

# Semiahmoo Music Department Handbook

September 2011

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

*Disneyland here we come!!!*

## **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
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### **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.

### **\*NEW INITIATIVES**

- A. Students now have access to EarMaster software to enhance their rhythmic reading skills. **Go to EarMaster.com site and download the software. Use code 544LR-004EK-D8KXM to legally acquire this software for home use. Students will be expected to show their competency in the school computer lab.**
- B. Directors will be assigning **home recording projects** to help with evaluation. We know how much students will learn by completing these assignments. This method will greatly reduce or even eliminate the need for solo student performance in band class. \*Please get started now and find out how to record yourself with your computer. If you are having trouble with this then ask a friend to help or ask your Director.

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 it is most important that both students and parents stay until 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 accomplishes 3 of those days leaving only 2 days in the Mon-Thurs. part of the week when there is a need to transport the instrument back and forth from school.

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.

A Home Practice Record will be used as an individual assignment if deemed appropriate for a student.

### SUMMARY

- Observation during rehearsal - 50%
- Playing tests, sectional assessment and recorded submissions - 30%
- EarMaster tests - 20%

### **Semiahmoo Music Department Teaching Staff:**

Mr. David Fullerton – Music Director and Department Head [fullerton\\_d@sd36.bc.ca](mailto:fullerton_d@sd36.bc.ca)

Mr. Dagan Lowe – Music Director [lowe\\_d@sd36.bc.ca](mailto: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

### **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. Lowe and Mr. Fullerton

**Grade Nine Concert Band:** Mr. Lowe

**Senior Wind Ensemble:** Mr. Fullerton

#### **Jazz Bands**

**Stage Band 8:** Mr. Lowe and Mr. Fullerton

**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

**JazzBand 8** - open to all Grade 8 students on all instruments - after school Mondays and Wednesdays 3pm - 4:15pm.

#### **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 jazz improvisation.

**Combos at the Gr. 9,10,11 and 12 level will have an assigned practice time in the band room each week. Directors will be on hand for practices.**

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

Band members are expected to perform at a superior level at all concerts and festivals. Students must 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 expected to have a good quality instrument that is maintained in good repair. Suitable accessories (reeds, neck strap, valve oil etc.) are the responsibility of the parents.

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 assistance 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.

All technique books and sheet music will be provided. The Directors 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 directors to expand our library of exciting and current repertoire rather than see these resources used to replace damaged or misplaced materials.

**\* Please note** - The Music Dept. has over 350 students and there are many instrument cases that look identical on the storage shelves. Students’ instruments must be clearly identifiable. Please mark your instrument with your full name. This “identification” must be readable by Directors and fellow students, not just by the owner. Instruments can be kept on the shelves in the band room storage room during the school day.

***\*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.***

## **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:

New York City

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

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival - University of Idaho at Moscow

Disney Magic Music Days - Anaheim, California

San Francisco

Okanagan Concert 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 for any other reason than our performance competence.

- 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 remain 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 for our members and that it is an experience that will be cherished for a lifetime.

### **Tour proposals for this year include:**

**Interior Band Festival – Penticton – Mar 2012 - Gr. 9 Concert Band only**

**Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival – JazzBand11 and 12 only. Feb. 2012**

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

**Disneyland California - April 2012**

Unlike other “educational tours” Music Dept. tours must include 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.**

**IF A VISA IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR SON/DAUGHTER’S PARTICIPATION THIS YEAR, PLEASE START THE PROCESS EARLY IN THE YEAR.**

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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 - 99

Band 9 - 95

Band 10-11-12 - 108

JB8 – 60+

JB9 - 43!

JB10 - 24

JB11 – 21

JB12 – 21

## **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 pledged to assist and support the aims and philosophies of our Music Dept. The exceptional level of success our music program enjoys is due to the consistent encouragement & support received 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 our 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. As well, this organization has a proud history of responding quickly and effectively to any perceived threat to music education in our District or Province. The SMS organizes a communications network with parents through email contact and through our new Dept. website at [www.semiahmoomusic.com](http://www.semiahmoomusic.com). Parents should bookmark this site for easy reference.

