

Concert Band at Len Wood Middle

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thanks to the ongoing success of the music program at Len Wood, we will continue to offer the same program set-up as last school year. Students will participate in **mandatory Band 6** for five months, and then have the option of elective jazz band and concert band in Grades 7 and 8 that will run full year. Below are a few frequently asked questions:

How do I find an instrument for my child to play?

Starting in September 2019 and until further notice, School District #83 is able to offer district instruments, **free of charge**, to students in mandatory band classes, who cannot acquire their own instrument through other means. At this time, we are not able to provide instruments for all students in elective band classes (Band 8/9-12) as we simply do not own enough instruments. SD 83 will do its best to accommodate students in elective programs who are in financial need, but we cannot guarantee the availability of an instrument.

The current district collection of instruments is of mixed quality but will be just fine for beginner students, although they may be older and not the prettiest instruments. This is one of the reasons that we would like to remind parents of their option to rent an instrument from a retailer. In many cases, a rent-to-own plan can be set up and many families prefer the option of renting to own as there are many benefits:

- Students will receive higher quality instruments.
- Parents have the added assurance of not having to pay additional repair bills as warranty plans are usually included with any rental or rent-to-own plan.
- Band students end up owning a quality instrument that can be used throughout their high school music career. In many cases, the full purchase price has been paid off before the student even graduates.

Families can acquire their own instruments from the following places:

Acorn Music in Salmon Arm (250-832-8669)

Wentworth Music in Vernon (1-888-256-7469)

Valley Wind and Reed in Kelowna (1-888-818-4949)

Tapestry Music in White Rock (<https://www.tapestrymusic.com>)

Families have the option of renting through an online service from Tapestry Music, based out of White Rock. If you rent from Tapestry, they will ship it right to the band room free of charge. They have three programs available to families: Buy Back, School Year Rental, and Monthly rental, all also starting as low as \$12 per month. We had great success with this option last year and they too, offer high

quality, affordable rentals/rent-to-owns. Tapestry has a great relationship with SD 83 and we receive excellent service from them as well.

I have an older instrument at home. Can my child use that instead of renting?

Yes, but we do recommend having it looked at by Mr. Filipski at Len Wood or at Acorn Music if you have any concerns about its playability.

What about buying an instrument?

If you are able, purchasing a new or used instrument can be a good choice. There is always a resale market every year if your child chooses not to continue with band. Kijiji often have instruments available but please have them checked before purchasing to ensure that they function properly. As a general rule, stay away from buying band instruments from stores like London Drugs and Costco.

I have more questions, how can I get more information?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email, mfilipsk@sd83.bc.ca

Thank you for your continued support of the band programs at LWMS!

Sincerely,

Mike Filipski