

## **Welcome to the GSCS Band Program!**

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools offers Band as an optional course of study for students in Grades Six through Twelve.

Band is an approved course of study in the Saskatchewan Curriculum.

In high school, Band is an approved credit course. Band 90, 10, 20, and 30 is offered at Bethlehem, Bishop James Mahoney, E.D. Feehan, Holy Cross, and St. Joseph High Schools.

Co-curricular and extracurricular Band activities are offered as an extension of the GSCS Band program.

### **Why join Band?**

Band provides an opportunity for students to learn about music by playing a wind or percussion instrument in an ensemble setting. This provides a broader educational experience, and can be the foundation of further leisure activity, or even for a career in the music industry.

### **Who can join Band?**

Band is open to all GSCS students in Grade Six through Twelve. Students typically begin in Grade Six.

## **What is expected of band students?**

Learning to play an instrument requires commitment, time, and effort. Students are expected to practice regularly, and to attend rehearsals and performances.

### **Are band students evaluated?**

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.

### **How do we get started?**

Interested students may be given a placement examination, which gives the student and teacher an idea of which instruments are likely to be the most successful options. The student, parents, and teacher then decide together which instrument the student will play. This way, student and parent wishes, program needs, instrument availability, and other factors can be taken into consideration.

## **What instruments can we choose from?**

Concert band instruments include: flute, piccolo, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, and percussion.

Concert band instruments do not include: guitar, piano, violin, viola, or cello.

### **Where can we obtain an instrument?**

Generally, parents are responsible for supplying an instrument. Several local music stores sell band instruments, and offer rentals, rent-to-own plans, consignment sales, and purchases.

GSCS has a limited supply of larger, more expensive instruments for student use. These are rented on a yearly basis, subject to availability. Contact your school band director for more information.

## **Are private lessons necessary?**

No. However, students in Saskatoon and Humboldt are privileged to have many excellent community musicians with whom they can study privately for accelerated growth and learning opportunities if they wish.

## **Does participating in band affect other subject areas?**

Informal studies and anecdotal evidence indicates that belonging to a band program does not negatively affect academic achievement in other subjects. Parents who are concerned about conflicts with other school subjects are advised to contact their school principal.

## **Are students expected to join after-school band?**

While not compulsory, students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of extracurricular band activities when they are available. After-school band is offered in selected areas of Saskatoon for students in Grades Seven and Eight, and many extracurricular ensembles are available at the high school level.

## **What is the role of the parent in the band program?**

The parent's role is an important one! Above all, the student needs constant support and encouragement in developing the self-discipline for practice and attendance. In this, the parent and school are close partners in the musical development of the student.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Contact your school band director if you have questions or require more detail.

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<http://www.gscs.sk.ca/studentsandfamilies/curriculum/Pages/ArtsEducation.aspx>



# **BAND PROGRAM**