

Dear Parents and Students,

I am very much looking forward to getting started on making exciting music at Sturgeon Heights this year! The following is some general info about the band program. You can find a calendar of Sturgeon Heights band events happening in the 2022-23 school year in the other attachment.

### **Instrument Rentals:**

#### **Large Wind Instruments & String Bass:**

The school will provide students who play a large wind instrument with an instrument to play at school, as well as one to practice at home. This includes bass clarinet, bari sax, bass trombone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and string bass. The fee for the year is \$120.

**Small wind instruments:** The school generally doesn't rent smaller wind instruments, such as flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet and tenor trombone. We have a few of these available to rent on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you play tenor sax, or trombone, there may be one available for rent, depending on what the student need is. The fee for the year is \$120.

#### **Percussionists:**

While in class, percussionists use many different percussion instruments, and are given a practice pad, and a stick bag with snare sticks, timpani mallets and yarn keyboard mallets in Grade 9, which is theirs to keep. Please bring your stick bag to class daily. As with other instruments we rent, there is wear and tear with daily use on these instruments, and percussionists are asked to pay a user-fee of \$120 per year.

#### **Paying for Rental Instruments:**

If you are renting an instrument from the school, the fees are paid through School Cash Online on the Sturgeon Heights website. This is the same system that you used to pay for your child's school fees. The fee can either be paid as a lump sum or in two \$60 installments, one due Sept 15, 2022, and one due January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I will also be giving your child a rental instrument form to be filled out and signed by both parent and student. Please either email me a record of payment or print off a receipt. If you have questions or concerns about the rental process, please contact me directly at [kathy.byrne@sjasd.ca](mailto:kathy.byrne@sjasd.ca)

If your child plays a large wind instrument, string bass, or is a percussionist, I have will assume that your child needs to rent/pay a user fee if they play a large wind instrument, string bass or percussion and have already added your child's name to School Cash Online. If your child plays a smaller instrument, I can't guarantee that I will have an instrument for them to rent. You can always ask me if there is one available, but these will be offered on a first- come-first serve basis. If I have a small instrument for you to rent, I will add your fee to School Cash Online after you inform me of your need. Please allow a few days for the secretary to process and update School Cash Online so you can pay this fee.

If I don't have an instrument for you to rent, I recommend renting or buying from Accord Music, Long & McQuade & St. John's Music. Please avoid buying instruments from Amazon, Costco, or Walmart. These are not quality instruments and are not worth the money, and they break very easily. If you're looking to rent or purchase a small instrument – the following are brands that are sturdy and well-made:

Flutes: Yamaha, Miramatsu, Miyazawa, Hanes, Powell

Clarinets: Yamaha, Buffet

Alto & Tenor Sax: Yamaha, P Mauriat, Selmer Paris (not Selmer U.S.)

Trumpets: Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter

Trombones: Yamaha, Bach

## Other Instrument Supplies Your Child Will Need If They Play a Woodwind Instrument

### Clarinet, Bass Clarinet & Saxes

- **Mouthpiece** (Yamaha student mouthpieces are by far the most reliable student level mouthpieces– if you are purchasing a student mouthpiece, please consider Yamaha as your go-to. A decent mouthpiece can make a HUGE difference for a player. If you are interested in buying a more professional mouthpiece, please contact me and I can help you with more specific information.
- **Ligature:** The device that holds the reed onto the mouthpiece.
- **Reeds:** Students should bring a minimum of 3 working reeds with them to class. Reeds take a while to work-in and once one is worn-out, it's always good to have a couple that are worked-in and ready to use. A working reed is a reed that is not chipped, split, or worn-down so it's too thin. Rico Royal is a good quality reed, Van Doren is an excellent reed. Avoid plastic reeds – they generally sound very rough. Consider buying a reed guard to keep your reeds safe from chipping and warping. These are very inexpensive and well worth the price.  
Reeds come in different strengths and people vary in which strength is appropriate for them. Please ask me for specific guidelines for your child if you're not sure.
- **Cork Grease:** Keeping the cork lubricated on the mouthpiece of a sax and all the joints of a clarinet/bass clarinet will help avoid accidentally breaking your instrument. Often students will try to force a mouthpiece or joint of a wind instrument together because there's not enough lubrication on the cork. This causes the keys to bend and leaks to form, resulting in an instrument that doesn't work properly.
- **Neck Strap:** Absolutely necessary for saxophones and can be beneficial for clarinets as well.
- **Cleaning Swab:** Necessary and inexpensive way to keep the pads of your instrument from getting sticky and dirty.

### Flute:

- **A cleaning stick and swab** - these generally come with the rental or purchase of the flute. They are necessary for keeping the pads of the flute from getting sticky and dirty. The cleaning stick also can be used to determine whether the cork on the head joint of the flute is in the correct spot – this affects the tuning.

- **Oboe & Bassoon:**

**Reeds** -good quality reeds are very expensive, and hand made. Please contact me for further details.

**Cleaning Swabs:** keeps the pads and from interior from becoming sticky and dirty

## **Other Supplies Your Child Will Need If They Play a Brass Instrument:**

- **Valve Oil** – if you are using a school instrument, please purchase synthetic valve oil only. If you play French Horn, please buy synthetic rotary valve oil.
- **Slide Cream** – This is to keep your tuning slides in working order.
- **Trombone Slide Cream & a Small Water Spray Bottle (Trombones Only)** - this will keep your slide moving freely and noiselessly – (if you can hear your slide moving, it's time to lubricate it!
- **Give Your Brass Instrument a Bath** – see the how-to videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDTP1TTmNOSwEAy3KQnahQmMAq8Fe602D> – this will keep your instrument in good repair.