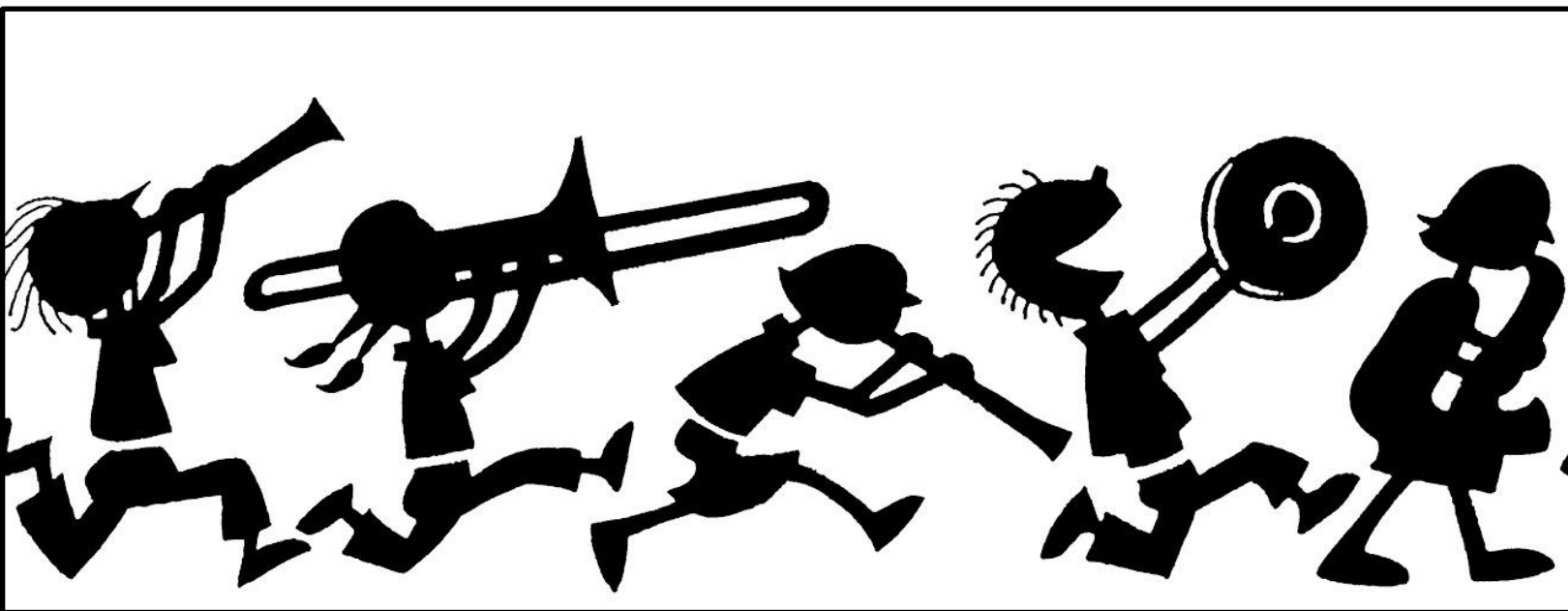
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Without music, life would Bb



Music Program Website:
<https://musicatrms.weebly.com>

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Welcome

Dear Music Members & Music Parents,

Welcome to the 2019/202 School Year! I am excited to start another great year of making music at Rutland Middle School.

Let me introduce myself. I was born and raised in Summerland, B.C. I attended university at the University of Victoria where I graduated with a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Education. This will be my second year teaching music here at Rutland Middle School. My main instrument is trombone but I dabble with them all, and of course I love to sing! I have taught music to students from grades K-12 and look forward to working with you all this year!

My hobbies include reading, watching movies, cooking and playing board games with friends and family. This summer my husband and I celebrated our second year anniversary by attending the Victoria Symphony Splash outdoor concert!

