

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAMS

Background

Instrumental music education (band) provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes which contribute to their physical, mental, and social well-being. Accordingly, the Division authorizes instrumental music programs as outlined in Alberta Education Program of Studies for grades 5 through 12 where interest and numbers warrant.

To permit students to be introduced to instrumental music without extraordinary costs and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program, the division authorizes the purchase and maintenance of an inventory of instruments which may be rented to parents/guardians of students as per this administrative procedure.

The Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services is responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

Procedures

1. Rental of Division-Owned Instruments

1.1 Allocation of Inventory

- 1.1.1 Parents/Guardians of students are encouraged to rent instruments from the division inventory of beginner (junior high programs) or intermediate level instruments (high school programs).
- 1.1.2 Band Directors will follow the division instrument maintenance timeline and procedures that are in place to guarantee all instruments and equipment is properly cleaned, repaired, inventoried and returned to schools annually, in preparation for students when the new school year starts.

1.2 Rental Rates

All students using a division-owned instrument will pay a common instrument loan fee. This loan fee is based on an average cost of maintenance and repair of the instruments.

- 1.2.1 \$150 per year

1.3 Rental Agreement

- 1.3.1 Parents/Guardians of students who wish to rent a division-owned instrument must first complete and submit an instrument rental agreement.
- 1.3.2 The Band Director is responsible for ensuring that a rental agreement has been completed and fees collected by the school as per other fees.
- 1.3.3 Parents/Guardians and students are prohibited from performing any repairs to instruments. Any necessary repairs or replacement, due to willful

damage to instruments or equipment by students, will be the financial responsibility of the parent/guardian.

- 1.3.4 A payment plan must be in place to repair or replace a willfully damaged instrument, prior to a new instrument being assigned to a student.

2. Instructional Time

2.1 To ensure program quality, Instrumental Music will be offered in accordance with curricular outcomes and guidelines outlined in the Music Program of Studies:

2.1.1 Grades 5 to 9: 75 hours/year

2.1.2 Grades 10 to 12: 125 hours/year

3. Divisional Regional Instrumental Band Programs

Foothills School Division has two divisional regional instrumental band programs (wind-percussion programs) which include the High Country Regional Instrumental Band Program and the High River Regional Instrumental Band Program. These programs are important in providing opportunities for students to engage in instrumental band. The instrumental band program is designed as a sequential and developmental approach to music instruction. Each level grows from those experiences previously presented. The program is flexible, providing for several levels of student ability and achievement. The instrumental band program helps students to develop competencies and to strive for excellence in:

- Playing: To discover, develop and evaluate their talents and abilities relative to playing a musical instrument, and to establish and reinforce correct techniques and skills.
- Listening: To develop the ability to make aesthetic judgments based on critical listening and analysis of music.
- Reading: To interpret rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and expression as they appear in musical notation through both cognitive and psychomotor responses.
- Creating: To develop an additional avenue of self-expression by composing, improvising, and interpreting music.
- Valuing: To make students aware of the implications of music in our society with respect to music careers, its avocational and leisure uses, and to grow in the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of music as a source of personal fulfillment. (*Alberta Education Music Program of Studies 1998*)

3.1 High Country Regional Instrumental Band Program

The High Country Regional Instrumental Band Program is for all students in grades 5-8 from Millarville Community School, Turner Valley School, C. Ian McLaren School and Longview School in partnership with Oilfields Junior/Senior High School.

3.2 High River Regional Instrumental Band Program

The High River Regional Instrumental Band Program is for all students in grades 5-8 from Blackie School and Cayley School in partnership with École Highwood High School.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines