



Gaetz Brook Junior High School

Band Program

April 2022

Dear Grade 6 Parents and Future GBJH Students:

My name is Allison Penwell and I am the band teacher at Gaetz Brook Junior High School. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a few things about the band program at GBJH.

Students who are currently enrolled in a grade 6 band program may opt to continue with this program into Grade 7. I recognize this can sometimes be an overwhelming endeavor on top of the many changes moving from elementary school to junior high. I want to assure you, I am here to help with those transitions in any way possible.

Music at GBJH is a really exciting program to be in. We have 3+ concerts throughout the year, often collaborate with the other programs/schools, we bring in clinicians to work with our students, we have a Music Masters club, we play at various events in the school, and have an extra curricular jazz band/honours band.

WHAT DOES BAND LOOK LIKE AT GBJH?

A student who enrolls in the band program will see band in their regular schedule. All students are allotted time for Fine Arts, so this does not take away from any other their other regular class time. They will not miss a class in order to be in the band program. They will have band 3 times in our 10 day schedule.

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD JOIN BAND?

HOW DOES IT AFFECT OTHER SUBJECTS?

Music, and band specifically, would not be part of our provincial curriculum if students did not show benefits from participating. After prolonged experience in band, students show many improvements in their solving of mathematical problems. Reading scores improve, and they feel accepted in a large group with a common goal. Students who read music understand what note to play (foreign language), how long of a duration in time to give the note (mathematics), which finger to put down (physical dexterity), etc. Band also encourages self-discipline through practicing the instrument to improve.

ARE BAND STUDENTS EVALUATED?

Yes, students are evaluated in band. Informal assessment occurs on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Formal assessment, based on specific musical and technical outcomes, occurs periodically. Parents are informed of student progress through report cards, Powerschool and Google Classroom. Extra help is always available for students.

TAKE IT FROM THE KIDS!

When I asked the current band students what they would say to the incoming grade 6 students about taking band, they said:

"You should join band because of how fun it is and how you get to learn and make new friends easily." - Brenna (7th Grade)

"You should join band because it feels like a great big family!" - Emma (12th Grade)

"YOU SHOULD JOIN BAND BECAUSE IT'S A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE AS WELL AS TEACHING US ABOUT OTHER CULTURES IN THE WORLD!" - HALEY (8TH GRADE)

"You should band because we play awesome music and we have an awesome teacher." - Abbie (10th Grade)

"You should join band because the music of a band can change your opinion on life. To me, music means the world because I've found my true success in life (this is the one thing I'm good at and you should see if band is your true calling)." - Sam. (8th Grade)

"You should join band because it teaches you things that you have never even knew existed." - Adam (8th Grade)

"You should join band because it is fun!" - Sarah (9th Grade)

"You should join band because it's fun, you learn more sheet music, more notes, you have concerts, you work with new people, and learn harder things!" - Megan R. (7th Grade)

"YOU SHOULD JOIN BAND BECAUSE YOU CAN MEET NEW FRIENDS AND YOU CAN GO TO PLACES THAT YOU NEVER BEEN TO." - MAKAYLA (11TH GRADE)

"You should join band because, its a place where you can be yourself and play awesome pieces of music while having fun also." -Amy (7th Grade)

"You should join band because you can express yourself!" - Maddy (7th Grade)

"You should join band because it is a learning and fun experience that can create wonderful memories." - Jessica. (12th Grade)

I hope that you strongly consider taking Band next year. Please, let me know if you have ANY questions at all about the musical life of Gaetz Brook Junior High.

Thank you very much,



Allison Penwell

apenwell@gnsps.ca *quickest method

@mspenwell ← check out what's happening with us on Twitter!

@music_on_the_shore ← check out our occasional posts on instagram!