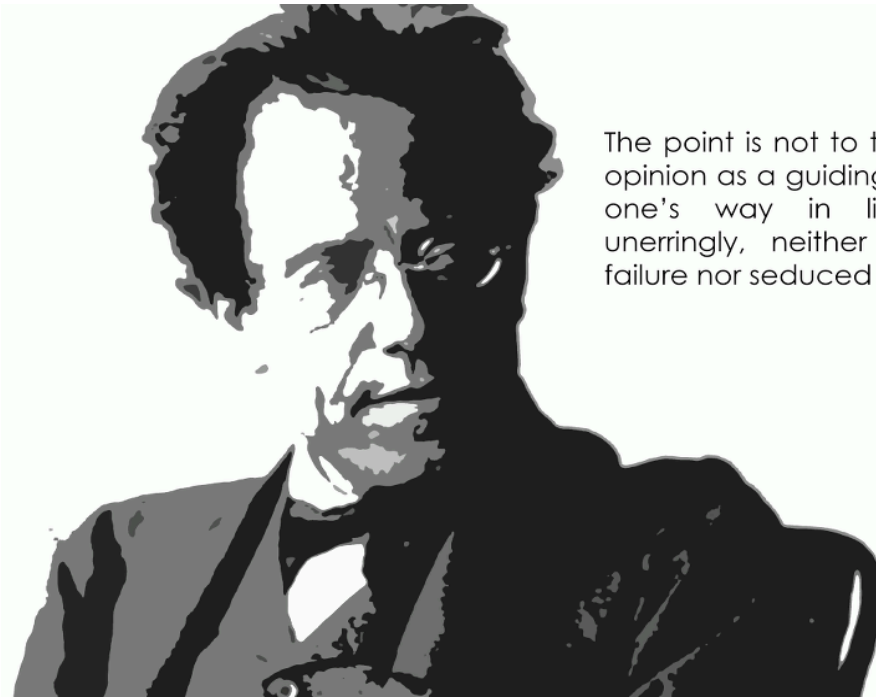
To all music students, I have planned a variety of exciting opportunities for you to enjoy this year. I hope you have a rewarding year and I will also be looking to all the returning students to be great role models for our new band students.

To parents, I will keep you updated on the program throughout the year via email, monthly newsletters and the occasional phone call. Please feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions or concerns you may have. Please refer to the Calendar of Events located at the end of the Handbook for information on concerts, festivals and other music events.

One last thing.... HAVE FUN!!! Being a musician can be hard work but it can be very rewarding and is always fun. Remember to bring a good sense of humor and a smile to each class. I am looking forward to the year and excited to start our work together!

Kind Regards,
Carmen McDowell
Music Director
carmen.mcdowell@sd23.bc.ca





The point is not to take the world's opinion as a guiding star, but to go one's way in life and work unerringly, neither depressed by failure nor seduced by applause.

Gustav Mahler

Mission Statement

My goal is to provide each student with a comprehensive music education by teaching the skills and attitudes needed to succeed as a musician and as a young adult. These life skills include:

- Building a strong work ethic
- Discipline
- Collaboration & communication skills
- Analysis skills
- Leadership and teamwork skills
- Innovative thinkers
- Building empathy
- Performing well under pressure
- Commitment to excellence.

It is my goal that through our class students will gain a holistic knowledge of musical literacy. My objective is for each student to reach a level of competency in theory and practical skills that will allow them to continue into secondary music studies, as well as fostering a lifelong appreciation of music.

Student Expectations

Classroom Expectations:

I have one main rule in my classroom and that is Be Respectful.

If students are respectful to themselves they show up to class & concerts prepared with all their materials, ready to be a part of the team.


If students are respectful to their classmates they are listening and only talking or playing during appropriate times and not creating distractions to others' learning.

If students are respectful to their teacher they are listening and only talking or playing during appropriate times to hear important information or feedback.

If students are respectful of our equipment they are keeping the room clean and tidy and caring for the instruments in appropriate ways.

It all boils down to:

"R.E.S.P.E.C.T... find out what it means to me!"



Every job is a
self-portrait of the
person who did it.
Autograph your
work with
excellence.

Grading Policies

A major portion of this class's mark is based upon instrumental performance and skill development. Home practice is necessary in order to master skills and literature.

