

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EDUCATION

Background

Instrumental music education (band) provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes which contribute to their physical, mental, and social well-being. The Division commits to offering students instrumental music programming in alignment with Arts Education curricula and will continue to honour its integrity as long as is feasible.

Procedures

1. Division Supported Band
 - 1.1. Schools may offer Band as a locally developed option to students beginning in grade 5 based on community context and in consultation with the School Community Council.
 - 1.2. All band courses from grades 5 through 9 will follow outcomes derived from the appropriate grade level's Arts Education curricula and any other locally developed and division approved instrumental band curricula.
 - 1.3. All band courses from grades 10 through 12 will follow provincial curriculum.
 - 1.4. Band programs will be delivered by qualified music educators.
 - 1.5. Band recruitment for grades 7 to 12 will begin in February of each school year and projected enrollment will be submitted to the Superintendent of Learning by March 15th.
 - 1.6. Choir and instrumental jazz may be offered as an extra-curricular activity in elementary schools and in alignment with provincial curriculum for grades 10 to 12 based on interest.
2. Instruction
 - 2.1. Band may be offered as compulsory in grades 5 to 9.
 - 2.2. Every effort will be made to keep beginner band as a separate section.
 - 2.3. Instructional time will be as follows:
 - 2.3.1. Grades 5 to 9 – 90 to 125 minutes per 6-day cycle
 - 2.3.2. Grades 10 to 12 based on curricular minutes.
3. Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities
 - 3.1. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities related to band programs in schools will comply with relevant administrative procedures such as Administrative Procedure 260 – *Extra Curricular Activities*, as well as Administrative Procedure 261 – *Educational Field Trips*.
 - 3.2. Procedures for student transportation as set forth in Administrative Procedure 551 – *Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Bus Transportation of Students* as well as Administrative Procedure 552 – *Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles* will be followed.
4. Band Parents' Associations
 - 4.1. Band Parents' Associations exist to support co-curricular and extra-curricular

aspects of band programs in schools and are considered affiliates with the Division. Where there is a Band Parent's Association affiliated with a band program in a school, all applicable Administrative Procedures will be adhered to.

- 4.2. The role of Band Parent Associations is to:
 - 4.2.1. Act as a liaison between the parents and the band teacher.
 - 4.2.2. Assist with fundraising in order to support enhancements to the band program, such as extra-curricular band trips, band camp bursaries, scholarships, etc.
 - 4.2.3. Volunteer to assist with events, such as band concerts.
- 4.3. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities associated with the band program in schools will operate in consultation with the Band Parents' Associations where applicable.
- 4.4. Co-curricular and extra-curricular travel associated with the band program in a school will be decided using a consultative process that includes the band teacher, in-school administrator, and the Band Parents' Association.
- 4.5. The extent of travel and fundraising for the band program in a school will be determined in consultation with the band teacher, in-school administrator, and Band Parents' Association and in accordance with Administrative Procedure 520 – *Fundraising Projects in Schools*.
5. Purchasing of Furniture, Equipment, and Instruments
 - 5.1. All furniture, equipment, and instruments required to offer a high-quality band program will be purchased by the Division.
 - 5.2. Additional purchases of furniture, equipment, and instruments will be made in consultation with the in-school administration and the Superintendent of Learning.
 - 5.3. All furniture, equipment, and instruments purchased for a school band program will be the property of the Division.
6. Rental and Use of Instruments and Equipment
 - 6.1. Students in a compulsory band program will be provided with a division owned instrument at no cost.
 - 6.2. Students enrolled in an optional band program may be assessed a loan fee of up to \$150 per year to borrow a division owned instrument. The loan fee is based on the average cost of maintenance and repair of instruments and will adhere to Administrative Procedure 505 – *Student Fees*.
 - 6.3. Form 216-1 – *Instrument Rental Agreement* must be completed for all division owned instruments on loan to students.
 - 6.4. Band teachers will ensure all instruments and equipment are cleaned properly, repaired, inventoried, and returned to school annually. If a student wishes to keep their instrument over the summer, it must be signed out to the student through the school library.
 - 6.5. Parents/guardians and students are prohibited from performing any repairs to instruments. Repairs or replacement of instruments or equipment above regular maintenance caused by mistreatment will be the financial responsibility of the parent/guardian.
 - 6.6. Financial need or unpaid fees shall not preclude a student from participating in a band program.
7. New Band Programs
 - 7.1. To begin a new band program in a school, the following steps must be taken:
 - 7.1.1. In-school administration will meet with the Superintendent of Schools to

- discuss the possibility of starting a band program.
- 7.1.2. The School Community Council (SCC) and in-school administration will consult with the community to determine interest and the likelihood of a viable and sustainable band program in the school.
 - 7.1.3. For the initial year of a band program, only a beginner band program will be offered.
 - 7.1.4. The SCC must be willing to support start-up costs for a new band program to assist in the purchase of furniture, equipment, and instruments.
 - 7.1.5. The Superintendent of Schools will work with the in-school administration to communicate to the SCC and the public regarding a new band program.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 175, Education Act

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