

Semiahmoo Music Department Handbook

September 2009

The Directors and Music Society Members would like to welcome everyone back to what promises to be an exciting year for Semiahmoo music students.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of our Music Dept. is for students to develop skills and attitudes that will assist them in acquiring skills that are technical, artistic and social that in turn will facilitate their participation in the World of Music throughout their entire lives.

Students are offered the opportunity to prepare themselves to be both competent and reliable members within a variety of exciting performance groups. Membership in these groups calls for strong character as well as strong musicianship.

It is hoped that the following will be informative to parents and students.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CURRICULAR OUTLINE

Semiahmoo Secondary Sec. Music courses follow provincially prescribed curricula. Strong emphasis is placed on developing proficiencies that are useful and indeed recognizable in post secondary musical endeavours of all kinds. Elements of this curriculum are common at all grade levels with an appropriate degree of mastery set for each level. Supplementary materials and activities such as small ensemble assignments and written reports will be added with increasing frequency as the grades progress.

The elements of this curriculum are as follows:

A. ENSEMBLE INTEGRITY

- “getting under baton”
- proficiency at following conductor
- vertical clarity

B. RHYTHMIC FLUENCY

- use of rhythmic counting system for use in fluent reading and effective self-correction of rhythms

C. NOTATIONAL FLUENCY

- key signatures, accidentals
- fingerings, alternate fingerings
- development of speed with accuracy

D. INSTRUMENT PEDAGOGY

- embouchure, mechanics of the breath
- hand positions, posture
- instrument mechanics and maintenance

E. REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES AND EXPERIENCES

- retention and transfer concepts
- concentration techniques
- school, community, regional, national, and international concerts and festivals will be undertaken.

F. PITCH AND TUNING

- instrument / mechanical
- embouchure and air direction
- tuning characteristics of individual instruments
- ear training

G. STYLE AND MUSICALITY

- note shape as it relates to a broad range of musical styles
- historical and stylistic perspective as it relates to repertoire and to an overview of traditional music history.

H. QUALITY OF SOUND

- instruction that relates to instrumental tone: embouchure, air support, mouthpiece, reed management and equipment quality.

SUMMARY

Students should expect significant and identifiable progress in each of these areas of the curriculum with each advancing year in the Semiahmoo Music Program.

EVALUATION

Students demonstrate proficiency in the curricular areas outlined above each time they rehearse and perform. The directors are constantly assessing each student throughout the learning and rehearsal process. Individual playing tests are not used as the major basis for achievement grading but are occasionally required as classes are quite large and each student needs an opportunity to “show what they can do”. Written tests are used for partial assessment, particularly of rhythmic counting proficiency. Students or parents may at any time request an interview with a director to review the progress of their child.

Performances are an important element of the learning process and are mandatory for all members. It is also very important for parents to attend concerts so they can see and hear the results of the practice they hear at home and be able to share in the excitement of their son’s or daughter’s success. It is very important for both students and parents to see and hear the other performance groups in our program. More experienced groups provide an important model that serves to help younger musicians know what they are striving for and what is possible for them. This greatly helps younger students to have the excitement to practice on their instrument.

****To facilitate this students and parents should stay to the conclusion of all concerts.**

HOME PRACTICE

Students are expected to practice 40 minutes per day 5 days of the week. This is most easily accomplished by making sure the instrument goes home each weekend. The weekend has 3 days and that leaves only 2 days in the Mon-Thurs. part of the week when transporting the instrument back and forth is needed.

Students are encouraged to use good practice habits, which include:

- work on the hard parts rather than playing over parts already mastered
- use a pencil in rehearsal so you can practice the “music” as well as the notes and rhythms.
- work hard on reading the rhythms rather than playing by memory.
- remember that being a musician is “physical” as well as “artistic” and that if the muscles aren’t strong then you can’t express yourself the way you would like.

