Abbotsford Middle School

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# Concert Band Information sheet

## Why Join Band

- Music is inclusive, meaning that it is for EVERYONE, regardless of their background.
- Learning music is proven boost grades and strengthen social bonds between peers.
- Opportunities to participate in music competitions, band trips, and school concerts.

## Band is a commitment

- Students must fill out a band registration form. The form is available at school and online.
- Students who join band in September are expected to stay in band for the ENTIRE school year.
- If band is not working out for a student, they must **unenroll** from band by **Friday SEPT 25th, 2026**.
- Students are expected to practice their instrument **at home** 45 minutes/week.

## Practices

- Grade 6 Band Pod AB – Monday Period 2, Thursday Period 3
- Grade 6 Band Pod CD – Tuesday Period 4, Thursday Period 2
- Grade 7 Band – Monday Period 1, Tuesday Period 5
- Grade 8 Band – Monday Period 5, Thursday Period 1
- Practices are during school. They will miss another class to attend band class. Students will need to communicate with their homeroom teacher about any missed instruction and assignments.

## Choosing an instrument

- **Instrument demonstration for all grade 6 students is WEDNESDAY September 9th, 2026.**
- Students in band may play the following instruments.
  - Flute, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax,
  - Trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba
  - Percussion – includes snare drum, bass drum, timpani, cymbals, triangles, etc
  - Bass guitar
- There are limited spots for bass guitar and percussion. Get your band registration form in ASAP.
- If your family already owns an instrument that your child will play in grade 6 band, please tell the music teacher right away.

## Getting a band instrument

1. **Renting an instrument from a music store (recommended)**
   - Local Options include: King's Music (604.853.5996) and Long & McQuade (604.556.3838)

2. **Renting an instrument from Abby Middle**
   - The school has a limited number of instruments students may rent.
   - $100 for the school year, payable all at once or $10/month

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- Recommended for students playing larger more expensive instruments.

3. **Purchase NEW:**
   - Purchase locally from Long & McQuade or King's Music.
   - Yamaha and Jupiter are recommended. Any brand from a music store is good.
   - Buying from Amazon, Best Buy, or London Drugs is NOT recommended.

4. **Purchase a used instrument:**
   - Purchase from a reputable music store like King's or Long & McQuade.
   - You may find many great deals on **Facebook marketplace**. Be careful, BUYER BEWARE.

5. **Family-owned instruments**
   - Tell the teacher IMMEDIATELY if your family owns an instrument that your child will be using.
   - Make sure that the instrument is in good working condition.

## Band Book

- **Essential Elements Band Method**.
  - Keep the book in good condition as it will be used throughout their time at Abby Middle.

## Performances

- There are **two concerts** per year that students play for, one in **December** and one in **June**.
- There are many assemblies throughout the school year and one of the groups above may play at those assemblies. Parents will be made aware of these performance dates ASAP.

## Field trips

- There will be field trips **exclusively** for Band students. More information will be available when it is available.

## Contact information

- If you have any questions about the Band program, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- gordon.macleod@abbyschools.ca, 604-859-7125