



Lord Byng Secondary School
3939 West 16th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6R 3C9
Go to: www.byngband.com

Beginner Band
2020/2021
Dr. S. MacLennan
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Our Mission

At Lord Byng Secondary our goal is to provide a safe learning environment which enables students to challenge their intellectual and creative abilities and allows them to meet their full potential as citizens.

Equipment and Materials

- band instrument and a portable music stand
- **Essential Elements, Book 1 (supplied in class)**
- music (handed out in class)
- pencil with eraser
- uniform for concerts: (**Not needed yet**)
(white dress shirt, black pants, socks and dress shoes)
- drum sticks (supplied in class)
- **special items unique to your instrument and noted on the last page of this handout**

Cost

- **\$40.00 music fee** to be paid online at:
<http://vsb.schoolcashonline.com>
- All items listed under Equipment and Material are the responsibility of the parent/guardian and can be purchased at Tapestry Music online for delivery.

Course Content

- Concert Band repertoire from beginner to grade level 1.5 or 2 in a wide variety of styles (ex. classical, pop, jazz, etc.)
- music history and theory

Goals

Student will be able to:

- show technical competency on his/her instrument
- vary articulation as noted in the music
- understand music history
- understand music theory
- understand musical form, composition, and style
- understand conducting patterns
- understand instrumentation and balance within an ensemble
- maintain a band instrument in good playing condition
- sight read
- demonstrate skills in ear training

Marks for each Report

	% of Term
Playing ability (measured through classroom observation, playing tests, and concerts)	50
Music history and theory tests	10
Attendance, effort, attitude, and preparedness for class	40
Total	100

Performing wind instruments in an ensemble setting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsLHFwtpABU>

Policies

Music is in and of itself a disciplined art. Just as a composer must have quiet, orderly surroundings if they are to write great music, musicians must rehearse in the proper climate if they are to concentrate sufficiently to learn to play good music in a professional manner. It is my intention to make rehearsal procedures, conduct regulations, and other requirements known to all members of the ensemble so that they will understand the kind of behaviour that is expected of them. Both students and the director have the right to perform in a well disciplined, respectable ensemble.

Rehearsal Procedures

- Please read the *Guidance for Music Classes in BC during COVID-19* at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KG2rE1rU-NENxbQsuYN20xnM9TBINn3Z/view>
- Warm-up: students should warm their instruments quietly at the beginning of each rehearsal.
- Self-discipline and respect: No talking or "noodling" when the director is talking or demonstrating something. Never talk while the ensemble is playing.
- Neatness: Keep the music room neat and clean. Deposit all garbage in one of the garbage cans provided.
- Listen: Always listen to yourself and others while you are playing so that your tone will be beautiful in quality and well in tune.
- Practice at home: Always work out individual parts in private practice sessions. Ensemble rehearsals should be devoted entirely to acquiring musicianship and artistry. Make sure you are always striving for an outstanding performance.

Attendance

A note from home is required for any absence, including both illness and school activities. The note must include the date and reason for absence. If you have to be absent from a class for sports or at the request of another teacher, you must speak to me first. Participation through regular attendance is essential. All courses, whether on the timetable or not, are credit courses and will be graded. Concerts will be recorded in class without an audience and are considered term finals. **Attendance for the concert is mandatory** except in the case of bereavement or serious illness/injury.

Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive on time. Arriving late is extremely disruptive to the entire class as the student must find his/her own chair amongst those students already playing. **1% will be given for promptness and participation in the entire warmup for each class. Bonus marks will be given to those who are on time for all classes.**

Assignments

It is your responsibility to practice the work assigned by the director outside of class time. During the quarterly system, students are only taking 2 classes and should practice at least one hour per day. It is suggested that 2 hours (or more) a day be set aside for this purpose. Not all of this time needs to be playing the instrument. Reading and theory exercises can be included in this time. Students will be observed and graded in class to see whether or not they have been practicing the correct material.

Extra help/ Practice rooms at school

Available by appointment. Just ask the director.

Costs:

There is a \$40.00 music fee which will go directly to the purchase of new music and music supplies for the department, benefitting all students. This includes the *Essential Elements Book 1*, a pair of drum sticks, and subscription to SmartMusic. Lord Byng collects fees through *School Cash Online* at: <http://vsb.schoolcashionline.com>. Students and parents are encouraged to enroll by registering online. *School Cash Online* is our school's **PREFERRED method of payment.**

Due to the short 9 ½ week duration of this course, the instrument choices have been reduced to maximize students interaction time with the teacher. As well, during COVID-19, flutes without masks have been shown to have the greatest risk of spreading infection. The teacher needs to observe how the students play without masks blocking the view of the students' embouchures (mouth area muscles). Therefore, instrument choice will be limited to the following five options: clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, and euphonium. All students will be percussionists for part of each class and will be supplied with a pair of drum sticks.

Obtaining an Instrument:

There are four ways to acquire a band instrument.

1. Rent or Rent-to-own an instrument: Rental is the most popular method of acquiring a band instrument and is the method I recommend. A substantial portion, or all, of the rent you have paid to the music store will be applied to the purchase-price if you decide to buy the instrument at a later date. You should be aware that the overall cost of this method is greater than simply purchasing the instrument in the beginning, but renting provides more flexibility. The school does rent instruments but no option of purchasing is available.

2. Purchase a new or used instrument from a store: These instruments come with a guarantee. Purchasing the instrument outright is the least expensive method of buying an instrument, considerably cheaper in overall cost than renting-to-own. Most stores will actually buy back the instrument from you later, less the appropriate rental fee, if a change of course or changed instrument is desired.

3. Purchase a used instrument from a private party: Instrument should be properly serviced in time for the first band class in September.

4. Borrow: Instrument should be properly serviced in time for the first band class in September.

Students are expected to rent or purchase their own instrument from a music company if they do not already have one available. I suggest you order your instrument and the required supplies online from our local music store, Tapestry Music, and they will deliver it to the school for you. This will be the easiest and quickest way to get started.

Go to: <https://www.tapestrymusic.com/t-rentalprogram.aspx>

Also, here's a short video explaining what to do:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ec7f_Bam0w

If the cost is a problem, please notify the school and we will try to arrange an alternative. Larger and more expensive instruments (ex. euphoniums) may be borrowed from the school while supplies last. The cost is \$ 130.00 for the year. I will notify each student if he/she will be playing one of these larger instruments.

The following supplies should be purchased when you obtain the instrument (if you order through Tapestry Music, this can be done online with the instrument order):

Clarinets: swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, and a box of 10 *Reeds #2*

Saxophones: **a pull through swab (not a pad saver)**, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, and a box of 10 *Reeds #2*

Trumpets: snake, mouthpiece brush, slide grease, and valve oil

Trombones: snake, mouthpiece brush, slide cream and spray bottle

Euphoniums: snake, mouthpiece brush, slide grease, and valve oil

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at smaclennan@vsb.bc.ca