



BEACH GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5955 – 17A Ave, Delta, B.C. V4L 1J7
Telephone: (604) 943-0108 Fax: (604) 943-0166
Mark Douangchanh, Principal
Carol Adam, Administrative Assistant

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 5, 2019

Welcome to Beach Grove Elementary School Band Program! I am very excited to have your child in band. This letter will provide you with information about 1) choosing a band instrument, 2) learning materials, 3) rental night, and 4) tips for parents and students.

1) Choosing a band instrument

The following instruments are for your child to select: **Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Bass.** There are more band instruments such as French horn, Tuba, Baritone, etc.; however, these instruments are not recommended in the beginning stage because of their size, weight, and difficulty of learning. Once your child gains the fundamental skills of playing one of the 5 suggested band instruments, he or she can switch to others later in the year. Please see the following chart:

Suggested Instrument	If your child is interested in
Flute	Piccolo
Clarinet	Saxophones, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Oboe
Alto Saxophone	Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Oboe
Trumpet	French Horn, Baritone
Trombone	Baritone, Tuba, Euphonium
Bass	String instruments

The students and I have discussed what instruments they will be playing in band. However, if your child has not yet decided his/her instrument, I personally recommend the clarinet because it is portable, easier to learn in the beginning, and provides a variety of options to change to other instruments in the future.

****Please note that there will be drum auditions after the winter break. If your child is interested in playing the drums, he/she is welcome to sign up for the tryout in January. The student is expected to 1) demonstrate strong music-reading skills & rhythms, 2) practice his/her band instrument regularly, and 3) have good classroom behaviour & participation throughout term 1 and 2. Only two students will be selected, and they will be playing the drums alternately with their band instruments. More detailed audition information will be provided after winter break in January.**

2) Method Book & Learning Materials

The students will be using a method book called **Essential Elements**. You may purchase it online (www.amazon.ca) or buy it at our rental night on **Monday, September 16th 7:00pm** at Beach Grove Elementary School. Other learning materials will be provided in class throughout the year; they do not need to be purchased.

3) Rental Night

Tapestry Music will be hosting a rental evening on **Monday, September 16th 7:00pm** at **Beach Grove Elementary School**. Tapestry Music offers competitive rental rates and fine service. If you wish to use their service, they will have your child's instrument ready to be picked up at the rental night. If you are unable to attend the rental night, you may order online (<https://www.tapestrymusic.com/school-band-rentals>), and the ordered instruments will be free-shipped to school. For more detailed information or questions regarding rentals, please contact Bob Mullett (Tapestry Music) at bmullett@telus.net or 604-999-0573.

****Please feel free to rent an instrument from other music suppliers like Tom Lee Music or Long & McQuade. There are many music rental services available in the lower mainland.**

4) Tips for parents and students

Learning an instrument can be exciting yet challenging at times. Here are some tips for parents on how to support your child's musical development:

-It may be hard in the beginning but encourage them to keep at it as learning something new can sometimes take a little while to get used to. Be patient!

-Create a routine to **practice their instrument at least 15 minutes a day or every other day** to be successful with learning your new instrument.

-When in band class, students should keep an open mind, listen to the teacher, learn, and have fun!

Learning to play an instrument is like learning a different language. Students are learning something new- a grown up instrument ☺ They are also able to create music together, perform, and work as a team. Take this as a great opportunity to learn something you've never done before!

I hope this letter is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me at mchan@deltasd.bc.ca . Thank you for your support and care for music.

Musically yours,

Michelle Chan, B.Ed., B.Mus.
Delta School District Band Teacher