

Beginning Band (Grade 6) Information Letter – Fall 2026

Peter Ewart Middle School
Beginning Band
Ms. Emily Joo
Ejoo@sd35.bc.ca

Please read through this letter thoroughly as it contains important, and time sensitive information, including the link to the instrument choice sign-up form.

Dear Grade 6 Students and Families:

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to Peter Ewart Middle School Music Program! My name is Emily Joo, and I will be teaching Beginning Band and Intermediate Band this year.

In Grade 6, students will either be in Beginning Band or the Intermediate Band – depending on their experience with playing a band instrument.

However, since most Grade 6s would be just introduced to playing a band instrument at this point, I would like to inform you about the opportunity for them to participate in the Beginning Band Program through this letter.

Information

Beginning Band is available to any student wishing to learn a new band instrument. Students will receive instruction in the fundamental concepts of woodwind, brass, and percussion instrument through a series of scheduled morning rehearsals – which will take place every **Monday and Thursday from 7:30-8-20 AM**. It is important to note that these rehearsals are a September to June commitment (School year). However, the first rehearsal date will be announced after the sign-up and instrument selection process is complete and **there will not be any rehearsals until further notice.**

We will have two main concerts – Winter and Year-End concert in the evening (specific dates/times will be announced later in the year).

Instrument Selection

All Grade 6 students received a presentation at today's assembly and learned about the instruments that will be available for them to choose from. (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium/baritone, electric bass, and percussion).

If your child did not get a chance to attend the presentation, please watch the following video together before making your instrument selections:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ys1hYoTSuk8>

(Please note that **oboe, bassoon, F horn, and tuba will not be a part of the Beginning Band program**, as well as the **piano, guitar, or violin**.)

While there are special circumstances, i.e. “this is the instrument we already have,” or “the student began lessons on their clarinet this past summer,” please understand that not all students may be assigned with their first choice of instrument. For this reason, we are asking you to fill out **top three different choices** of instruments that your child is interested in. Please select three that your child would be okay with being assigned.

We strive to have a band with a reasonably balanced instrumentation; the best sounding bands have a good balance of high, medium, and low-pitched instruments, as well as a strong percussion section.

Please note that some instruments, such as the *percussion or the bass (not shown in the video)*, are limited in number and to those with prior experience in music. These instruments not only require a sense of rhythm and musicality, but also strong leadership skills. If your child has percussion or bass as their first choice, **please ensure that they have included other wind instruments as their second and/or third choice**.

Deadline for Signing Up and Sign-Up Form Link

We will **NOT be using paper forms this year**. All students interested in joining Beginning Band must complete the Microsoft Form linked below **by Tuesday, September 15th**:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/g34FDH7PDp>

The deadline is tight as the instrument assignments need to be finalized and allow time for students to a chance to get their instruments before the Beginning Band Workshop on Saturday, Sept 19th. (Which is **highly** suggested for students! More details will follow.)

Late forms may be accepted, only if space is available. Due to the capacity of our music room, there is a limit to the number of students who can participate. If we reach the capacity before the application deadline, applications will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

What Happens Next?

Final instrument assignments and more information on renting instruments, materials/equipment, District Beginning Band Workshop, and first class will be sent out to parents via email by Ms. Joo shortly after all sign-up forms are submitted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to help!