



5121-48 Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4N 6X3

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*Responsible citizens pursuing life-long learning.*

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September 1, 2020

Dear Band Parents and Students:

I am pleased that you have chosen the band program at Central as a part of your child's education. All students are welcomed into the program. Please remember, however, that the desire to play an instrument is not enough to produce good music. It is necessary to develop a home practice schedule, which becomes a part of each student's weekly routine. Teachers provide incentives, but parental support in maintaining regular home practice habits is essential in order to meet the musical goals that we will all be striving to achieve.

**An instrument rental night has been set for Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm in the Agora (gathering area) at Central Middle School.** Students placed on the flute, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, or trombone who do not already own an instrument should attend this evening with a parent or guardian to complete the necessary paperwork. The Wind Shoppe will be present to answer any questions you may have. Cash and major credit cards will be accepted (please bring appropriate identification).

**NOTE: Students who own their own instrument, who will be renting from another music store, or plan to rent a French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion Kit, or Bass Clarinet from the school do not need to attend this evening.**

**NOTE: Before bringing instruments to school, students should clearly mark the outside and the inside of their instrument case with their name, grade, address, and phone number. It is also a good idea to register the instrument and serial number on your homeowner's insurance policy.**

Please read through the following pages of information about the band program at Central Middle School.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bryce Pearson

Band Director

Phone: 403-346-4397 ext.115

Email: [bryce.pearson@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:bryce.pearson@rdpsd.ab.ca)

## Central Band Instrument Rental Policy

Students enrolled in the Central Middle School Band Program must supply their own instrument, which must be in proper playing order. The only exceptions are those playing the larger, more expensive instruments such as the bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, tuba, and percussion. **For those students, we have a limited supply of the above instruments in the school, and rented to the students at a charge of \$125.00 for the school year. Payment can be made by cash or cheque made payable to Red Deer Public School District.**

**These instruments will be distributed to the students by Friday, September 13. As these instruments are quite large, parents will need to pick them up either before or after school from the band room. Please have payment ready upon pick-up and then the rental contract can be completed and the instrument is yours until the end of June. If you have any questions, please call me at the school (346-4397) or email at [bryce.pearson@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:bryce.pearson@rdpsd.ab.ca)**

While these instruments are rented, it is the responsibility of the student and parents to make sure the instrument is being properly cared for. Students will be shown how to properly care for instruments in class and at workshops. Instruments must be returned in the same condition as they were rented out in. This also includes the case.

**Percussionists, all materials in the percussion kit must be returned in June. Students will have to cover the cost of any materials that go missing or have been damaged because of misuse.**

Students that have been placed on other instruments, such as a flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone, must either rent or buy an instrument. Anyone who may have financial difficulties with this should contact Mr. Pearson at the school and alternate arrangements can be made.

Instrument care kits and other accessories may be purchased any time after September 11 in the band room. Please see attached price list. These products are crucial in maintaining any instrument. Instruments that are properly cared for will perform better and maintain their value over time.

**Instrument Supplies Price List**

The following supplies are available in the band room. Please purchase these items before or after school and not during class time.

<b><u>Reeds</u></b>	Clarinet.....	2 for \$4.00
	Bass Clarinet.....	2 for \$7.00
Rico Royal Reeds	Alto Saxophone.....	2 for \$6.00
	Tenor Saxophone.....	2 for \$7.00
	Baritone Saxophone.....	2 for \$8.00
	Clarinet.....	box of 10 - \$20.00
	Bass Clarinet.....	box of 10 - \$35.00
Rico Royal Reeds	Alto Saxophone.....	box of 10 - \$30.00
	Tenor Saxophone.....	box of 10 - \$35.00
	Baritone Saxophone.....	box of 10 - \$40.00

**Accessories, Cleaning and Care Items**

Valve Oil, Rotary Oil, Slide Oil for valved brass instruments.....	\$2.00/bottle
Key Oil.....	\$2.00/bottle
Cork Grease for Clarinets and Saxophones.....	\$2.00/tube
Woodwind and Brass Mouthpiece Brushes.....	\$3.00 each
Reed Guards.....	\$2.00 each
Ligatures.....	\$5.00 each
Clarinet Swabs.....	\$3.00
Saxophone Swabs.....	\$5.00
Trombone Slide Cream.....	\$5.00/jar
Brass Snakes.....	\$5.00
Polishing Cloths.....	\$2.00
Music Folders.....	\$1.00

**Instrument Cleaning/Care Kits**

Flute.....	\$17.00
All Other Instruments.....	\$20.00

**Note:** \* All sales by cash or cheque payable to Central Middle School. **No credit will be extended.**

**\* If you need an item that is not available in town, please advise me and I will order it for you.**

## **Evaluation**

The evaluation process used in the Central Middle School Band Program attempts to evaluate a number of different elements related to musical performance, ability, desire to improve, knowledge of music theory, involvement in the classroom, daily work habits, self-discipline, and the degree of overall improvement in the above areas.

Evaluation in the above areas is made through a variety of assessment strategies such as performance tests, daily class room performance, written theory tests, student self -assessment, the use of rubrics, and a student portfolio.

The following is a breakdown of the areas that students will be assessed in band class.

### **Performance**

For all band students, performance tests will consist of scales and arpeggios, songs chosen by students, technical exercises from method books, and excerpts from prepared pieces in class. The majority of the performance mark is assessed during class time.

### **Theory**

Written exams in all band classes cover musical terms and symbols, written scales, rhythm and notation exercise, instrument care, and aural dictations. Materials for exams come from method books, theory worksheets, and music studied in class.

