



# 🎵 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 black music polo shirt. Shirts are \$20 and are ordered in October. Students who ordered shirts last year can see Ms. Comerford to receive their shirts.

**3. What instrumental music ensembles are there?**

There are currently 5 instrumental ensembles:

- Grade 7 Concert Band*
- Grade 8/9 Symphonic Band*
- String Ensemble (auditioned ensemble)*
- Jazz Band (auditioned ensemble)*
- Beginning Band Reboot (grade 7)*

**4. \*\*What is the Beginning Band Reboot?**

*New this year!!!* To help fill the learning gaps created by COVID protocols which made learning wind instruments challenging, we would like to give grade 7 students another opportunity to learn or re-learn the instruments they started in elementary school.

**5. Which ensembles require auditions?**

\*The Senior Jazz Band and String Ensemble are auditioned ensembles. Audition material will be posted outside the bandroom. Students can submit their audition video to Ms. Comerford via email.

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

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

**7. Is there a mark for performing in an ensemble?**

Yes. Students in the Concert Band, Symphonic Band and String Ensemble will 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 which are assigned and submitted through Google Classroom.

**8. 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 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. However, sometimes such conflicts are unavoidable. Students also have the option to "crash" another instrument sectional that day if they cannot attend their scheduled rehearsal.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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](http://mdjhmusic.weebly.com)**

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

You can contact check out the MDJH Music website **[mdjhmusic.weebly.com](http://mdjhmusic.weebly.com)** or contact Ms. Comerford at [sarahcomerford@nlesd.ca](mailto:sarahcomerford@nlesd.ca)



## Instrumental Ensemble Information and Consent Form

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom # \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent email address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell number (or parent) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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"/> Jazz Band (8 & 9) (*audition required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symphonic Band (gr. 8 & 9)    | <input type="checkbox"/> String Ensemble (*auditioned required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Band Reboot (gr. 7) |   |

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 am enclosing \$60 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 demonstrate how teaching and learning occur in our music program.**

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form to Ms. Comerford by **Friday, September 17th.**

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