

NVSD Band and Strings FAQ

What are the benefits of my child learning music?

The Elementary Band and Strings program is one of the finest instrumental programs in British Columbia and complements the BC Ministry of Education's Arts Education curriculum.

This program offers a wonderful opportunity for students to receive instrumental instruction in a group setting and represents the start of an exciting musical journey that they can follow through to the end of their secondary school years.

As research has conclusively revealed over decades, involvement in a music program can benefit children's academic and social-emotional development, providing an opportunity to develop a child's musicianship and creativity. (Hallam, S. 2016). Further, there is a strong correlation indicating that music education promotes social skills, teaches discipline, and elevates confidence for our children.

Additionally, research has shared with us, that musical training early in life improves how the brain processes sound, and the benefits of early exposure to music education last well into adulthood, years after the training has ceased. With this, the study of music in an ensemble has been shown to increase the capacity of memory, enhance perseverance, and self-expression.

Will my child have the opportunity to celebrate their music this year?

All Band and Strings students will have the opportunity to celebrate their music!

Traditionally, the ensembles perform at various locations and festivals such as the Band and Strings Music Festival, the Zone concert series, or local school events and assemblies.

This school year, students will be sharing their music in many ways, including sound recordings and videos. To note, sensitivity to consent and personal choice are placed first.

Will there be a Band and Strings program this year?

Yes!

As you know, the health and safety of our students, staff and their families is our highest priority. Our school district closely follows the guidelines of the Provincial Health Services Authority, including directives shared during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NVSD and Band and Strings teachers have been developing new experiences and teaching methods that continue to build dynamic learning communities using various platforms in person or online. Either of these models will allow students to explore and extend their learning, challenge themselves musically, and fulfill their personal learning goals through engaging and innovative teaching that is based on caring and supportive relationships.

How will my child learn music online if asked to learn from home?

Learning may look different this year for all children in their classrooms. Whatever platform, we are confident that learning will be as vibrant as it always has been because of the ability for the children and their teachers to work together in trusting and supportive relationships. Of all times, having the ability to connect with others, and build community, through music, is pivotal.

This fall, if there is an online component, Band and Strings teachers will meet virtually with their students in ensembles, small groups, and individually. With this, providing personalized support and learning for their students, providing students with hands-on, music making activities of high quality, will be front and center!

Who are my child's teachers? What experience and credentials do they have?

NVSD Band and Strings teachers come with an impressive range of music experience and training. They are both active musicians as well as certified BC teachers. All Band and Strings teachers have education degrees as well as specific instrumental music training.

How do the Band and Strings classes work?

The Elementary Band and Strings program is a unique instrumental music program that is distinct to the North Vancouver School District. The program provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in the intermediate grades (Grades 5 - 7 for Band and Grades 4 - 7 for Strings).

Traditionally, classes are held twice a week at the school. Each school varies when the Band and Strings program is offered due to each school's unique timetable

If a class is not offered at your child's school, unfortunately for this school year, we are NOT able to offer programming to your child at a site other than your child's school. We are hopeful that next year we will be able to revisit our schedule and increase our class offerings

What is the registration fee? Is there an early bird rate?

The registration for this year is \$470. We will be using the Early Bird rate for the entire registration process, with the aim to support families for this upcoming calendar year.

Up to June 15th, 2020, you can receive a full refund without cancellation fees if you decide to withdraw your child. After this time, there is a \$75 cancellation fee up until September 30th. Due to staffing commitments, we will not offer refunds after September 30th, 2020.

Are there ways I can pay in installments?

You can select to pay your registration using our installment plan. This plan would begin on the day that you register for the program. The number of installments would be calculated based on this date until the month of September. For further information on how we can support you with setting up instalments for your family beyond this plan, please contact bandandstring@sd44.ca for personal support.

How do I register my child for this program?

You can register your child via School Cash Online, please click [here](#). If you need support, please contact bandandstrings@sd44.ca