

2026-2027

School District #52

Prince Rupert Band Handbook



Ms. K. Tillman

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**Beginning Band Resources:
<http://resources.rupertschools.ca/index.php/student-resources/band-program/>**

1. Benefits of Studying Instrumental Music:

- Teamwork
- Self-expression
- Coordination
- Memory skills
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Poise
- Goal-setting
- Problem solving
- Sense of accomplishment and pride

2. Program Goals

- Learn to read music and play a musical instrument using proper posture, hand position and tone quality.
- Develop an awareness of major and minor tonalities, a means to decode rhythms and techniques for good tone production.
- Develop the ability to set individual goals, maintain a good work ethic and realize a sense of achievement upon completion.
- Develop the ability to work towards common goals in large groups.
- Respect the talent and diversity of others while participating on a musical team.
- To see each band student continue with band through high school and possibly beyond.

3. Parental Tips

- Please help select a regular “practice time.” Before school, after school, before dinner, after dinner, or when Mom and Dad are watching the evening news, are all excellent times to practice.
- Please provide a regular place to practice, preferably somewhere well lit, quiet, and free of distractions.
- Please encourage your child through positive support. Listen to practice sessions on occasion.
- Most students require a significant amount of patience from their family as they squeak, squawk, moan and groan their way through the first few weeks. It will get better!! With regular practice those noises will be replaced in no time with the wonderful sounds of music! The rewards are well worth the wait.
- Please set aside our Winter concert date to be sure your child can attend.

4. Student Responsibilities

- A minimum of 90 minutes of home practice per week.
- Practice in a place free of distractions.
- Place music at eye level, and be sure to use good posture while you practice.
- Set goals! Work on improving five things in your assignment every time you practice.
- Bring all materials to every class.

5. Materials Needed

- Measures of Success Book 1
- Folding Music Stand (for home practice)
- Instrument in good playing condition
- A pencil (keep it in your case)
- Flutes
 - Silver polish cloth or soft cotton cloth
 - Cleaning rod
- Clarinets
 - At least one box of clarinet reeds (#2-1/2)
 - Reed guard for 2 reeds
 - Cleaning swab
 - Mouthpiece cap
 - Cork grease
- Saxophones
 - At least one box of saxophone reeds (#2-1/2)
 - Reed guard for 2 reeds
 - Cleaning swab
 - Mouthpiece cap and end plug
 - Neck strap
- Trumpets/Euphoniums/French Horns
 - Valve oil
 - Slide grease
 - Mouthpiece brush
 - Cleaning snake
 - Soft cloth to wipe fingerprints
- Trombones
 - Slide cream or slide oil. (Slide cream is preferable and works better. It is also more economical. If you are using slide cream, you will need a water spray bottle – like a hairspray mist bottle.)
 - Tuning slide grease
 - Mouthpiece brush
 - Cleaning snake
 - Soft cloth to wipe fingerprints
- Percussion
 - Percussion kit (including bell kit & drum pad)

All these supplies can be purchased from Sight & Sound in Terrace or any music store.

*New instruments usually come with the cleaning supplies – if buying/renting used, be sure to get all the necessary “extras”.

If supplying an instrument is troublesome, there is **a limited** number of school owned instruments available. Please talk to Ms. Tillman for more information. Students will not be given an instrument until his/her parent/guardian has talked to Ms. Tillman and filled out the Instrument Loan Agreement Form.

6. Band Schedule

Lax Kheen (Monday/Wednesday) and Pineridge (Tuesday/Thursday) – 8:45-9:30
Conrad (Monday/Wednesday) and Roosevelt (Tuesday/Thursday) – 9:45-10:30
Middle School Band classes are every 2nd day.

7. Important Dates:

- **Annual Winter Concert Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 9th, 2026**
- **Annual Winter Concert: Sunday, December 13th, 2026 2pm @ LCA**
- **Pacific Northwest Music Festival: (Middle School Only): April 2027**
- **SeaFest Parade: Saturday, June 12th, 2027**
- **Year End Concert (Grade 5 & Concert/Jazz Bands): Tuesday, June 8th, 2027 9:45am @ LCA**

Note: Before each concert there will be full band practices after school. Students not attending these practices will not be permitted to perform in the concert. Behaviour in band class as well as other classes will be a factor in determining whether a student will be permitted to participate in activities outside of school.

8. Grading

- Grades are based on attendance in class & at rehearsals, concert participation, practice effort, and musical improvement.
- Students may be assigned work each week and/or one of the lines will be graded each week (weekly playing quiz).
- Learning updates are included on the school report card.

9. Recommended Instruments

- Some common and reliable name brands are: Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer, Gemienhardt, Vito, Bach, Holton, Conn, King.
- **Warning:** You will see advertised in department store catalogs, wholesale clubs, large retailers, online auction sites, and some pawnshops, brand new instruments for around \$200.00 or less. They may be colourful (pink flute, green saxophone, etc. **Buyers Beware.** These are poorly made and usually do not last the first year of band. Frequently, they are extremely difficult to play or they don't play at all.

10. Care of Instruments

- Students will be instructed on daily maintenance of their instruments.
- Handle with care! Your instrument is made of breakable parts, so be careful handling it. Do not let younger siblings or friends handle your instrument.
- Always store your instrument safely in the case when you are not playing it.
- Before you pick up your case, make sure the latches are closed.
- Keep your instrument clean by swabbing out the moisture, wiping off the outside.
- Do not let the instrument get too hot or too cold. For example, avoid leaving it in the car for an extended period of time on an extremely hot or cold day.

11. Concert Attire: Parents are responsible for providing the appropriate dress clothes!

- White shirt, black pants/shoes/socks.
- Hats/hoods are not permitted.
- Grade 6, 7, and 8's will also be required to wear the red sweaters provided by the school district.

Why Learn Music?

Music is a science...

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart; a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical...

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a foreign language...

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French, and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is history...

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the national and or cultural feeling.

Music is physical education...

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all these things, but most of all, Music is art...

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

Please visit this link to help decide which instrument is best for you!

<https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/group/index.php?id=3378>

BAND ENROLMENT FORM

STUDENT NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____

HOME PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: _____

Please put a **1** in the box of your first choice and a **2** in the box of your second choice. *(Only students requiring an instrument to be provided by the school must have a 2nd choice. Schools do not provide percussion, French Horn or Euphonium and saxophones are extremely limited.)*

Flute

☐

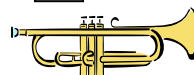
Clarinet

☐

Saxophone

☐

Trumpet

☐

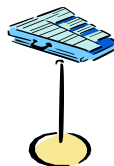
Trombone

☐

French Horn

☐

Percussion

☐

Euphonium

☐

STUDENTS: You may not participate in band until this page is properly signed and turned in!

****By signing this form, I am stating that I have read and agree with all of the policies outlined in this handbook.**

I also understand that **I am committing to band for the full school year** and if I ever have a question or concern regarding any aspect of this class, I should immediately contact Ms. Tillman.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

*Notices will be sent using the "REMIND APP". Please sign up in the app with code @tillman5 or with an email address at: <https://www.remind.com/join/tillman5> (Although it says "Roosevelt" it is for ALL GRADE 5's) (Text messaging no longer works in Canada)