

Balfour Area Elementary Band Information for Grade 6 (RCS)

Grade 6 students are invited to enroll in band, which will begin when they return to school in September. Please read through this information carefully and fill out the registration form. We have provided paper and digital versions of the registration form for convenience. Paper forms can be turned in to your school's office or their classroom teacher.

Some facts about band:

- Band instruction is offered at RCS through Regina Public Schools. At RCS the students are part of the Balfour Elementary Band Program.
- **No previous music experience is required.** Each student will learn to play an instrument and read music notation.
- All band students receive a total of 1 hour and 45 minutes of instruction per week **during school hours** (1 hour in a large group setting at Balfour Collegiate and 45 minutes in a small group setting at their elementary school). The large group practice combines students from several schools.
- It is a Regina Public Schools Accredited Class available to all students in Grades 6-12. High school students earn credits for taking band classes.
- There are over 2000 students in the Regina Public Schools band program.
- This class supports the Regina Public Schools Higher Literacy and Achievement Goals.
- Participation in band class helps develop creativity, self-expression, organizational skills, social skills, empathy, independence, math skills, language skills, and self-confidence among others.

Instrument selection:

- Students will be asked to pick an instrument based on a demonstration by the band teachers.
- Band instruments are flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, alto/tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, euphonium, trombone, and tuba.
- Note: piano, guitar, and violin are not concert band instruments.

Instrument details:

- We recommend rental programs from St. John's Music or Long & McQuade. Rates range from \$15 - \$50 per month depending on instrument selection.
- **Larger instruments** are rented through the school for \$150 per year (bass clarinet, French horn, Euphonium, and Tuba). Fees are paid by cheque to Regina Public Schools and handed in to the band teacher. Payments are submitted in September, we will not accept any payments in June.
- **If you already own an instrument** or are looking to purchase a used one: please consult a band teacher to assess the condition and quality of the instrument first.
- If you are unable to pay for an instrument: please contact us and we will discuss options to provide an instrument.

Other costs:

- Instrument rental and supplies (examples: clarinet reeds or valve oil for trumpets)
- Method book - Sound Innovations ~\$15. Purchased from Long & McQuade or St. John's Music.
- Band shirt- usually \$15. This is used for all our performances.
- Bussing fee - \$80 per year. This provides weekly transportation to and from Balfour for full band.
- Trip fees - in grade 6 we do a day trip within the city at the end of the year. Typically \$15-\$20.

Commitment:

Band class is a commitment. Band class will be “extra work but also extra rewarding”.

- As instruction takes place during the school day, students will be pulled from their regular classes twice a week.
- Sometimes students may get extra homework. Our classroom teachers are incredibly supportive and help to make sure students never fall behind in class.
- In grade 6 we typically perform two evening concerts during the school year for parents to come see. One in December and one in May.
- During the school day we also perform at the Optimist Band Festival in March and have a day trip in May.
- Students are expected to complete the full year which goes from September to May.

Supplies

All instruments will require some extra supplies. Books and general supplies can be purchased from Long and McQuade or St. John's Music.

All instruments:

- Sound Innovations Book 1 (band method book).
- Folding music stand for practicing at home.
- All black uniform. We will be handing out Balfour Band shirts for \$15 in the fall, students will also need black pants, socks, and shoes.

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones:

- These instruments will require a box of #2½ reeds.

Please complete either the digital or paper registration form. If you have any questions, please email us. You can expect more information when we return to school in September. We are excited to meet you and make music together. Thank you,

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Digital Registration Form:

