

Dear Families,

The North Vancouver School District Elementary Band and Strings music program provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in the intermediate elementary grades (Band: Grades 5 to 7; Strings: Grades 4 to 7). It is one of the finest instrumental programs offered in BC, and complements the BC Ministry of Education's Arts Education curriculum.

In response to COVID-19, and with a focus on the health and safety of our students, their families and our staff, we have made adjustments to the Band and Strings program offering for the 2020/21 school year. We would like to take this opportunity to share these changes with you.

For the coming school year, our Band and Strings teachers, who themselves are experienced musicians and certified BC teachers, will be offering new and innovative experiences and teaching methods that continue to engage students and build dynamic learning communities. Whether instruction takes place in person or online, through the use of various platforms, students will have opportunities to explore and extend their learning, challenge themselves musically, and fulfill their personal learning goals.

Traditionally, classes have been held twice per week, with scheduling variance between schools to support each school's unique timetable and program enrolment. For the upcoming school year, we will be offering the following programming at the following locations within our district:

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Beginning Band	Canyon Heights Elementary	7:50 - 8:30 am (Tu/Thu)
Continuing Band	Canyon Heights Elementary	7:50 - 8:30 am (Wed/Fri)
Beginning Strings	Dorothy Lynas Elementary	7:50 - 8:30 am (Tues/Fri)
Continuing Strings	Larson Elementary	7:50 - 8:30 am (Mon/Thurs)

We can appreciate how these changes may impact your original decision to participate in our programs, and we will work with you to accommodate any changes to your child's participation in the program for 2020/21:

- If you have already registered for Band at your school, your registration will automatically be adjusted to the new program site
- To change your child's registration from the Band program to the Strings program, please contact [bandandstring@sd44.ca](mailto:bandandstring@sd44.ca).
- For any support in making a change or to cancel your child's registration, please contact [bandandstring@sd44.ca](mailto:bandandstring@sd44.ca).



Research has conclusively revealed the benefits that participation in a music program brings for a child's academic and social-emotional development, musicianship and creativity (Hallam, S. 2016). There is a strong correlation between music education and the development of social skills, discipline, and confidence.

We hope that you choose to keep your child enrolled in our Band and Strings program so that they may experience the many benefits that come with an early start to an exciting musical journey that they can follow through to the end of their secondary school years. On behalf of the Band and Strings team, thank you for your ongoing support of our music program. We look forward to working with your child.

Kindest,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Kerr".

Allison Kerr  
District Principal of Arts Education