Grades will be earned based on student's achievement in the following areas:

40% Ensemble Skills (practice journals, daily drills, sight reading, breathing gym)

40% Performance Skills (concerts, playing/singing tests, SM, projects)

20% Written Assignments (theory, speed tests, rhythm dictations, etc...)

Work Ethic will be marked daily on a 5 point scale based on the student coming to class with the following 5 items:

1. Their instrument/voice
2. Their music
3. A pencil
4. Instrument accessories (Valve oil, **3** working reeds, patch cords, slide oil, neck strap, water bottle for choir)
5. A good attitude that demonstrates social responsibility!

This will be done on an honor roll basis during attendance. Students will be asked to give me their number for the day. If spot checked and items are missing students will receive a 0 for the day.

Absences: If your student is going to be absent from class, please send me an email prior to the missed class or as soon as possible after. Automated attendance emails will be sent out to guardians to notify you if your child missed band class that day.

Social Responsibility:

Participating in a musical ensemble takes a certain amount of courage and it is important that EVERYONE respects EVERYONE else. Part of your mark will be based on social responsibility within this class. It is important that all students contribute to creating an inviting, comfortable and non-threatening environment in the classroom. Risk taking is part of performance and all students have the right to take risks without fear of ridicule or judgement. Ridicule and judgment will not be tolerated within the classroom and will result in immediate removal from class.

Concert Policies

Concerts are considered Group Performance Tests (GPT). Students must attend and are required to stay for the entire concert not just their ensemble's performance. Learning to be a respectful audience member and supporting one's fellow musicians is part of our curriculum. On extremely rare occasions students may have an irreconcilable conflict with a concert. Unlike other tests, it is impossible for students to "make up" a GPT. However, students will be able to replace a missed GPT by completing a written assignment if they have met the following conditions.

- 1) The student must demonstrate that he/she has made every possible effort to resolve the conflict.
- 2) The student informs Mrs. McDowell in writing with enough notice so the student's part can be covered in order that the student's absence will not damage the performance of the ensemble. If a student is so ill they cannot perform on the day of a concert, they must email/phone Mrs. McDowell directly first thing in the morning.
- 3) The student had a family emergency occur and notice was given at the first possible moment.

Concert Attire:

How an ensemble dresses for concerts is extremely important. A group who comes onto the stage well-dressed shows personal pride, respect for their audience, and gives off an aura of "something special is going to happen." For all performances, students are required to wear the "uniform" of the professional musician: **Concert Dress Black**. The overall look is classy and formal, casual attire of any kind is not appropriate. Students are free to choose the components of their dress blacks within the following guidelines:

- No jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, runners, or sports sandals
- Shirts must have long sleeves and collars for boys and sleeves with modest necklines for girls
- If girls choose to wear skirts, they must be knee length or longer and be accompanied with black stockings/leggings.
- Fabrics must be muted, nothing shiny or sparkly
- All students must wear black socks or stockings (going sans-socks is not appropriate) and black shoes.

*This is not intended to "break the bank", many of these items can be found at local thrift stores.

For JAZZ BAND and CHOIR ensembles, students can coordinate with Mrs. McDowell an accent color piece in the form of a tie or a scarf to go with their concert dress blacks.

MARCHING BAND students will wear the designed parade T-shirt which will be made available for purchase during marching season. Proper footwear of good walking shoes is also required.

Trip Policy

Over the course of the year the Music Department has organized a variety of off campus opportunities to supplement the musical education of our students. Musician travel is intended to provide students with educational, musical, and cultural opportunities while at the same time developing team spirit and the social skills inherent in working within a group. Overnight travel is an optional part of the music department program. Students who do not travel will still receive a full, balanced musical education.

Travel includes local festivals which may require missing a day of school as well as the bi-annual senior music trip. In order to be eligible to travel with the RMS music groups, students must maintain passing grades in all courses. Students must also demonstrate consistent social responsibility during the year at RMS. It is at the teacher's discretion in consultation with administrators and parents/guardians to decide at any time if a student is not trustworthy enough to travel.

