

# BEGINNER BAND

at Armstrong Elementary School

Every year, the Burnaby School District offers Beginner Band to all grade 7 students. This is the first year of a high quality six-year instrumental program offered in all Burnaby elementary and secondary schools taught by skilled music specialists.

In September, Ms. Brown will meet with all grade 7's to help students choose their instrument. This decision is based on many factors, including: creating a well-balanced band, whether you already own an instrument, and a child's natural physical fit for certain instruments. When students meet with Ms. Brown, they will be able to submit preferences for an instrument and will get their assignment by the second week of September. Please hold off on renting an instrument for your child until they have been assigned.

I hope you will have a conversation with your child regarding the benefits of playing a musical instrument in next year's Grade 7 band and encourage them to do so. My goal is to provide your child with the practical experience of learning to play a musical instrument in a supportive atmosphere. There are many cognitive and social benefits to learning to play an instrument, but most of all, it's FUN! Thank you for supporting our elementary band program. I look forward to teaching your child next year!

You will be receiving an enrollment form from the district on June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Please fill out the form or email directly to let Ms. Brown know  
if your child will be taking band next year.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I need any previous musical experience?**

No. You will be taught everything you need to know about how to play your instrument, and how to read music.

**Is band free?**

Yes and no. There is a cost for renting your instrument from a music store and you will need specific equipment for each instrument. However, district-owned instruments are available to rent at a lower price, or if needed, at no cost to families.

No student will be denied the chance to participate in band due to financial restrictions.

**I already own an instrument. Can I use that one?**

Yes. If your family owns an instrument, please let Ms. Brown know in September so that you can be assigned that instrument.

**I can't play an instrument at home. Is that okay?**

Students are expected to practice regularly, however, playing an instrument at home isn't possible for everyone. If you play the trombone or trumpet, I can provide a mute for you to make your instrument sound much quieter.

Check out the links below to hear an example of the instruments that are offered in Beginner Band:

Flute

<https://bit.ly/2yuKAzc>

Trumpet

<https://bit.ly/2zXBdsf>

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet

<https://bit.ly/2Zov17c>

Horn

<https://bit.ly/2LQjZ2v>

Saxophone

<https://bit.ly/3d7A0wQ>

Trombone

<https://bit.ly/3g8Pjrl>

Baritone

<https://bit.ly/2WUcf5R>

### Contact

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