The Dept. has discontinued the use of practice charts in favour of alternate strategies for assessment of musical progress. Students will be relieved of the task of recording all home practice and will instead focus upon accomplishing certain assigned technical exercises. A Director, in a section type grouping, will more closely evaluate these tasks. The Home Practice Record will be used as an assignment given on an individual basis if deemed appropriate for a student.

SUMMARY

- Observation during rehearsal - 60%
- Playing tests and sectional assessment- 30%
- Written tests - 10%

Semiahmoo Music Department Teaching Staff:

Mr. David Fullerton – Music Dept. Head

fullerton_d@sd36.bc.ca

Mr. Dagan Lowe – Music Director

lowe_d@sd36.bc.ca

***communication by email is most efficient for the Directors and is preferred.**

* band room direct phone line 604-542-5255

Mr. Fullerton's cell # 604-341-1143

1. TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS:

Concert Bands

Grade Eight, Grade Nine, and Senior Concert Bands (Grades 10, 11, & 12) will be taught by Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Lowe. The Principal Music Director for each ensemble is as follows:

Grade Eight Concert Band: Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Lowe

Grade Nine Concert Band: Mr. Lowe

Senior Wind Ensemble: Mr. Fullerton

2. Jazz Bands

Stage Band 8: Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Lowe

Stage Band 10: Mr. Lowe

Stage Band 12: Mr. Fullerton

Jazz Studies 12: Mr. Fullerton

Stage Band 9: Mr. Fullerton

Stage Band 11: Mr. Lowe

Jazz Studies 11: Mr. Lowe

3. Small Ensembles and Jazz Combos:

Each year we have numerous extra curricular ensembles and jazz combos that are put together by students with the assistance of the directors. These ensembles offer an excellent opportunity for the further development of musical skills and the broadening of exposure to musical repertoire.

New for this year* Combos at the Gr. 11 and 12 level will have an assigned practice time in the band room each week with regular gigs to play!!! Directors will be on hand for practices. The directors will make themselves available as much as possible for combos in younger grades.

- #### **4. New School Timetable** – our school has been required to adjust its rotation of blocks in the school timetable. We have received strong support from staff to maintain our frequency of classes though in a slightly different form. Second block of the day will be an extended block for all Semi students except for music classes that alternate with another subject. The long block will be split between the two courses. Where the course is with PE [Band 8 and 9 Concert Band], students will be prompted to

make sure they take measures to make sure they are not going to their locker to get either their instrument or their PE strip during this “mid-block” changeover. Their instrument will be brought to the bandroom before school or at the beginning of block B if they have PE first and they will bring gym strip to Band if PE is in the latter part of the block.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

They must strive to perform at a superior level at all concerts and festivals. Students will be expected to strive each year to increase their skill and proficiency with their instrument. This progress will be achieved within a highly focused rehearsal atmosphere in a supportive ensemble setting strengthened by consistent individual home practice. Instruments must go home for practice each weekend and at least once or twice during the week. Students are encouraged to practice for results rather than practice to the clock.

Students are expected to have a good quality instrument with suitable accessories (reeds, neck strap, valve oil etc.). Class participation missed due to lack of proper supplies or the instrument is “in the shop” can result in great harm to a student’s progress and learning momentum. The directors offer and indeed insist upon assessing all instruments thought to be in need of repair. If professional attention is necessary, this will be advised and parents should undertake this immediately. The teacher both can remedy many problems without expense to families and without the necessity of students losing class time.

All technique books and sheet music will be provided. The director will insist that these materials be kept in the music folder that is provided. Protecting these materials properly insures the best possible use of our resources and enables the director to expand our library of exciting and current repertoire.

* **Please note** - The Music Dept. has over 300 students and there are many instruments that look identical on the storage shelves. Students’ instruments must be clearly identifiable. Students in Grade 9 -12 should have a personalized nametag from last year. These tags are expensive so it is hoped they have been retained from last year. For Grade 8’s and new students, new tags will be made for you. Until you receive them please mark your instrument with your full name. This “identification” must be readable by teachers not just to the owner.

