

## **Ballenas Music Program**

The goal of the Music Department is to provide students the experience of playing music together and individually, while developing the highest possible level of musical achievement. It is also my goal to foster good listening skills, a positive attitude, self-confidence and a spirit of cooperation. Remember that in order to realize your musical potential, a consistent effort applied throughout the year is vital to achieve excellence. The Ballenas Music Program makes a meaningful contribution to your overall education.

On behalf of the students and director of the Ballenas Music Program, welcome to an organization in which you can be proud. With each new class entering in September, new vitality and enthusiasm is introduced into the program. Music at Ballenas Secondary will prove beneficial and rewarding for you. We will do all that is possible toward that end and know you will do likewise. As you learn more about music, we hope that you will also learn more about responsibility. At least 95% of our success depends on you being a responsible and caring person.

### **Concert Band 10/11/12**

This ensemble will have completed up to six years playing experience. Proficiency of rhythm, tone quality, intonation and technique will be areas for improvement each year. Festival, school, and community concerts will be performed. Students will perform several styles of music at the B400 MusicFest level from the Concert March to Pop as members of the Senior Concert Band program.

**Rehearsal Times (in the Ballenas Musicroom)**

**Tuesday, Thursday**

**7:15-8:15am**

### **Evaluation**

Students who maintain a regular weekly practice schedule are very likely to achieve excellence. Evaluation of each term's work will be as follows:

Class/Concert Participation	40%
Playing Tests	30%
In-class playing ability	<u>30%</u>
Term Grade	100%

**Final Grade** - average of four terms equally weighted at 25% for each term. The experience of performing in public and at festivals is essential for all music students. It is the reason we rehearse.

### **Playing tests**

Students will be required to demonstrate sing or play repertoire and technical exercises several times each term. This is an important part of your evaluation and gives you a opportunity to show me what you have learned. Some tests will be assigned with a week's notice, while others will be in the form of spot checks with no notice given. If you are practicing regularly, you will be prepared. Self-evaluation assessments with the aid of

a rubric works well with such little rehearsal time and is based on the honour system. I know how well you play/sing.

### **Class/Concert Participation**

Your ability to rehearse like a musician (eg. start and stop playing when required) is crucial. Students who arrive promptly with the necessary materials for class and rehearse cooperatively and attentively will receive 10/10. Deductions will be made for lateness, disruption, lack of focus and lack of participation. Attendance will be taken within the first 10 minutes of class. If you arrive later than that, a mark of 5/10 will be given. If you miss altogether, or you attended class but were disruptive, a mark of 0/10 is given. Students will be excused from attending class for illness, school field trips or related school activities, religious holidays, or other activities **students are expected to attend**. Inexcusable absences include sleeping in, doing homework or course tutorial, or other activities **students choose to attend**. Parents and students alike need to understand that this policy is necessary if we are to achieve our musical goals. Put quite simply, you need to attend all classes because **the consistent attendance of every student is essential to all of us as a performing ensemble**.

Participation in concerts and festivals is a course requirement. Acceptable excuses will include illness (not a stuffy nose), family holiday, etc. If you cannot make a music commitment, let me know early on. Homework, job, birthday, etc. is inexcusable. Concert dates will be provided to you very early on, so please give your employer and other activity supervisors lots of notice of your music commitments.

### **In-class Performance Ability**

An assessment will be made regarding your musical preparation and ability to play your instrument correctly in class. It is a reflection of how much you practice.

### **Instrument/Folder checks**

Obviously, your instrument, music, pencil, and technique books need to be brought to every class. In the event that your instrument does not make it to class, you will be expected to participating silently. You may not have your instrument, but you can still think, count and play fingerings.

### **Practice Requirements**

Each student in the Ballenas Band program is required to practice their instrument regularly. Students should do 90-120 min/week of home practice. I recommend playing every second day rather than once/week. Facial muscles are strengthened and improved more effectively with a regular on-going practice routine.

### **Fundraising and Trips**

We have a very active fundraising program. **All fundraising is optional**. All your fundraising dollars are placed in your own individual account for your participation in Ballenas Music trips. You may simply write a cheque to pay for your trip if you wish. Just belonging to the ensemble does not automatically entitle you to travel on any of the planned trips. Your conduct/behavior/attitude, effort, and attendance will be closely

monitored throughout the school year, and if we have any concerns, you will stay at home. You must be deemed to be in good standing in the program. Having said that, I have never had to refuse a student's trip participation.

### **Uniform**

The Ballenas Music department is very proud to have the most attractive Band/Choir uniform anywhere! Sometime this Fall, please provide your child the following items:

- **black dress pants**
- **black socks and black dress shoes**
- **a black buttoned-down dress shirt/blouse.**

**The music department will provide your child with a bright-coloured straight tie at no charge.** They are individually coloured and come in **lime green, yellow, hot pink, violet, blue, and orange.** You can wear a different colour every time you perform in a concert! I will distribute them a day or two before the concert and a parent volunteer will collect them at the end of the concert. Ties need to be returned in the same condition they were received. Our uniform symbolizes dedication and commitment to excellence in music and is worn with pride. Students need to look their best when performing.

**Once again, participation in all concerts and festival performances is a course requirement.** Concert dates will be provided to you very early on, so please give your employer and other activity supervisors lots of notice of your Band/Choir commitments. To conclude, the music department at Ballenas Secondary has a reputation for musical excellence, and provides students amazing experiences through our concerts, festivals, musicals, and trips. There is every reason to work hard and apply yourself because the rewards are many.

Every year I observe letters "archived" in student music folders, leaving parents unaware of music department activities. This year when I distribute a letter to the students, I would also like to send you a copy via email to ensure that you are kept up to date on activities, deadlines etc. If you are interested please email me at **rrobson@sd69.bc.ca** and I'll add you to my address book.

This will be an exciting year- lets get started!

Sincerely;  
Rick Robson  
Ballenas Music