The 2019-2020 school year falls on a Senior Trip year. Intermediate Band students have the option to attend the May 1st-3rd Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival in Kamloops. Any students still wishing to join the trip but have not paid their deposit yet, please speak to Mrs. McDowell immediately to see if there is still room available.



Parental Involvement

Chaperoning/Instrument Drivers:

Chaperoning field trips is a huge help to the Music Teacher! Some of our off campus opportunities require us to take a bus and sometimes we can't fit all our oversized instruments plus students on the bus. It's great to have parents who can drive these instruments to our destination and back again!

A chaperone's job is to assist the Music Director in monitoring, encouraging and supporting the students on an away from school trip and ensuring an educational and fun experience for all involved. Expectations of the chaperone include: integrating with groups of students, participation in all events, monitoring behavior, nightly room check (for overnight trips) and assisting the band director with situational encounters that may arise.

All chaperones will require a current criminal record check which can be done through the school office at no charge with two pieces of government issued ID. CRC's do take a few weeks to complete and be returned to the school, so if you are interested in chaperoning with the Band Program at any point during the year, please speak with Mrs. McDowell so we can get the process started right away!

Fundraising Helpers:

Successful fundraising in a music program requires parent support. I have chosen to organize and run Fundscrip and Fun day Friday Bingo at Chances casino to help raise money for the program and students who go on enrichment activities, however more fundraisers are usually needed to help families cover the cost of overnight trips. I need parent support to help organize and run these various other fundraisers. Special Event Coordinator's choose an event with the music teacher that they organize and facilitate. This can be done with a parent buddy as well so you don't have to feel alone! If you have an idea for a fundraiser please speak with Mrs. McDowell!

End of Night Concert Clean Up Crew! - THIS IS ALL OF YOU! - No volunteering necessary!

This ensures that everyone gets home at a reasonable hour, so consider yourself volun-told! ☺

Practice Enforcers: (kinda sounds like the next Avenger Super Hero right?!?!)

A great way to support your child in band is to let them perform for you at home so they get used to playing for an audience! Check out the Music Program Website for information on how to use Smart Music and what practicing should sound like with tips under the Resources Tab www.musicatrms@weebly.com

FUN-draising Policy

It is highly encouraged that ALL music students participate in Rutland Middle School Music fundraisers from the very start of their time in the music program. Money earned through student fundraisers will be tracked in individual accounts to be applied directly to your son/daughter's senior trip cost.

Students and parents/guardians who are in a difficult financial situation are asked to notify the Band Director and/or Principal to make arrangements for financial need. Each situation is handled individually and discreetly.

If families do not wish to participate in fundraisers they will be required to pay an increased initial deposit fee to secure their spot for the trip. Students will only be given financial support on the basis that they have participated in the fundraising opportunities offered by the Music Program.

*Any extra funds left in accounts at the end of your time at RMS will go back to the general music program.

Student participation in fundraising activities:

- Builds character
- Develops teamwork skills
- Improves communication skills
- Improves self confidence
- Develop a deeper appreciation for the resulting reward
- Develops a sense of achievement
- Develops a sense of community



Fundraisers for the 2019-2020 school year will include:

- Fundscrip - online gift cards
- Funday Friday Bingo nights at Chances Casino (see calendar for participating months)
- Domino's Pizza Coupon Cards (\$10 each)

Optional Additional fundraisers could be:

- Bottle Drive
- Silent Auction
- Cookie Dough/Magazine/Plant Sales
- etc.

If you would like to organize a fundraiser please contact Mrs. McDowell at Carmen.mcdowell@sd23.bc.ca

Instrument Rentals & Launch Night

RMS will be hosting an Instrument Rental & Launch Night on **Wednesday, September 18th from 6:00-8:00pm.** Rentals will be available from 6:00pm-6:45pm. After, Introductory Band families are invited to stay for a Smart Music demonstration along with a first lesson on instrument maintenance, set up, embouchure and first sounds.

It is recommended that students rent instruments from one of the two wonderful rental companies, Valley Wind and Reed or Wentworth Music. Both companies will be at this event and their prices are comparable.

