



Last updated at : February 13, 2020

Band vs. The Arts

Has your child come home talking about being good at the flute or clarinet ...or loving the trumpet or trombone? Are they talking about signing up for Band?

Or are they excited about their artistic abilities and creating visual art, taking photos, expanding their digital skills, or learning the guitar?

Band? Or The Arts? Which shall it be?

Letters of information with deadline decisions are sent home early in the new year by the school and for some, it can be an easy decision without question. For others, parents might want to know more to facilitate discussions with their students.

The following information shared by parents and teachers will help make informed decisions and understand the commitments ahead.



NMS Band Program

Grade 6

Students in grade six have been exploring various instruments during music class at NMS. The grade six Exploratory Band Program is set up in the school schedule so that all students are able to participate. Throughout the school year, students will learn how to read music, play various instruments and appreciate many different styles of music. Students will also experience what it is like to perform.

The only year a student may enter the NMS Band Program is in grade seven. If a student chooses not to participate in the band program, they will not be able to enter in grades eight through to twelve. Please note that Concert Band is a prerequisite for Jazz Band.

Instrument Selection Night

Grade six students and parents are given the opportunity to participate in an instrument selection night held in May each year. Parents will be provided information in regards to rental agreements once an instrument is chosen. Agreements and the selected instrument must be in place for September.

Cost for Instrument Rental/Ownership

Families may rent instruments through a couple of different methods in preparing for student enrollment in Concert Band.

The Hanover School Division Instrument Rental Fee is paid to Niverville Middle School.

- \$150.00 for the rental of a tuba, euphonium, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, french horn, bass clarinet and percussion.
- All renters will need to sign a rental and maintenance agreement at the start of the school year.
- Supplies (reeds, oils, slide grease, mutes, etc.) will be required for the start of the school year. These items can be purchased at most music stores and may need to be purchased a few times throughout the school year.
- A music stand and a metronome are essential and are available at any music store.



Renting your instrument through a music store like St. John's Music or Long and McQuade is also an option.

Rental Example - Trombone

- Purchased new: \$400-\$800, used \$275-\$600; St. John's will ship the instrument, no charge, to the student in July or August
- If a student switches instruments mid-year, a new contract is formed and the money paid is not transferable to the new instrument
- Rental agreement and payments are on a yearly contract and therefore continue through the summer months
- Other items that might need to be added on are a music stand, valve/slide oil and a cleaning kit
- Maintenance and Insurance Plan - \$5.00/month in addition to the instrument rental; cleaning for a student-owned instrument is approximately \$70

Cost for Band Uniform

The band uniform at all levels requires students to wear black on the bottom (no jeans) and a black band shirt. A band t-shirt fee of \$17.00 is required for grade 7 students and any new students who join band in grade 8.

Band Performances

Attendance at concerts and festivals is mandatory and part of each student's mark throughout the year. There are three performances provided for the students every year. In December there is a winter concert, February is the Classic 107 Band Festival (grade 8), April the grade 7's attend the Classic 107 Level One Band Festival and a Spring Concert in June.

Fundraising & Volunteering

Fundraising is provided to students to help subsidize the cost of their band trips. When students fundraise, they contribute to their "band account". There have typically been two trips in a student's 6 years in band. One trip has been to Moose Jaw in grade 9 at a cost of approximately \$400 and the second trip to a destination decided on based on the group costing approximately \$600 - \$800. Parents are encouraged to assist with fundraising by volunteering to organize fundraisers and order distribution.

In the past, Band students have fundraised with product-driven fundraising events like:

- \$20 Discount Card sales - September
- Mom's Pantry - November
- Chocolates - January



The Arts

Students opting out of the Band program will automatically be enrolled in The Arts - an alternate program that includes Visual Art, Digital Art/Coding, Guitar and Photography. Students will experience all four of these subjects in blocks of ten weeks.

Photography

Students will learn the art of photography using DSLR cameras. Students will spend time learning elements of composition, photography techniques and basic photo editing using Lightroom and Photoshop. Students will receive an 11x14 print to bring home!

Visual Arts

In the Visual Arts course, students will create art in many different forms and styles. They will use art media and tools to explore and demonstrate an understanding of the elements of artistic design (line, colour, value, texture, shape, form and space). Students will explore the expression of ideas, using a variety of art media and techniques (e.g. pastels, pencils, crayons, markers, acrylic and watercolour paints, colour mixing, scratch board, and book folding) and apply those in their own artmaking.

Digital Art/Coding

The Digital Art/Coding course is broken into 3 different activities. First students will explore coding using Sphero EDU robots. Students will design pathways/mazes for their robots in maneuver. Second, students will explore digital art using our Sketchbook iPad application. Lastly, using the Sketchbook iPad app, students will explore photoshopping and airbrushing of images to create a new image of their own. Coming in 2020, students will choose between using the Sphero robots or LEGO Spike coding.

Guitar

Using $\frac{3}{4}$ -sized acoustic guitars, students will spend 10 weeks learning the correct posture when using a guitar, the basic tools of the guitar, and two or three basic chords in guitar. While learning 2 or 3 chords, each student will be given the opportunity to learn at least one popular melody or song on the acoustic guitar. Students will also explore the diverse techniques and styles of guitars and guitar genres. Lastly, students will experience a wide variety of music genres by listening to performances and recordings.