

St. Paul's High School Band Program Gr. 9

Introductory Band Information Letter



Dear Grade 9 Introductory Band Parent(s),

My name is Giovanni Verrelli and I am the band director at St. Paul's High School. I look forward to meeting your son and welcoming him into the exciting tradition of creating music at St. Paul's this year! This letter details a **checklist** of band items that your son should have ready for the commencement of classes in the September.

Instrument Rentals:

- It is expected that students who are playing **flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone** will rent these instruments from a **music store**.
- St. Paul's will rent to students, as many of the larger instruments (**Euphonium, Tuba**) as are available, at a price comparable to the rental of a flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone. Students who play **Euphonium and Tuba, must rent their instrument from the school**.
- All percussionists will use the range of percussion instruments provided in the band room.

Long & McQuade Rentals:

Follow the link provided to access band instrument rentals with Long & McQuade: <https://rentals.long-mcquade.com/> Through the link, select the appropriate instrument, make the payment online, and choose whether to pick it up in store or have it delivered to the school. The rental requests submitted online are relayed to the local stores for processing.

- Accessories:** All band instruments require certain accessories. For example, clarinets will need a supply of reeds and cork grease. If you are renting an instrument from a music store, please confirm with an employee if all appropriate accessories are provided with the instrument at the time of purchase. Students who are renting instruments from the school, will be provided with accessories.
- Instrument Tuner Application:** Each student will require a tuner for their instrument. There are numerous tuning apps that are accessible for free on android and apple smartphones. If possible, please download **"insTuner"** (for android and apple smartphones).
- Student Method Book:** **"Essential Elements Book 1"** All introductory students are required to purchase this method book for **their specific instrument**. (For example: If John plays the clarinet, he must purchase the **clarinet** method book 1 titled **"Essential Elements**

for Band (Bb Clarinet book 1)"). This book will be used extensively throughout the school year.) Visual examples provided below:



Where to purchase? - Long and McQuade (any location in the city)

Percussionists: On top of purchasing the Essential Elements method book, all percussionists are to purchase the following items for band class:

- Pair of Concert Drumsticks: **General Custom Round Tip Sticks:** [Vic Firth General Custom Round Tip Sticks | Long & McQuade \(long-mcquade.com\)](https://www.vicfirth.com/)
- A **pitch pipe tuner:** Purchase at any music store or online at Amazon.

Mandatory Introductory Band Workshops:

At the start of the school year, all students will participate in two important instrument workshops. These sessions are a **requirement**, as they are crucial for building good habits and practices from day one.

A) Workshop #1: An Introduction to your instrument.

For this workshop, each instrument section (ex: clarinets) will meet with Mr. Verrelli at a scheduled lunch hour.

Where: Band Room

When: See Schedule below.

Instrument Section(s)	Date:	Time:
Clarinet Section:	Monday, Day B/ September 9, 2024	Lunch Hour: 12:05pm
All Brass Instrument Sections: (Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba)	Tuesday, Day C/ September 10, 2024	In Class: Period 4 1:20-2:15
Flute Section:	Wednesday, Day D/ September 11, 2024	Lunch Hour: 11:30am
Percussion Section:	Thursday, Day A/ September 12, 2024	Lunch Hour: 12:05pm

Students will learn the following:

- Instrument Assembly, Disassembly
- Care/Maintenance
- Holding position
- Posture
- Embouchure (mouth formation)

B) Workshop #2: First Notes Workshop

Each instrument section (ex: all trumpet students), will meet with a senior band student instructor who plays their instrument. The instructor will work with their student section on the following:

Where: Band Room

When: During class on Day A Thursday, September 12, 2024

- How to produce characteristic sound on the instrument
- How to play the first 3-5 notes
- Play a simple song!

Please feel free to contact me at gverrelli@stpauls.mb.ca if you have any questions or concerns about the above information.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Verrelli
Director of Bands
St. Paul's High School