



School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

*letter - program last year
continue - support*

Dear Parent,

School District No. 60 is once again offering an opportunity for interested students to learn to play a band instrument. Instruction will be offered in all of our Secondary schools and in a number of Elementary schools during the 1991-92 school year. Students who enroll in Band will be able to continue their instruction in School Band Programmes during those years when it is most important to be involved in activities which will be constructive and enjoyable.

Elementary school is a time when you expect your child to master the fundamentals of Education. You're concerned with establishing a solid base for future learning, and that makes sense! But no parent can afford to overlook the important role that Instrumental Music Education can play in a child's creative potential, in stimulating the natural curiosity and artistic abilities inherent in all children. The School Band Programme will help youngsters like yours develop many valuable skills like mental and physical coordination, self-expression, group participation and cooperation, and appreciation of their accomplishments... very practical skills that will assist your child in all his/her future experiences. Moreover, in our age of automation, of spectator sports and of entertainment brought right into the home with no effort other than turning a knob, it is all the more important that everybody, but most particularly young people, should cultivate active participation in some field of constructive endeavor rather than merely passive amusement. And, of course, your child also benefits from learning and performing music...something to be enjoyed throughout life!

I believe this is a unique opportunity to provide your children with a comprehensive musical experience at very minimal cost. The rental fee for instruments is a real bargain when you consider that it includes 2 1/2 lessons per week, an instrument which will be owned in a lease-purchase plan, the cost of music, etc. The average cost of piano lessons is approximately \$35.00 per month, minimum, and includes one lesson per week, no instrument and no music. I would urge you to seriously consider enrolling your son or daughter in our District Band Programmes.

Monthly payments for rental-lease instruments range from approximately \$10.00 to \$40.00 per month, depending on the rental company, the nature of the rental/lease plan, and the type of instrument rented. Please bear in mind that you may wish to purchase the instrument at a later date and you will want your rental credits to apply toward the purchase of a quality instrument. It is our hope that students continuing on in the School District's Band Programme will purchase an instrument for use as soon as they determine their commitment. Only a very limited number of instruments such as french horns, bassoons, tubas, oboes and baritones are available through the schools; number 1 priority - for people who can not afford instrument rental/purchase. Parents who are interested in a District instrument and/or require financial assistance should contact Mr. Johnson as soon as possible.

As Band classes will commence right away in September, it is essential that students have their instruments as soon as possible. To facilitate the process, we have invited a company to bring rental-lease instruments to Fort St. John on the evening of Tuesday, September 17, 1991. The issue will be held at Bert Bowes Jr. Sec. School's Band room (9816-106th Street) from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

The music rental-purchase company has been given a list of approved models and brands and have agreed to supply only quality instruments which have been approved by the Band teaching staff of School District No. 60. These instruments are of sufficiently high standard that they should prove adequate throughout Junior and Senior Secondary for the majority of students. Many students who excel in Band may, however, opt for an even higher standard of instrument as they progress in instrumental music.

Attached, you will find last year's sheet which describes a **SAMPLE** of a rental and term purchase programme available.

In addition to obtaining an instrument of suitable quality, the following supplies will also be needed: soft cleaning cloth, pencils (with erasure) and folding music stand for home practice. The following should be included with rental or purchase (at no extra cost!):

- Reeds for clarinet and saxophone players (Rico, strength 2 plus a couple of 1 1/2 to begin with)
- 2 or 3 reeds for oboe or bassoon players
- "Pad Saver" for flute, clarinet and saxophone
- Valve oil for valve brass players
- Slide creme for trombone players (not oil) and a water mister
- Cork grease for woodwind players; slide grease for brass
- Cleaning swab for woodwind players
- Pair of snare drum sticks & mallets for percussionists
- Mouthpiece brush for brass, clarinet & saxophone
- Reed guard for oboe, saxophone & clarinet

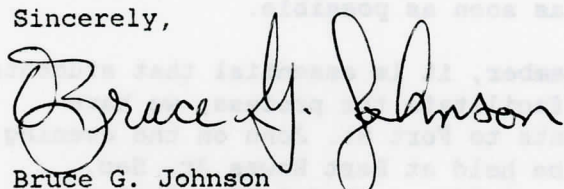
A method book and a theory text (as well as "Getting Started" sheets) will be available for purchase at school (\$16.50) when classes commence.

