



♪ Instrumental Music FAQ & Parental Consent Form ♪

Macdonald Drive Junior High

1. Who can join an ensemble?

Instrumental ensembles are open to any student who has at least 1 year playing experience on their instrument.

2. Is there a uniform?

Yes. Band students wear black bottoms and a burgundy music polo shirt. Shirts are \$20 and are ordered in October.

3. What instrumental music ensembles are there?

There are currently 6 instrumental ensembles:

Grade 7 Concert Band (2 practices during school)

Grade 8/9 Symphonic Band (2 practices during school)

Junior Strings (1 practice during school)

Senior Strings (1 practice at lunch + half a period during school)

Junior Jazz Band (1 practice at lunch)

Senior Jazz Band (1 after school rehearsal on Mondays)

4. Which ensembles require auditions?

*The Senior Jazz Band and Senior Strings are auditioned ensembles. Auditions take place during the second week of school. Sign-up sheets and audition materials will be posted outside the bandroom.

5. If I join the Jazz Band do I still have to play in Symphonic Band?

Yes (exception: rhythm section members – piano, bass, guitar, drum set).

6. Is there a mark for performing in an ensemble?

Yes. Students in the Symphonic and Concert bands receive a grade on each report card (3 times a year). Grades are based upon playing ability, theoretical understanding and musicianship. Students are required to do 3 playing tests a year.

7. When exactly are ensemble rehearsals during the school day?

The band program at MacDonald Drive Junior High operates on a 'pull-out' basis. This means that students miss regularly scheduled classes in order to attend practices. Practices occur on a 3-week rotating schedule in order to minimize missing the same class every 7 day cycle. For example, if a student misses math class for rehearsal one cycle, they shouldn't miss another math for 21 days. A great deal of time is invested in designing a schedule that avoids repeated conflicts with classes and after school groups. However, sometimes such conflicts are unavoidable.



8. What happens if I have a test during rehearsal?

If a student is unable to attend band due to tests, quizzes or labs they are asked to let Ms. Comerford know ahead of time and should attend another instrumental section scheduled that day so they do not fall behind.

9. What about the work I miss?

Students are responsible for obtaining notes missed in class and completing assigned work. We recommend that students have a “band buddy” who will offer them notes and inform them of missed work/homework. Band cannot be used as an excuse for missed work or not knowing about assignments/evaluation.

10. Can I rent an instrument from the school?

Possibly. MacDonald Drive has a limited number of instruments available for rent. Rental fees are \$60/year. Please note that rental instruments will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

11. What is Remind?

Remind is a messaging platform that helps provide instant communication between educators and students or parents. We use the Remind app to send band schedule reminders, updates or changes and so much more. If your child doesn't have a cell phone a parent number would be great as a lot of the messages happen through remind. If not, they can use an email but might need to change the notification setting to get the alerts. For more about remind check out our website mdjhmusic.weebly.com

12. Where can I find more information about the ensembles and the program?

You can contact check out the MDJH Music website mdjhmusic.weebly.com or contact Ms. Comerford at sarahcomerford@nlesd.ca



Instrumental Ensemble Information and Consent Form

Student name _____ Grade _____

Homeroom # _____ Homeroom teacher _____

Instrument: _____

*Parent email address _____

Student Cell number (or parent) _____

(to receive text message reminders and updates using the app Remind 101.)

Please indicate the ensemble(s) you choose to participate in this year. You may select more than one.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band (gr.7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Jazz Band (gr. 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symphonic Band (gr. 8 & 9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Strings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Band (8 & 9) (*audition required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Strings (*audition required) |

How many years have you been playing your principal instrument? _____

Did you play in your school band last year? _____

Do you take lessons? If so, who is your teacher? _____

Are you involved in any other music outside of school? _____

***I have read the information provided and agree to the commitment involved in joining the Macdonald Drive Junior High Instrumental Music Program.**

Parent signature _____ Student signature _____

Parent name _____ Date _____

(Please Print)

____ I am enclosing \$20 for the music shirt ____ My child has a music shirt already

____ I would like to rent an instrument ____ My child has their own instrument

***I give permission for my child's image and/or name to be shared on social media to help promote the music program. yes/ no**

Please complete and return this form to Ms. Comerford by **Friday, September 13th.**

A detailed rehearsal schedule will follow once all forms are collected.