



# Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 [www.rockheightsmusic.com](http://www.rockheightsmusic.com)

## ***Spring News from the Rockheights Music Program (Updated as of April 24<sup>th</sup>)***

Updated on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Dear Parents and/or Guardians:**

We have a busy term 3 ahead with some new events and changes ahead. Please read carefully.

### **Grade 8 Music Students' Walking Field Trip to Esquimalt High**

**1:35 – 4:20pm, Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Grade 7 and 8 Band, Strings and Choir students will be walking down to Esquimalt High to visit the music program there and to meet other students. Grade 8's from Shoreline Middle School will be joining us as well. A separate letter and email has gone home today about this trip. Please note that parent permission is required.

### ***Spring Into Spring!***

**7pm, Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Rockheights Gym CANCELLED**

Our original year-long plan included a trip to visit elementary schools in term 2, instead of a Spring concert. However, due to COVID, we were unable to go on that trip. I had hoped to schedule a Spring concert on April 27<sup>th</sup> instead, but unfortunately that won't be possible. (The gym is booked by a community group and we are unable to bump them.) I apologize for the confusion. Our next concert will be at **7pm, on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Rockheights Gym (or outside, weather permitting)**. Please save the date!

### **Grade 6 Beginning Band Festival,**

**12:15 – 3:30pm, Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Spectrum Secondary**

The grade 6 Beginning Band will be participating in the annual Grade 6 Beginning Band Festival. This is a non-competitive festival. It's an opportunity for grade 6's from all over the district to perform for each other, to hear other bands play and to work with a master teacher. There will be a separate letter going home about this field trip.

### **Grade 7 and 8 Music Retreat to Camp Pringle.**

**All Day, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Cost TBA**

All band, strings and choir students in grade 7 and 8 are invited to attend this one-day music retreat to Camp Pringle on Shawnigan Lake. We will be looking at new music for the year-end concert, doing indoor and outdoor team-building activities and enjoying a hot catered lunch. Students will be home in time for dinner. A separate letter will go home about this event.

### **Visit to Elementary Schools**

**Date and Time TBA**

We are looking for an opportunity to perform for our elementary feeder schools in June. Stay tuned!

**[See reverse for more...]**



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## Rockheights Music Parents

Strong music programs rely on the support of parent volunteers. Parents not only help with fundraising, chaperoning and concerts, but also to help spread information to other parents about issues related to the students' education. **We have not had a music parents' organization at Rockheights since 2019, but we really need one!** There are some big changes afoot in SD61. **You have likely heard that the school board trustees recently voted to cut all elementary strings programming, and middle school music by 20% for next year and another 17% in the coming years. This is in addition to the 6% cut we took last year. This will mean there will be fewer course offerings at our school next year – potentially no Jazz Band, for instance.** There are trustee elections coming up in October of 2022. Please consider getting involved now in any of the following ways:

- Email me at [rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca) to say how you think you can help. (Helping to spread the word, chaperoning, help at concerts, fundraising and more.)
- Join the [Save SD61 Music Programs Facebook Page](#)
- Join the [Advocates for Music in Schools](#) parent group
- Join the discussion on the [Greater Victoria School District Facebook](#) page or on [Twitter](#)
- Consider supporting or becoming a candidate for School Trustee and have a say in the future of education in Victoria.

## Concerns? Please Communicate!

All of the students have been working hard and deserve to give performances that reflects their hard work. All absences impact the group considerably (imagine a jazz band with no drummer for a moment!) Therefore, **all band and strings students are expected to be at the Final Concert on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** Although field trips are optional, every student is strongly encouraged to participate. If there is a *very compelling* reason why your child cannot attend these events, or if you have special concerns, please let me know as soon as possible at [rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca). A copy of all letters that have been sent home is posted to [www.rockheightsmusic.com](http://www.rockheightsmusic.com), as are updates, news and info, concert dates and schedules.

Thank you for supporting your child's music education! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Risa McDonell  
Music Teacher, Rockheights Middle School