

Thomas B. Riley School



Music Program Handbook

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Welcome

Welcome to the music program at Thomas B. Riley School. I look forward to working with returning students and welcome those new students to the program. This information package has been assembled to help get you orientated with the music program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Email agparker@cbe.ab.ca Phone: (403) 777-7260 ext 3020.

Class Structure

Band classes at Thomas B. Riley are split by grade level. Each class will meet two to three times a week during the regular school time table. All bands will also perform at least twice a year at a scheduled band concert. In addition to regular classes, students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops, band camps, festivals and group rehearsals. Please make sure you review the expectations of your grade level.

Classroom Expectations

1. Members of the Thomas B Riley Music Program will be expected to display proper conduct and behavior, and be respectful for other people's rights and belongings. This applies to in-school and out-of-school activities.
2. Students are expected to attend class fully prepared with instrument, music, reeds and oils, and a pencil. In the event that a student "forgets" to bring their instrument to class or rehearsal, participation will still be required (i.e. essays, or research papers).
3. At the start of every class, students are asked to put their books and other personal property under their chair, to get their instrument out, to find their seat, and to begin their warm up procedures. At the end of every class or rehearsal, please put away their instrument on the shelves
4. Please do not chew gum, or candy when you are practicing your instrument. Sugar and food particles will eventually ruin your instrument. If you have been eating (i.e.lunch time), rinse out your mouth before playing.
5. Instruments are very personal. Please respect your instrument and other people's equipment by limiting the use of it to yourself.
6. Only percussionists are to use the percussion equipment.
7. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Compromises will always be made so that being a band member will not interfere with participating in sports or other school activities as long as the band teacher is notified in advance.
8. Failure of a student to fulfill normal requirements in the areas of school attendance, behavior, or marks, may result in the removal of that student from extra-curricular band activities.
9. In order to make performances more efficient, students are asked to help set up and tear down equipment before and after each performance.
10. Students may eat lunch in the band room. Please put garbage in the bins, and cans in the recycle box in the hall.
11. All instrumentalists are responsible for the condition and upkeep of their instrument. Reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc. may be purchased from me before or after school. Please buy supplies at either of these times as they will not be sold during class. (Woodwinds: Keep two or three "working" reeds in your case.)

- Prices will be posted in the band office.
12. Instruments are to be placed on the shelves in the band room. On the chance that the band room doors are locked, please put your instrument in your locker, or take them with you until the band room is open again.
 13. Above all, I expect that you come to rehearsal prepared to play to the best of your ability, to co-operate with others within the rehearsal, and to have fun!!!

Grade 5 Band Class

All grade five students in TLC enrolled at Thomas B. Riley will take part in Grade 5 Band as a part of the Traditional Learning Centre Curriculum. Students will be choosing a brass or woodwind instrument to learn throughout the year. We will take time in class to introduce the different instruments, and opportunities to play the different instrument to help the student make the best informed decision. **This decision must be taken with great care as it will be the instrument they play for their time at Thomas B. Riley.**

In Grade 5 Band, students will focus on the following points:

Proper playing positions
Instrument care and maintenance
Fundamentals of music

In Grade 5 Band, student responsibilities will include:

Being prepared for every class (Instrument, Music/Books, Pencil, Needed Supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets/sticks, etc.)
Take note of assignments in band book or agenda
In seat ready to play when class begins
Attend each class willing to work as a part of a larger team
Attend all workshops and concerts for the benefit of all students in band
Review of material covered in class at home
Maintain the behavioral expectations in The Raider Code at all times
Review playing techniques at home

Grade 6 Band Class

This class is mandatory to all students enrolled in the TLC program. Students will have the opportunity to begin a more in-depth study of one instrument from the woodwind, brass families or as part of the percussion section. Those interested in percussion must go through an audition process. Those chosen will become the percussion section for the Grade 6 band and those who are not chosen will continue to work on their instrument from Grade 5. Grade 6 Band class will continue to meet two to three times a week during the regular time table.

In Grade 6 Band, students will focus on the following points:

Proper playing positions
Fundamentals of music
Skill development
Ensemble playing skills

Detailed rehearsal of music
Basic music vocabulary and concepts

In Grade 6 Band, student responsibilities will include:
Being prepared for every class (Instrument, Music/Books, Pencil, Needed Supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets/sticks, etc.)
Take note of assignments in band book or agenda
In seat ready to play when class begins
Attend each class willing to work as a part of a larger team
Attend all workshops and concerts for the benefit of all students in band
Review of material covered in class at home
Maintain the behavioral expectations in The Raider Code at all times
Review music covered in class at home

Grade 7 Band Class

This class continues to be a mandatory program for all TLC students as well as an option for those Grade 7 students in the community program. This class meets two to three times a week during the regular school timetable and runs for the full year. In addition to regular classes, all students will be expected to attend two rehearsals prior to each concert.

In Grade 7 Band, students will focus on the following points:
Proper playing positions
Fundamentals of music
Skill development
Detailed rehearsal and performance of music
Sight-reading various genres of music
Basic music vocabulary and concepts
Basic music theory and history

In Grade 7 Band, student responsibilities will include:
Daily at home review of music covered in class for 15 minutes. Individual practice is an essential part of every students personal growth
Being prepared for every class (Instrument, Music/Books, Pencil, Needed Supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets/sticks, etc.)
Take note of assignments in band book or agenda
In seat ready to play when class begins
Attend each class willing to work as a part of a larger team
Attend all workshops and concerts for the benefit of all students in band
Maintain the behavioral expectations in The Raider Code at all times

Grade 8 Band

This class continues to be a mandatory program for all TLC students as well as an option for those Grade 8 students in the community program. This is a full year course meeting two to three times a week during the regular school timetable.