Instruments can be kept on the shelves in the band room.

****Please note - parents are advised that the school does not assume responsibility for loss of student owned instruments. Please add the instrument to your family household insurance if this sort of loss is not already covered. Before securing extra private insurance for instruments rented from a music company, check the terms of your rental contract to see if loss due to theft is already included. Instruments on loan from the school MUST be insured against loss or damage of any kind as a pre-condition of their use. There is a Use Contract that must be filled out by parents for each school owned instrument.***

FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS

In past years the directors and the parents have been very supportive of the benefits of music ensemble travel. Previous tours have included:

MusicFest Canada - Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival - University of Idaho at Moscow

Disney Magic Music Days - Anaheim, California

Interior Band Festival - Penticton

Cuba

Atlantic Music Festival – Halifax (2007)

RATIONALE FOR UNDERTAKING A TOUR

- provides opportunity to perform for non captive audience i.e. adjudicators who evaluate and suggest improvements and/or general public that don’t have to like us if they don’t feel like it.
- provides opportunity to learn about music in an intensive setting. (music festival or working with educator and other musicians in another city.)
- strengthens and confirms in a positive way the musical, organizational, and emotional interdependence between group members.
- provides focus for directors to plan for organizational and disciplinary structures that are put in place throughout the year(s).

- provides a long term focused communal project for students that in turn fosters stability and enjoyment of school life in a general sense for the entire year and for future years as well.
- enhances students' ability to plan and manage finances through fund-raising credit system and personal money.
- students must maintain sufficient academic and behavioral standards to successfully receive permission from subject teachers to be excused from class to Tour. The Directors will, of course, be very concerned about how such problems will affect the ability of the group to fulfill performance, travel, and financial commitments.

The "Band Tour" has proven again and again to members and their families to be a very powerful life changing experience.

This year the Directors would like to propose the following tours for the consideration of students and parents. Only through strong support from all can these exciting proposals become a reality.

Tour proposals for this year include:

Interior Band Festival – Penticton – Mar 2010 - Gr. 9 Concert Band only

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival – Feb 2010 – Jazz Band 11 and 12

Senior Program Tour – Senior Wind Ensemble, Jazz Bands 10,11, &12.

Disneyland California – April 2010

Jazz Band 12 – MusicFest Canada – Ottawa plus Montreal Quebec. May 2010

The Dept. Tour will be the Disneyland Tour this year. It is our first priority for the Dept. this year and all members are expected to participate and to participate in this Tour first before all others being offered. The Idaho Jazz Festival and JazzBand 12's Tour to MusicFest are considered to be next in priority.

Unlike other "educational tours" our tours must have all members otherwise performances are not possible. Members and their parents must think carefully about this at the beginning of the year so that Tour integrity is protected for all members.

**** PASSPORTS ARE NOW REQUIRED FOR ALL TRAVEL TO THE U.S.
MAKE SURE NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR TRAVEL
IF YOU ARE GR10-12.**

This year's Music courses signup-

The Directors are very proud of the number of students that are part of our music family here at Semi.

Though the incoming numbers to our school at the grade 8 level has reduced by almost half [385 in 2003 to 200 in 2009] the numbers in Band remain strong.

Band 8 - 80

Band 9 -91

Band 10-11-12 - 90

JB8 – 30 so far

JB9 - 46

JB10 - 32

JB11 – 23

JB12 – 17

The Semiahmoo Music Society

- *The Semiahmoo Music Society is our "Parent Support Group". The Society, with the advice and guidance of the Music Directors, is called upon to help with all major decisions with respect to the operations of our Music Dept. The exceptional level of success of this music program is due to the encouragement & support we receive from this very vital organization. **THIS GROUP IS YOU, OUR PARENTS!!!** Help is always welcomed. We encourage you to come out to meetings to let your enthusiasm take voice and find a way to contribute.*

Through fundraising projects and concerts the Semiahmoo Music Society raises thousands of dollars to support the talents & efforts of the students in our music program. The Society raises money for the entire program and also administrates accounts so that each band member receives credit for their individual fund-raising efforts. They also help with the organization and support for tours and field trips and both purchases and administrates band uniforms. Over the years this organization has augmented District funds for the purchase of equipment, music and other learning resources. The SMS enhances the presentation of our students by decorating performance venues and organizing food services at many of our performances. This organization has a proud history of responding quickly and effectively to any perceived threat to music education in our District.

