



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7125 www.rockheightsmusic.com

Rockheights Music Program Year-End News

Final Concert for BANDS, 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 29, 2024
Final Concert for CHOIR and STRINGS, 7:00pm, Wednesday, June 19th, 2024
Rockheights Middle School Gym

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Dear Rockheights Family:

Congratulations on all your hard work and perseverance with music this year! [Studies](#) show, that students who participate in their school music program are more successful in school. I am so proud of the students' accomplishments this year and am looking forward to celebrating them with you in our annual year-end events!

To keep our evenings a reasonable length, there will be **two year-end concerts this year, one for bands only, the other for strings & choir only**. Families are welcome to bring as many guests as they like to these free concerts. Any donations are gratefully accepted and help to enrich the experiences of students in the program. Thank you!

Final Concert for BANDS, 7:30pm, Wednesday May 29th, Rockheights Gym

- **Students are asked to be at Rockheights, warming up in the large music room by 7:00pm that night.**
- **Please note that the start time has been moved from the original start time of 7:00pm to 7:30pm to accommodate some students who need the extra time.**

Final Concert for CHOIR & STRINGS, with special guests *Grade 5 Strings from Vic West and Macaulay Elementary Schools* 7:00pm, Wednesday, June 19th, Rockheights Gym

- **All students must arrive by 6:30pm.**
- **Strings students go to the large music room to tune and warm up.**
- **Choir students go to the gym for a short rehearsal with our accompanist.**



What are the details that we need to know?

- **Everyone is expected to attend the whole concert and to perform.** Please appreciate how much student absences impact everyone's hard work in these ensembles. It is a busy time of year for families, if you absolutely need to arrive late, or leave early, please get in touch with me and let's work it out.
- **Students are asked to please leave their phones with their parents** during the concert. Parents are allowed to take photos and videos, but are asked not to post them online anywhere.
- **We always perform in uniform** (red Rockheights Music t-shirt, dark and tidy pants, shorts or skirts and flat shoes. Gr. 5 students will be wearing their school's spirit wear.)
- **The gym doors will open to the audience 15 minutes prior to the concert.** Thank you for your patience!
- **These concerts should take about one hour and fifteen minutes.**
- **At the conclusion of the concert, every student must help** with returning all music equipment to the large music room. Parents are welcome to help, too, but it's the students' responsibility. It happens in about 15 – 20 minutes, if everyone does their part.
- **All SD61 Strings instruments and text books must be collected in the large music room at the conclusion of the concert on June 19th.** Band instruments will be collected during class time.

Do you need help?

Yes, please! If you are a parent or older sibling and are willing to help with these concerts, by stage managing during the concert (moving chairs and stands around), watching the donation bin, helping to collect instruments and books or general supervision, **please get in touch with me, or step forward at the concert to help.** Fast stage managing really helps to trim the length of a concert and make it more action-packed for everyone.

What happens after the concert?

Music classes continue as usual until the last week of June. There won't be another performance test in term 3, but there will be a theory test, and of course some time to relax and celebrate an amazing year! There are no music classes during Rock Royale, happening in the last week of June.

What else have music students been up to this term?

Grade 7 & 8 band, strings and choir students had a great time in Vancouver on April 10th and 11th. The students were kind and courteous to everyone who helped us, and really made us proud! We had a great time in our musical theatre workshop, sightseeing on Granville Island,



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7125 www.rockheightsmusic.com

learning stories from a Squamish elder in the *Hiwus* Feast House on Grouse Mountain, making art and snowshoeing! We had a blast! Rockheights strings students performed in the **District Strings Finale Concert on May 7th** to an enormous crowd. An estimated 850 students performed from 31 different schools. The Grade 6 Beginning Band did a fantastic job at the **Grade 6 Beginning Band Festival on Thursday, May 9th**! We were really lucky to have an extra long clinic with Juno-award winning jazz saxophonist Ryan Oliver, and Jeff Weaver, Director of the Oak Bay Bands. Every student bravely improvised!

What's happening for Rockheights Music next year?

A budget was passed, and I'm happy to report that there will be NO cuts to middle school music next year. **All of the same ensembles will be offered next year** (choir, band, jazz band and strings), but there may be some small changes to the timetable. Sadly, there were **cuts to the grade 5 strings program**, however, which will be offered at a limited number of locations next year. There will not be an overnight trip scheduled for the 2024 2025 school year. Instead, there may be an opportunity to do a **fundraising event featuring student solo and small group performances**, to raise funds for the **next overnight trip, anticipated to be the Spring of 2025 2026**. The music program timetable, concert dates and travel dates can be found on www.rockheightsmusic.com as soon as they are available. Parents are encouraged to get in touch with me at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca if they have questions or concerns about next year.

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting your child's music education this year. Your support and encouragement sends them a powerful message of **love and connection to their work**, and helps them to understand that all their hard work is worth the effort. To all of our grade 8's, you will be dearly missed at Rockheights – please come visit! Have a wonderful summer!

Fondly,

Risa McDonell

p.s. Please read on for very important information about how to return school books and instruments.



HOW TO RETURN YOUR INSTRUMENTS AND BOOKS

Books and instruments are due back by June 19th. Please prepare your instruments for return carefully and considerately by doing the following:

For ALL BOOKS:

- ✓ **Drop your books** in the appropriate bin in the large music room. Bins are labelled. Paper folders and photocopied sheet music can be recycled or kept.

For ALL INSTRUMENTS:

- ✓ **Empty the case** of any personal belongings, for example pencils, papers, rosin, reeds or other supplies which you purchased yourself.
- ✓ **Vacuum or brush out the case** of any lint or debris.
- ✓ **Leave a note in the case describing any problems** with the instrument (“fine tuner missing” “octave key doesn’t cover” etc.)
- ✓ **Make sure your name is clearly visible** on the case, either on a luggage tag or painter’s tape.

For STRING instruments:

- ✓ **Wipe off any rosin dust** from the instrument with a soft, DRY cloth.
- ✓ **Unwind the bow.**

For WOODWIND and BRASS instruments:

- ✓ **Wash the mouthpiece** (ligature and mouthpiece cap) in warm (not hot), soapy water. Wipe **dry fully** before putting back in the case.

You can use the sink in the music room to complete these tasks. Once you’ve completed this cleaning, THEN leave your instrument in the large music room.