



Rockheights Middle School Music Program

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

Welcome to Band!

Every student needs an instrument by next week.

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Dear Band 6 Parents:

I'm delighted that so many students have attended the first few classes of band (39 newcomers so far!) Students have learned about the different instruments we play in band, and about how to acquire an instrument to play in class. **All band students need to have an instrument to use in class by next week.** I've attached a brochure, which explains more information about how to acquire an instrument. Please note that percussion students are asked to supply their own pair of drum sticks and a practice pad to use at home.

Some students have already rented an instrument to use from a music store, while others would like to borrow one from the school. **On Monday, I sent home a rental form to any student who wished to use a school instrument.** These instruments are limited in supply, and loaned out on a first-to-return-signed-forms, first-served basis. If you haven't seen the form yet, please ask your child for it. A word of warning: these instruments work, and have been cleaned and sterilized, but they are older instruments. If you are able to rent an instrument from a retailer, I strongly encourage you to do that. You will get a better instrument.

A representative from Long and McQuade will be at Rockheights in the music room with me at the Meet The Teacher Event on Thursday night to help families rent instruments. If you would like to rent an instrument from Long and McQuade, please let me know which type of instrument, so that I can be sure we have one ready for you. You can find up-to-date information about renting instruments from Long & McQuade [on their website](#). Tapestry Music is also a great retailer and huge supporter of music education.

As you can imagine, 39 beginner band students all trying their instruments for the first time together would be chaotic and instruments could get broken. So, **it is extremely important that beginning band students attend a first lesson with a professional player for each instrument to happen after school:**

- **3:00-4:30pm on Tuesday, September 24 trumpet, trombone, euphonium and flutes**
- **3:00-4:30pm on Wednesday, September 25th percussion**
- **Bass guitar, clarinet and saxophone first lessons will be on one of these dates - TBA.**

Please make sure your child attends their first lesson! Basics such as how to assemble the instrument, how to hold it and care for it, where to put fingers and make a sound, etc., are some of the things that will be covered. ***Students who do not attend the first lesson will not be***



Rockheights Middle School Music Program

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

allowed to play their instrument in class until they've met with me after school to learn these basics.

Please get in touch with me if you have any further questions at this time, or have a look at the Newcomers page on www.rockheightsmusic.com for lots more info.

Thank you!

Risa McDonell