The SMS organizes a communications network with parents through email contact and through our new Dept. website at www.semiahmoomusic.com. Bookmark this on your computer for easy reference.

The parents that come to meetings regularly are terrific people and have a lot of fun working together for the Band.

SEMIAHMOO MUSIC SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the dates listed in the Dept. calendar.

Our first meeting is **Monday evening Sept. 14th in the small band room. 7:30pm.**

- this meeting agenda will be a wrap up of last year and preparation for the AGM listed below.

Bob Nordlund, President SMS 604-536-6235 nord3@telus.net

Please make special plans to attend the AGM on Monday, Oct. 5th @ 7:30 pm. We will be holding our election of officers and signing up volunteers for our many functions. We need your help! Tickets for our **Annual Jazz Dinner Dance** will also go on sale at this meeting. Tickets will sell quickly. Don't miss out!

Music Education Advocacy

Advocacy is an attempt to communicate between those who support the Arts and those who make decisions regarding the Arts." - Houston, Dunn 1985. It is up to all of us to promote the importance of Music in the life of a child. Music education, especially at an early age, can help open the door to important benefits. Involvement in music powerfully reinforces such crucial characteristics as self-esteem, self-discipline, creativity, and self-expression. It helps develop problem-solving skills, integrates subject matter across the curriculum, and has a high correlation with overall academic achievement. Education without music shortchanges our children and their futures. Education with music provides students with a competitive edge.

Fundraising

With the help of the members of our Music Society, many opportunities are provided for the children to raise money to offset the cost of travel. Accounts are kept for each student to more closely direct funds raised to the successful fund-raiser themselves. Some students raise quite a large sum of money while other families choose to pay in cash. **Please consider that all members of each touring ensemble are crucial to the success of the group's musical endeavours. Fund-raising events are sponsored by the SMS to**

make it financially possible for all members to participate.

Failing to participate in fundraisers and then withdrawing from the touring ensemble for financial reasons is very damaging for our Music Program. Please give special thought as to how you will proceed during the year so that participation is possible for your child.

In past years we have done a fair number of projects: chocolate sales, magazine subscriptions, Entertainment Books etc. This coming year we plan to focus our efforts on fewer projects and to pick only from amongst our most profitable ventures. i.e. Safeway/Save-on-Foods cards and Bottle Drives. (last bottle drive each participating member earned over \$100)

Our Annual Dinner Dance is our largest fundraiser of the year. Think now about goods and services you can offer or procure for the Silent Auction. Sat. Nov. 21st 2009.

Tour Planning

The Music Directors alone cannot do travel planning. Parent input is absolutely essential for all aspects of our tours.

Student Fund-Raising Accounts

Most of the fundraising money goes into a travel account with your child's name on it. The student accounts are updated every few months and posted in the band room where you can keep track of the balance.

Please note that funds deposited in a member's account fall under strict legal protocols from the School District. The funds may be used only for approved functions sponsored by the Music Dept. and/or the Music Society. Where funds may accumulate from year to year, funds unused at graduation or as a result of withdrawal from the Music program must revert to a general account.

MUSIC SOCIETY SUPPORT

The wonderful efforts of the Music Society are supported to some degree by the fundraising events they sponsor, but, as explained above, these events generate mostly individual credit for the students who participate in each event. Credit is then withdrawn and used by the individual member when needed for travel expenses and such.

To be able to fund projects of a more general nature, festival fees, uniforms, scholarships etc. the Society has for many years requested a contribution from all band member families. Each band member will be receiving from the Society a brochure that further explains the extent to which our Music Dept. is supported by them and what, with your continued assistance, they can continue to provide for your child this year.