When students are thinking about playing band instruments, and therefore the challenges to be overcome in the first year, remember back to learning how to ride the bicycle! The requirements of reading music, coordinating your breathing, tongue and fingers all the time while watching a conductor (possibly even ignoring the musician at your side), takes a great amount of self-discipline and concentration! However, like most worthy things in life, a bit of hard work (mentally & physically) is good for us all.

If parents are still unsure of whether their child is ready, or if he/she possesses the attributes necessary to becoming a successful musician, I recommend you talk with your school principal about your son/daughter and the programme. If you are still uneasy, please call Mr. Johnson to request a "Musical Aptitude Test" for your youngster. An after-school time can be arranged!

Band instructors from our schools and I will be on hand to assist you at "Rental Night"! Should you have any particular questions regarding your son's/daughter's participation in this programme, please contact me at Bert Bowes Jr. Sec. School (785-6717). I look forward to becoming actively involved in your child's music education.

Sincerely,



Bruce G. Johnson
District Band Teacher

Please consider the following points before enrolling in Band:

1. Parents should confirm with children that they, the children, must discipline their leisure time so that they can schedule at least 20-30 minutes of daily practice (including written work).
2. Band is offered on the same basis as other academic subjects. Therefore, once a student is enrolled in band, he/she must continue until the end of the school year.
3. Parents should consider the total cost of instrument rental for the whole school year and impress upon their children that this investment requires the children to maintain a serious outlook throughout their first year of instruction.
4. When the student enrolls in Elementary Band, he/she has made a commitment to every second Wednesday "evening practice" (7:00-8:30 p.m.) and a minimum of three evening concerts throughout the school year!

ONLY BAND STUDENTS WHO WILL COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD ENROLL IN THE BAND PROGRAM!

If any further information is required, please phone your local school principal.

The instruments listed below will be included in the band classes' instrumentation:

Flute	Trumpet/Cornet
Oboe	French Horn
Clarinet	Baritone Horn
Bassoon	Trombone
Alto Saxophone	Tuba
Tenor Saxophone	Percussion (Bells & Snare)
Bass Clarinet	Bass Guitar

THE LAST PAGE, WITH BOTH SIGNATURES SHOULD BE RETURNED TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PRIOR TO APRIL 22, 1991.

WHY TAKE MUSIC ?

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or ethnic feelings.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL MUSIC IS ART

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. This one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

WE TEACH MUSIC

- Not because we expect you to major in music
- Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life
- Not so you can relax
- Not so you can have fun

BUT

- So you will be human
- So you will recognize beauty
- So you will be sensitive
- So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world
- So you will have something to cling to
- So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good - in short, more life
- Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

APPROXIMATE LIST OF 1991 NEW INSTRUMENTS (RENTAL) PRICES

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>RENT PER MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL UNTIL OWNED</u>	<u>OUTRIGHT PURCHASE</u>
<u>FLUTES</u>			
Pearl - Closed	\$16.50	\$525.00	\$425.00
Gemeinhardt-Closed	\$13.50	\$465.00	\$365.00
Gemeinhardt-Open	\$18.50	\$575.00	\$465.00
<u>CLARINETS</u>			
Vito - Standard	\$15.00	\$425.00	\$325.00
Vito - Deluxe	\$17.50	\$525.00	\$425.00
<u>ALTO SAXOPHONES</u>			
Vito/Yamaha	\$40.00	\$1200.00	\$975.00
<u>TENOR SAXOPHONES</u>			
Vito/Yamaha	\$50.00	\$1500.00	\$1250.00
<u>TRUMPETS</u>			
Getzen 590	\$17.50	\$525.00	\$425.00
Bach TR 300	\$17.50	\$525.00	\$425.00
Holton T602R	\$17.50	\$525.00	\$425.00
<u>PERCUSSION KITS</u>			
Musser	\$15.00	\$450.00	\$350.00
<u>TROMBONES</u>			
Bach TB 300	\$20.00	\$575.00	\$450.00
Bach 836 Mercedes	\$30.00	\$875.00	\$695.00
<u>OBOES</u>			
Bundy	\$25.00	\$725.00	\$595.00
Signet - Deluxe	\$40.00	\$1225.00	\$975.00
<u>BASS GUITARS & AMPLIFIER</u>			
Peavey	\$35.00	\$1020.00	\$830.00

****In some cases used instruments will be available for rent-outright purchase. If you desire used, please notify Mr. Johnson at least (5) days prior to the rental issue!**

Thank you.