



FNSS / RLA Music Department

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Welcome to Beginner Band!!

A big welcome to our grade 5/6 students who are new to band this year! I'm so happy to be working with all of you this year! I hope that the band experience at RLA will be fun and challenging, and that the students will learn and grow from their participation in it. We at RLA expect the best from everyone in the program at all times.

Please be sure that you and your parents have read and understand this outline. At the bottom of the last page, there is a portion that you will be required to sign and return to me, indicating that you understand the expectations of the band program.

If you need to contact me for any reason do not hesitate to call. Remember I am based out of the high school, and can be reached there at 774-6958 or by e-mail at djohnstone@sd81.bc.ca

Course Objectives

The student will learn how to play a band instrument as well as develop other important skills such as creativity, teamwork, cooperation and discipline through rehearsing and performing in an instrumental ensemble.

Performance Skills/Concepts

- Demonstrate proper posture and breath control while playing the instrument.
- Strive for an open and clear tone.
- Learn articulations such as basic attack, release and slur.
- Interpret expressive markings and gestures.
- Play Concert Bb scale from memory.
- Use Standard of Excellence Book 1 method book and sheet music.

Literacy

- Know the lines and spaces of the treble and bass clef.
- Know whole, quarter, half, and eighth notes
- Know time signatures 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
- Understand basic terms and symbols presented in the method book

Personal Growth

- Self respect
- Discipline
- Confidence
- Self control
- Patience

Required Equipment – must bring to every rehearsal!

Pencil

Instrument

Sound Innovations Book

Music Sheets

Drum sticks for percussionist; valve oil; slide oil; mutes; for brass players

Extra reeds for woodwind players

Evaluation

Students will be given a letter grade based on their level of performance, understanding of musical notation, written assignments and social responsibility (bringing instrument, following instructions, helping out, etc).

Theory

Learning to play your instrument is only one aspect to being a great musician. Music is a language, and like English, French or any other language it needs to be studied. We will be exploring various topics in music theory throughout the year so that you have a better understanding of what's behind all those black notes on the page.

Performance Tests

There will be, at minimum, one performance test per term. You will be tested on lines from Sound Innovations and other technical aspects of playing such as scales. You will be given at least one week's notice before any playing test. If students are not satisfied with their mark, they are more than welcome to try again next class.

Classroom Expectations

The music room is a safe learning environment and it is expected that everyone will follow the 5 P's:

1. Punctual - arrive on time for all rehearsals, don't pack-up until dismissed by teacher
2. Prepared - have all necessary music, pencils, duo-tangs, etc.
3. Polite - treat your peers and teacher in a respectful manner
4. Positive - any comments made are encouraging and constructive
5. Proactive - if you see something that needs to be done, you do it before being asked

Students who choose not to follow the 5 P's will be dealt with using a progressive system of consequences.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Name on Board
3. Detention
4. Meeting with teacher / student - letter sent home - behavior contract created
5. Meeting with teacher / student / principal / parents

Practicing

It is expected that you will practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week - or 20 minutes a day, six days a week. This may seem like a lot, but consider that in 1 hour and 30 minutes of TV viewing, you will watch over 25 minutes of commercials. This would be a perfect time to practice. Remember, professionals spend anywhere from 2 hours up to 6 hours *a day* practicing their instrument

Important Info

1. Students will be provided with a folder to put their music and assignments in.
2. Students are expected to show respect for other people's possessions. If it does not belong to them, they are not to touch / play it. Percussion equipment is strictly off limits! **Student will be given an automatic detention for touching any drums / mallets / piano, etc – NO WARNINGS!**
3. Any tests or assignments that are missed due to illness or vacations must be made up by appointment as soon as the student returns.
4. **DO NOT** write on music in ink (pencil only), and hand in all non-photocopied music at the end of the school year.

Website – www.fnssmusic.ca

The FNSS / RL Angus Music Department website is where you can find the latest information on everything to do with the band program. Upcoming events, assignments and concerts are all posted right on the home page. Parents will automatically be notified via e-mail of late assignments and days when students forget their instrument or music. Students and parents will be sent an e-mail with a password to log in to check their attendance, grades, financial transactions and more! Bookmark the site and check it often.

SmartMusic – www.smartmusic.com

SmartMusic is a great tool for all young musicians as it provides them with fun accompaniments, fingering charts, and on screen assessment of how they are doing. Although it is not required, I highly recommend that students purchase this software for their home computer (approximately \$40). Visit their website or contact Mr. Johnstone for most information.

Welcome to band and I hope you have an enjoyable year making music and having fun.

Photo / Video Consent

As part of promoting the band program and the fun we have, photographs and videos are often taken of the group during class / concerts / fundraisers and other activities. These photos are uploaded online to our website and shared on our Facebook webpage. No students are ever identified with names when posted.

I _____ **do / do not** (circle one) give permission for the FNSS / RL
(Parent Name)

Angus music Department to use pictures of _____ on the FNSS / RL Angus
(Student Name)

Music Department website and Facebook page for promotion.

We have read above course outline and understand the expectations of the band program.

Student's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