In Grade 8 Band, students will focus on the following points:

- Review concepts covered in Grade 7 Band
- Advance skill development
- Detailed rehearsal and performance of music
- Sight-reading various genres of music
- Music vocabulary and concepts
- Music theory and history

In Grade 8 Band, student responsibilities will include:

- Daily at home review of music covered in class for 20 minutes. Individual practice is an essential part of every students personal growth
- Being prepared for every class (Instrument, Music/Books, Pencil, Needed Supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets/sticks, etc.)
- Take note of assignments in band book or agenda
- In seat ready to play when class begins
- Attend each class willing to work as a part of a larger team
- Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory for the benefit of all students and the entire band
- Review of material covered in class at home
- Maintain the behavioral expectations in The Raider Code at all times

Grade 9 Band Class

This class continues to be a mandatory program for all TLC students as well as an option for those Grade 9 students in the community program.

In Grade 9 Band, students will focus on the following points:

- Review concepts covered in Grade 8 Band
- Continue advanced skill development
- Detailed rehearsal and performance of music of various genres
- Sight-reading various genres of music
- Music vocabulary and concepts
- Music theory and history

In Grade 9 Band, student responsibilities will include:

- Daily at home review of music covered in class for 20 minutes. Individual practice is an essential part of every students personal growth
- Being prepared for every class (Instrument, Music/Books, Pencil, Needed Supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets/sticks, etc.)
- Take note of assignments in band book or agenda
- In seat ready to play when class begins
- Attend each class willing to work as a part of a larger team
- Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory for the benefit of all students

and the entire band
Review of material covered in class at home
Maintain the behavioral expectations in The Raider Code at all times

Assessment

Assessment is done on an ongoing basis through classroom observation as well as a variety of other methods such as;

Playing Tests

Partner Performances

Spot Testing

Can be done at anytime without warning in class.

To include material predetermined by Mr. Parker

Music Theory

Recital Performances

Concerts

Musicianship Skills

Coming to class prepared with all materials discussed in the above grade responsibilities.

Practice Sheets and Home Practice

The best way for a student to be prepared for the above assessment is to practice. There is an obvious connection between the pace of a student's musical development, and the time spent at home or at school practicing. Much like any other physical or cognitive skill, playing a musical instrument requires a dedication to improvement and a commitment to review. A student who plays at home will see, hear and feel the rewards that music education can provide. Parents are one of the key factors in the progress and success of a student's education. Music is no exception. Your support is vital to the continued learning and musical growth of your child since learning does not end when the school bell rings. It must continue at home.

Practicing Guidelines

Practice sheets are forms that are returned to me on a regular basis and need to be signed by parents. Students should be practicing at home on a regular basis, the more often you play, the stronger you get. At the end of each week, students should tally up the amount of practice they put in. Grade requirements are as follows;

Grade 5: 75 mins per week

Grade 6 to 9: 100 mins per week

Practice sheets are due at the end of each month. For example, the practice sheet for October will be collected during the first three school days of November. At this same time, November's practice sheet can be picked up or printed from D2L. The practice sheet also has the month's schedule on it, so keep it handy – try posting it on your fridge.

Although playing at home is fun, these sheets are considered to be assignments, and have a direct reflection on the individual success students have on playing tests, partner performances, and ensemble playing throughout the year. If practicing can't happen at home, the band room is open during lunch times and after school.

Instrument Rentals

Instruments are available to rent from the school for a fee of \$100.00. This fee goes towards the instrument upkeep and repair. This fee is a flat fee charged by the Calgary Board of Education. Other options for renting instruments are available through Long & McQuade and St. John's Music.

There has been an instrument rental night scheduled for those needing to rent instruments. At that time, you will be able to rent an instrument from Long & McQuade. As the number of instruments owned by the school are very limited, the instruments are reserved for **returning students who rented from the school last year.**

Concert Expectations

All students who participate in the music program at Thomas B. Riley are required to participate in every scheduled concert. In many ways, being in band is similar to being on a sports team; it would be hard to play a game if not all the players showed up. We need everyone to be here so we can achieve our absolute best.

Students who cannot attend a performance must submit in writing 2 weeks prior to the concert. Missed performances will affect students' grades.

Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. Absence from school is the only excepted excuse for missing rehearsals or sectionals (without band director permission) and personal illness, family emergencies, or being out of the country are the only excuses for missing school concerts.

Equipment and Supplies

To encourage students to rotate their reeds more often, the band will be subsidizing the cost of and music supplies throughout the year with a \$35 music activity fee. These supplies are purchased in bulk quantities, and some of the prices are lower than what the public pays.

It is always good to have extra supplies at home in case a reed breaks or an instrument needs cleaning. Supplies can be obtained from St. John's Music, Music Direct, Long & McQuade, or any other music store that sells band instrument supplies.

Important Dates

All dates are subject to change. Please make sure you are referring to the monthly practice sheets for the most up to date information.

Thursday Sept 11th - Instrument rental night

Thursday September 25 - Beginner Band Camp 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday, December 10th - Winter Concert and Fine Arts Night - 7:00pm

January 27 - Bowness High School Music Workshop - Grade 8/9

February **TBD** - Alberta International Band Festival - Grade 8/9

March **TBD** - Alberta International Band Festival - Grade 6/7

April 14 - 16 - Grade 9 Band Camp - Banff Music Retreats

April **TBD** - Bowcroft Feeder School Concert - Grade 6/7/9

May 7th - Spring Concert and Fine Arts Night - 7:00pm



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of Education**