As per The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause Within School District Regulation 425R – Student Fees (see www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". This clause in the Regulations provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

No child will be denied the opportunity to participate in Band due to not having an instrument.

Instrument Selection Process for Intro Band Students:

Over the first few band classes students in Introductory Band will be getting the chance to explore the instruments offered in Concert Band and even demo a few. We will also be discussing the importance of having a balanced band and how everyone can't pick the same instrument. Students will receive an Instrument Choice Selection form to discuss the options with their families. These forms are due back **FRIDAY September 13th** and I will do my best to arrange the students with their first or second choice and have instrument assignments posted on the band room door **Wednesday September 18th**.

Instruments available in Intro Band are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto and Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium/Baritone, Tuba, Bass and Percussion. Students who choose Percussion will be focused primarily on Xylophone and Snare Drum skills until after Winter Break.

Please do not rent an instrument before the instrument assignments are posted on the 18th.

****Parents looking to purchase instruments, please be aware of ISO's (Instrument Shaped Objects)** Instruments found on sites like Amazon or Costco are made in poor quality and many cannot be tuned properly. Most repair shops are now refusing to work on these instruments due to their poor designs and soft metals. If you are looking to purchase, please speak with me or one of our wonderful music companies, Wentworth Music, Valley Wind and Reeds, or Tapestry Music for more information on quality instruments, both new and used.

Calendar of Events

September:

18th - 6:00-8:00pm Intro Band Instrument rental night, Smart Music demonstration & First Lesson!

26th - 5:30-6:00pm during RMS BBQ meet & greet = ALL Music Parent Meeting

27th – FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

30th – Sun Peaks Trip Payment Due

October:

25th - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

30th – Sun Peaks Trip Payment Due

November:

8th - Remembrance Day Ceremony

22nd - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

27th – Sun Peaks Trip Payment Due

December:

11th - Winter Concert @ RSS (GPT)

19th – Sun Peaks Trip Payment Due

January:

24th - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

29th – Sun Peaks Final Trip Payment

February:

TBD – OSO Clinic and Concert

28th - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

March:

3th/4th - Penticton Concert Band Festival & Concert

TBD - Elementary School Tours

April:

TBD - Kelowna Kiwanis Choral Festival

16th/18th - Interior Jazz Festival

TBD - Kelowna Kiwanis Band Festival

TBD: Elementary School Tours

24th - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

May:

1st -3rd - Sun Peaks Con Brio Festival in Kamloops

16th - May Days Parade Marching Band!

22nd - FunDay Friday Bingo @ Chances!

June:

3rd - Year End Concert (GPT)



** extra events may be added as the year progresses, please read the monthly music newsletters for updates!

Handbook Scavenger Hunt

Your First Assignment for Band is to complete the music scavenger hunt WITH your parents/guardians. Answers found in the Handbook on the Home Page of the Music Website www.musicatrms.weebly.com *Hard copies available upon request!

When done, sign the back and return this page ONLY to Mrs. McDowell. Due Friday, Sept 27th.

1. What is Mrs. McDowell's email _____
2. What is Mrs. McDowell's Main Rule for the music room?

3. List the 5 items that if brought to class every day will earn you a Good Work Habit:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
 - v. _____
4. What is Social Responsibility? _____
5. What is a "GPT"? _____
6. What must you wear to a GPT? _____
7. What 2 things must students do to be eligible to travel with RMS Music Groups?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
8. What is one way YOUR parent wants be involved in the music program this year? _____

_____ (wishful thinking? ☺)
9. Will you be participating in Fundraisers this year?: Yes / No
10. What dates are the two GPT's this year?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____

Acknowledgment Form

I have reviewed the RMS Music Handbook and understand the expectations therein.

Student Name, Printed

Student Signature

Date

Grade

Guardian Name Printed

Guardian Signature

Guardian Contact Email

Guardian Contact Phone

Secondary Guardian Contact Email (if applicable) Secondary Guardian Name Printed

Please check all that apply:

- I would like to be considered for a Chaperone position
- I would like to help organize a fundraiser

*Please sign and return the back page only by Friday, September 27th.