

COLQUITZ BAND UPDATE – NOVEMBER



Hello Band parents!

Today is the first day I have had access to all parent emails, so up until now, I have been sending messages via my website (<https://montgomerymusic.weebly.com/>), through the weekly email from the school, through in-school announcements, through telling information to your kids and lastly through the Colquitz PAC facebook page. From this point on, you should expect an update about once a month from me. These updates are posted on my website as well, so make sure you check if for which band is supposed to come in on early mornings as the schedule is there until December.

- **CPAPA** – The Colquitz Performing Arts Parent Association meets for an hour monthly and provides support to the Fine Arts programs at Colquitz. Time for you to show up and help! Come volunteer to sort poinsettias or Purdys, or work the concert bake sale! The next meeting is Monday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the art room.
- **T-shirt** orders have been collected and ordered. Some students received shirts already based on new shirts we had on-hand in the school. The others will be handed out when they arrive.
- **Google Classroom** – make sure your child has accepted the invitation to the Band 6,7 or 8 google classroom. This is how they will receive assignments and their testing info
- **Fundraising** – The Poinsettia fundraiser has been wrapped up. Flowers will be delivered to the school on Dec 13th which is one of the concert days. You will be expected to pick up and distribute your order. The Purdy's fundraiser is starting as well. This one is done completely online and will be received before Christmas. Again, you will be expected to pick up and distribute your child's order. Both of these fundraisers provide profit directly to your child's fundraising account, which can be applied towards tour costs in your child's grade 7/8 year.
- **Attendance** in the early mornings has not been what is expected (except for jazz band). Half of grade 7 band was absent this morning. Please understand that this is your child's band class, it is not an optional class, and in the case of grade 6 students, it is the only time I have to work with one or two instruments and teach instrument specific information. For all classes, this is almost an hour-long block first thing in the morning when kids are a bit more subdued (tired) so we accomplish more in that hour than we do in 2 regular classes in school time. If your child will be missing an early morning, I request an email with permission for their absence. I know you do this for when your child misses a day of school.
- **Practice Records** are due every Tuesday (Gr 6,8) or Wednesday (Gr 7) and are returned the next day. The expectation is 80 minutes per week. That's 20 minutes, four times per week. They must be signed and if a student forgets it, or forgets to get it signed, I'll mark it the following week. They even get a mark for handing in an empty, signed practice record!
- **Concerts** – Grade 8 Band will be playing at our Remembrance Day assembly on November 10th, but the main concert for every band student will be Tuesday December 12th. For the first time I am trying 2 nights of concerts, so each one is

shorter. To be honest, it was embarrassing for me and demoralizing for the senior students last year when about half of their audience left at the intermission. Uniform is black bottoms, black shoes, black socks and a Colquitz Fine Arts t-shirt. Please bring some baking that evening for the bake sale.

- **Playing tests** – Students compete one playing test per term. For Grade 6 it is a piece we have worked on many times and have played every day in class leading up to the test period. For Grade 7 students, we will have played it a few times in class. For Grade 8s, it may be a method book piece we have not played at all, but is well within their playing ability. Tests are designed to be recorded videos done at home, saved to their google drive, and inserted onto an assignment in their google classroom. If tech is a problem, students can book a time and play the test in front of me. Keep in mind I have 125 band students, and am less than half time, so this option is reserved for students without the tech at home to be able to complete it in this manner. Be aware you cannot send band tests as videos through email. In most cases, they are too big and I will not receive them, or be able to watch them.
- The **Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra** is performing for our school next Wednesday, November 8th and all Band 7/8 students are expected to help set up for this event at 12:00 on that day.
- **Assignments** – the first, short written assignment was completed at least a week ago and I am still collecting missing assignment. Grade 6 was a note-naming one and Grade 7/8 had rhythm counting ones.

Grade 6 Specifics – Students should now know 5 notes. PLEASE ask your child to show you what those five notes look like on the musical staff, tell you what they are called and play them for you. Now is a crucial time when the divide between those who have spent the time and learned them, and those who haven't widens greatly. We are currently working on the piece called "Lightly Row" which is a pretty sounding duet.

Grade 7 Specifics – We are working on 3 pieces – Bravado Tango, Cataclysm and Ready to Fly. The first two are rhythmically complicated, and the parts are more independent that they are used to. The third piece has simple notes and rhythms, but the complexity comes from developing phrasing and breath control. See the GVYO note above about set-up.

Grade 8 Specifics – Besides set-up and take-down for the GVYO concert, Grade 8 Band is workshopping "Game of Thrones" with the orchestra after the concert – full uniforms required. Uniforms will be required for the Remembrance Day assembly on Friday, Nov 10th. We will be playing a hymn and O Canada. In class we have a few pieces we will start to spend more time on after next week, such as Waltzing Matilda and March of the Belgian Paratroopers.

Sorry this is so long but I had 2 months of info to pass on!

If you have received this and your child is not in band, disregard. My classes need updating in MyEd and should be corrected by December's update.

Kelly Montgomery