



Rockheights Middle School Music Program

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WELCOME TO MUSIC!

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Dear Rockheights Family:

Welcome back to school and welcome back to music! It has been wonderful seeing the students back at school this week and returning to (mostly) normal school life! All of last year's music program safety protocols are still in place again, but we are excited about the return of some of the favourite programming, including pizza sales and field trips.

If I'm in Grade 6, how do I get involved? If you're in Grade 6, you'll see some presentations and receive information to take home about how to get involved in band, choir and strings this year. Everyone in grade 6 is very strongly encouraged to try either band or strings - now is the time to try to learn an instrument! If you are unsure, please pop by the music office any time and talk with me, or have your parents send me an email at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca You can also check out information any time at www.rockheightsmusic.com

If I'm in Grade 7 or 8, how do I get involved? I will be visiting your classes this week to talk about the program and answer questions. If you were in band or strings last year, just show up to class! If you were not in band or strings last year, please come and talk to me about it. Everyone is welcome to try choir at any time – just come to class! Copies of the music program timetable are posted around the school and there will be reminders on the announcements, too. Come to class and all of the information and reminders you need will be given there. I'm looking forward to seeing you!

What's new at Rockheights Music?

There is a new timetable, which is attached. You may recall that we fought hard last Spring to maintain music programs in SD61. Sadly, we lost 6% of our funding, which means that choir and Jazz Band are both down to one class per week, however I'm thrilled that we can still offer all of the courses we offered previously. A big change is that choir will now be offered in-timetable, during the last block of the day on Wednesdays once weekly. I am really hoping this encourages more students to come try choir! Everyone can sing!

What are we going to be doing this year? We are all looking forward to experiencing some favourite events, such as pizza sales, concerts and field trips. Please see the list of Important Dates attached for more info. We all need to be flexible this year, given the ongoing pandemic, so stay tuned for updates.

Welcome back, parents! Being involved in a music parents' group is a fantastic way to get involved in your child's schooling and to meet other parents! Parents can socialize, get up to date information, ask questions, help plan concerts and support our music students with fundraising for special opportunities. All parents are warmly encouraged to come whenever they can! Stay tuned for our first meeting of the year, likely to happen in October once things are rolling. I am very much hoping to host a major fundraiser this Spring.

Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca. I look forward to working with you!

Risa McDonell,
Music Teacher, Rockheights Middle School