This brochure will ask for a contribution from each family in the amount of \$50 per enrolled child in our Music Program.

This is not to be confused with a course fee that schools formerly charged. Course fees may no longer be charged.

1. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO THE SEMIAHMOO MUSIC SOCIETY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50.00.

Please do not submit cash.

2. UNIFORM DEPOSIT CHEQUE:

There is no charge for the use of our new band uniforms but to protect the Music Society's investment a post-dated cheque as deposit against damage or loss is required.

This second cheque should be dated June 1, 2010 when the uniforms are recalled. This is very important as a currently dated cheque will "stale dated" in 6 months. As shown below, the amount requested depends on your child's involvement.

These cheques are destroyed upon successful return of the uniform in good condition.

UNIFORM DEPOSIT CHEQUES (Post Dated to June 1, 2010)*

GRADE 8 – (may include Jazz Band 8 uniform as well)	\$100.00 only
GRADE 9 through 12 - CONCERT BAND ONLY	\$100.00 only
GRADES 9-12 JAZZ BAND (may include a Concert Band uniform)	\$200.00 only

Cheques and the Music Society information form are due to the band room by Friday Sept. 25, 2009.

Please write your child's first and last name on each cheque along with their Student I.D. Number.

Please do not combine cheques for siblings.

We ask that the form and the two cheques be returned in the envelope provided. A receipt will be issued and distributed to students during their band class.

BAND UNIFORM INFORMATION

The Music Society, not the school, owns and maintains all music ensemble uniforms. It is the student and their family who must take responsibility for keeping the uniform clean and pressed for all performances. Uniforms or their parts must not be used for purposes other than for performing with Semiahmoo Music Dept. performances.

Please do not hand or machine wash jackets, vests or ties. They can be badly damaged unless they are dry-cleaned. Dry cleaning is undertaken by the Music Society each June.

At the end of the year it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the uniform is returned on time and in good condition. Every year the Society replaces worn and missing uniforms.

The deposit amounts have been upgraded to reflect the fact that our uniforms are brand new. Even at that the uniform deposit being requested does not completely cover the actual cost of the uniform and does not entitle you to forfeit your deposit to keep any part of it.

Each item has a serial number and MUST be returned at the end of the school year. Charges will apply to missing items.

The deposit cheque will be destroyed upon the uniform's return.

Uniform description:

Gr. 8-9 Concert Band – White shirt / tie
Senior Concert Band – White shirt / tie / vest
Jazz Band 8 – shirt / tie
Jazz Band 9 – 12 - black or white tuxedo

**All members are required to provide and wear with their uniform:
Black Dress Shoes, Black Dress Pants and Black Socks.**

Mark's Work Warehouse, Zellers, Wal-Mart, and some local thrift stores often have sales on these items. **Black jeans and running shoes are not appropriate for our concerts.** We are proud Festival adjudicators have often commented on our concert attire and how professional our students look. Please adhere to these requirements and dress appropriately.

SEMIAHMOO MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2009-10 CONCERT and MEETING DATES

**ATTENDANCE AT ALL CONCERTS IS MANDATORY AS CONCERTS AND
FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES ARE CO-CURRICULAR WITH REGULAR
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION**

Put these dates on the family calendar right away to avoid possible conflicts.

“Meet the Music Teacher Night”

**Thursday, October 1st - 7:30pm
Semiahmoo Sec. Large Gym**

Ensembles:

**Grade 8 Concert Band
Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Concert Band
Senior Jazz Band (gr.12)**

Information about our Music Program will be displayed at this casual family evening – come and hear at what level the kids are starting and see how you can **get involved!!!!** Come meet the members of the Music Department Staff and the Music Society Executive.

Monday Sept. 14th - Semiahmoo Music Society General Meeting – 7:30 pm in the small band room - all parents welcome. Agenda will centre on wrapping up business from last year.