### **Home Practice**

A band can only be as good as its members are, and no musician can become proficient without regular home practice. In order to promote and document each student's home practice, all band students will receive a 5-week practice card on the first class of each 5-week period. Parents/Guardian's signature will be required at the end of each week of practice. Each card is to be passed in on the date designated by the teacher (All practice cards are due on Monday's). Late practice cards will be accepted, but only until the end of the week they are due.

As the card states, each student should practice approximately 1 hour a week. If the amount of practice is substantially less than 1 hour, an explanation should be offered, such as "student ill", "instrument being repaired", etc. Practice is more productive if completed every day, rather than a couple of times a week.

Practice time on the card must be for time spent on your band instrument! Piano practice does not count. In addition, class time and rehearsals are not considered practice time. You are more than welcome to record home practice time on music from these other activities however. Home practice should include scales and arpeggios, method book exercises, pieces studied in class, and any other music a student wishes to practice. Extra practice material, including solo and ensemble music, is available from the band room at no extra cost to the student.

## **Attitude and Behavior**

In all band classes, students are evaluated on general attitude and behavior. Daily organization, preparation for class, self-discipline, desire to learn, cooperation, and listening skills contribute to this mark. **Students are expected to bring their own music, method books, instrument, and a pencil to each and every band class and rehearsal.** Random checks for these items will be made throughout the school year.

## **Participation**

Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate. In order to participate properly students must have all their materials every class. Contribution to discussions, attentiveness, and feedback from students during lessons is taken into account.

Another very important part of the participation component is attendance to early morning band rehearsals. Regular rehearsals will begin in October, and students are expected to attend. Rehearsals will run from **October 15th** until **December 2nd** and the second round will begin **April 6th** and go until **June 1st**. **Rehearsals will not be held the other weeks of the school year for concert band. Rehearsal days are as follows:**

**Gr. 6 Band - Tuesdays at 7:25-8:10 am**  
**Gr. 7 Band - Wednesdays at 7:25-8:10 am**  
**Gr. 8 Band - Mondays at 7:25-8:10 am**

Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is vital to the success of the band. Please ensure that you are **responsible and punctual**. These rehearsals are the only opportunity to rehearse as a complete band. Without them, we cannot be involved in any performances.

## **Bonus Marks**

Additional rewards will be given to students who practice 10 hours or more on their practice cards and in extracurricular musical activities such as the Red Deer Festival.

## **Materials Needed for Class**

Method books are provided to students as text books. Students who misplace or lose method books must cover the replacement cost (\$10.00).

Every band student will be given supplementary sheet music to be studied in class.

One cardboard music folder is given to each student at no extra cost at the beginning of the school year to hold music, method books, handouts, and a pencil. Replacement folders can be purchased throughout the school year at a cost of \$1.00 per folder. **Please make sure your full name is on the front of your folder and on every book inside.**

## **Additional Information**

### **Instrument Storage**

Students who play small instruments (flute or clarinet) should store their instrument in their school lockers. Larger instruments may be left in the band room storage lockers. Students will be assigned these lockers during the first week of September. Students may have to bring a lock to secure their instrument inside their locker.

### **Concert Dress**

Students must wear a plain white shirt or blouse, black pants or skirt, and black shoes and socks. Jeans and running shoes do not look professional on stage.

### **Fundraising**

In order to help cover the costs of band camps, workshops, clinicians, and new instruments; a certain amount of fundraising is necessary. Fundraising at Central is optional, but incentives will be provided to students who participate. Several parent volunteers are needed to help organize and coordinate these events.

### **Band Camp**

Each year, students are given an opportunity to attend a band workshop which helps them prepare for upcoming performances. Students work with professional clinicians and guest conductors in small group and full band situations. Dates for these camps will be published in upcoming newsletters. The cost for these band camps has yet to be determined.

# Central Band Program

## Areas in Need of Volunteer Assistance

**Parent Committee:** At least six parents (approx. 2 per grade) are required to assist the band director in coordinating several band activities. Committee members would be responsible for an area in which volunteer assistance is required, and they would contact volunteers throughout the year. **This does not require a large time commitment!**

**Fundraising:** We have done a variety of fundraisers the past few years. We are in need of someone to co-ordinate a fundraiser for the 2019/20 school year. Volunteers are required for record keeping of orders and funds, as well as distribution.

**Concerts:** December 3/19 and June 2/20 are our concert dates for the school year. Volunteers are required for supervision in warm-up rooms, helping with gift baskets, printing and selling of tickets, decorations, and transportation of equipment.

**Band Camp/Workshops:** Volunteers are required for supervision at the camp, assistance at evening activities, as well as transportation of equipment to and from the camp. The Gr.6 Band Camp will be in March at the Gull Lake Centre and the Gr.7/8 Band Camp will be at Camp Caroline April 2-3.

**Festivals:** Red Deer Festival (April) and the ABA Festival of Bands (May). Both festivals are at the Red Deer College Arts Centre. Actual performance times will not be known until approximately one month before the festival. Volunteers are required to transport equipment, supervise on the bus, and supervise at the Arts Centre.

Your help as a volunteer greatly benefits our music program. Thanks for any time and assistance you are able to contribute. I will be contacting interested parents before the end of September.

..... **Please detach and Return to Mr. Pearson ASAP** .....

Name of Student	Name of Parent	Date
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I am interested in volunteering in the following area(s):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Band Camp      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

