

# École John Stubbs Band Introduction Letter 2024-2025

## Who can sign up for band?

- Band class is open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8.
- The grade 8 band is generally for students with experience on their instrument. Joining band in grade 8 without experience is an option, please contact Mme Stafford or Mme Daykin ahead of time to make a plan.

## What do students learn in band class?

- Students will focus on a wind or percussion instrument and learn how to read music, play in an ensemble and express themselves through music
- Students also learn teamwork, perseverance, dedication and develop a sense of community

## What is the commitment required?

- Band is scheduled for two blocks each week (2 x 50 minutes)
- Students who do not take band will stay with a classroom teacher and be taught the other components of the Arts curriculum (visual arts, dramatic arts, and dance).
- Students **do not** have to choose between Band and ADST (woodwork, outdoor ed, foods, design thinking). ADST classes are at a separate time from Band.
- Band is in the timetable (no before or after school practices) and is a **year-long** commitment.
- Students are expected to practice for 15 minutes twice a week outside of class time. The band room is sometimes available for extra practice.

## How does instrument selection/rental work?

- Instrument options for band 6/7 are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone or percussion.
- In September, band students will watch and listen to various recordings of each instrument. They will then list their top 3 choices. Based on the needs of the group, the band teacher will then assign instruments. Most students get their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.
- Most students will rent an instrument from a local music store- rates from Long & McQuade are included here.

Instrument	Monthly Rental	School Year Rental
FLUTE	21	159
CLARINET	21	159
ALTO SAX	40	325
TENOR SAX	45	365
TRUMPET	21	159
TROMBONE	21	159

- If there is financial need, students may borrow an instrument from the school.
- While it is more musically meaningful to have a balanced band, the goal is for students to be motivated, and parents to be supportive. Some instruments are big, some instruments are expensive- if parents would like to request an instrument switch to accommodate personal circumstances, please reach out and we will work together to find a solution.

**Are there concerts during the school year?**

- The middle school bands perform in 2 evening concerts for families in the school year, typically one in the winter and another in June.
- Bands may also perform for events around the school, such as pep rallies, outdoor concerts during recess, flashmobs, and concerts for Elementary schools.

**Please complete this form (all families)**

We are asking all middle school families to fill out this form for each of their middle school students. On the form you will indicate you choose band or not, plus a few other questions. Please complete [this link](#) to help us build our schedule for next year.