Monday, Oct. 5th - Music Society Annual General Meeting – 7:30 pm – small band room. Election of Officers for this year and new business. Tickets for dinner dance go on sale.

Wednesday, Nov. 4th - Fall Concert – Large Gym - 7:30 pm

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band
Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Wind Ensemble

Monday, Nov. 9th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

Saturday, Nov. 21st - Annual Music Dept. Dinner Dance - 5:30 pm – Large Gym

Ensembles: Grade 8 Jazz Band
Grade 9 Jazz Band
Grade 10 Jazz Band
Grade 11 Jazz Band
Grade 12 Jazz Band
Guest ensemble

November 24-26th - tba -Surrey Concert Band Revue-Bell Performing Arts Theatre

Ensembles: Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Wind Ensemble

Tuesday, Dec. 8th - Winter Concert – Bell Theatre – 7:30 pm

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band
Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Concert Band
Grade 12 Jazz Band

Monday, Dec. 14th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

Monday, Jan. 11th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

**Feb 6th – 7th – Fri. – Sat. - Envision Jazz Festival - Guildford Sheraton &
Bell Performing Arts Centre**

Ensembles: Grade 8 Jazz Band
Grade 9 Jazz Band
Grade 10 Jazz Band
Grade 11 Jazz Band
Grade 12 Jazz Band
All Jazz Combos

Feb. 15th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 small band room

**Wed – Sun, Feb 26th – 28th - Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival - University of Idaho,
Moscow**

Ensembles: Grade 11 Jazz Band
Grade 12 Jazz Band
Combos and Solo entries

Tues – Wed, March 2nd – 3rd - Okanagan Concert Band Festival – Penticton, BC

Ensembles: Grade 9 Concert Band

Monday, Mar. 22nd - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

Tuesday, March 30th - Spring Concert – Large Gym - 7:30pm

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band
Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Wind Ensemble

Monday, Apr. 12th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

**April 21 or 22 Grade 8 Concert Band Revue
- may conflict with Senior Tour**

**April 21-26 – proposed dates - Senior Music Dept. Tour to Disneyland in Anaheim
California**

Ensembles: Senior Concert Band
Grade 10 Jazz Band
Grade 11 Jazz Band
Grade 12 Jazz Band

Friday, May 7th - Jazz Night at Semiahmoo - 7 pm

Ensembles: Jazz Bands 8-12

Monday, May 10th - Semiahmoo Music Society Meeting – 7:30 pm small band room

May 19- 25 – MusicFest Canada / Montreal proposed dates for JazzBand 12.

Thursday, June 3^d - Thurs. - Year End Concert & Awards - 6:30pm

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band
Grade 9 Concert Band
Senior Wind Ensemble Band
SemiTones Concert Choir
Jazz Band 11
Jazz Band 12 – performance and “Farewell”

Any date changes will be communicated by email. Make sure you provide your contact information to the Music Society so you can be put on the “emailout list.”

New for this year

In an effort to streamline field trip and Tour preparations please complete the attached medical form and return by Sept. 25, 2009. This information will be used for all Music Dept. activities where required.

****Parents of Gr8 and 9 students: Passport information is not required at this time.**

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

Please print all information clearly

Student name: _____

Student number: _____

Grade: _____

Age: _____ Gender: _____

Citizenship _____

Passport or Visa number: _____

Home Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Care Card #: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Please list any allergies, important medications or medical problems you may have that could affect full participation in this field trip. Expect a call from you child's chaperon where anything below may be discussed prior to departure. Please note that trip medical insurance has been purchased for all members and support staff.

I give permission for the tour director or adult designate to administer first aid treatment to my son/daughter or to authorize in my place professional medical treatment as the need may arise.

Please Print Name _____

Signed (Parent/Guardian): _____

Date: _____

Please return to your director by Friday Sept.25, 2009.

Please forward by email any missing information i.e. Passport number or changes to Mr. Fullerton when it is available.

D. M. Fullerton
fullerton_d@sd36.bc.ca