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

### **SMS Meetings -**

Due to the number of families involved and the busy schedules we all have such busy schedules. Increasingly, the principle method of communication to parents will be through email. There will be some meetings in the year that may include any music parents. Notification for these meetings will be communicated through our emailout system. Be sure to turn in your communication information with the SMS package that your child will receive in the first week of school. If your address changes during the year please go to [semiahmoomusic.com](http://semiahmoomusic.com), find "communication" and email changes to our communications parent, Mr. Don Robinson.

### ***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, for a variety of reason, to pay in cash. This system allows parents and students to make that choice. **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, Bottle Drives, (last bottle drive each participating member earned over \$100) and Ford sponsored Test Drive Program. 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 part of this evening. Sat. Nov.19th 2011.

### ***Student Fund-Raising Accounts***

Most of the fundraising money goes into a travel account credited directly to your child. The student accounts are updated every few months and posted in the band room where students 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 and be used at the discretion of the family, funds unused as a result of withdrawal from the Music program or at graduation 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 such as festival fees, uniforms, scholarships etc. the Society has, for many years, requested a contribution from all band members' families. Each band member will be receiving a brochure from the Society that further explains the extent to which they support our Music Dept. and what, with your continued assistance, they can continue to provide to your child for this year.

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

\*\*\*This donation request should not be confused with course fees that are not longer required.

1. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50.00 TO THE SEMIAHMOO MUSIC SOCIETY. STUDENT NAME AND NUMBER ON CHEQUE PLEASE.

Please do not submit cash.

2. UNIFORM DEPOSIT CHEQUE:

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

This second cheque should be dated June 1, 2012, close to the time when the uniforms are recalled. This date is very important as a currently dated cheque will "stale date" in 6 months and would not be recognized by your bank. 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, 2012)\***

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

*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. [our check-off procedures are done by class list and cheques combined by families make things very awkward]*

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

**Cheques, medical form and the Music Society information forms are due to the Band Room by Friday Sept. 23, 2012.**

## **BAND UNIFORM INFORMATION**

The Music Society, rather than 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.** Don't get your uniform mixed up with another member.

The deposit cheques 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 with shirt and tie

**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 that Festival adjudicators have often commented on our concert attire and how professional our students look. Please support your son or daughter's ability to adhere to these requirements and dress appropriately for their concert presentations.

## **SEMIAHMOO MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2011-12 CALENDAR\_**

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

**Monday, Oct. 3<sup>th</sup> - 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.**

**Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> - Fall Concert – Large Gym - 7:30 pm**

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band  
Grade 9 Concert Band  
Senior Wind Ensemble  
JazzBand12

**Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> - “Service Above Self – Surrey Youth” Awards - @Bell Performing Arts Theatre - JazzBand12 only**

**Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> - Senior Wind Ensemble performs for school at Remembrance Day Assembly - not in uniform**

**Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - Annual Music Dept. Jazz Dinner Dance - 6:00 pm – Large Gym**

Ensembles: JazzBands 8, 9, 10, 11&12 plus guest ensemble “The Star Captains”.

**November 23<sup>d</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> - tba - Surrey Concert Band Revue @Bell Performing Arts Theatre**

Ensembles: Grade 9 Concert Band & Senior Wind Ensemble - in uniform

**Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> - Winter Concert @Bell Performing Arts Theatre - 7:30 pm**

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

**Saturday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> - South End Summit** - features Semi’s JazzBand12 with jazz ensembles from Earl Mariott Sec. and Elgin Park Sec. Sponsored by the Community Arts Council of White Rock & District. This exciting evening will be hosted by EMS in their theatre, the Wheelhouse Theatre.

**Fri. Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Sat. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> - Envisions Jazz Festival - location TBA**

Ensembles: All Jazz Bands  
All Jazz Combos

**Thurs. Feb. 23<sup>d</sup> - Sun. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> - Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival - Moscow Idaho - Jazz Bands 11 & 12.**

**Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> - Spring Concert – Large Gym - 7:30pm**

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

**Tues. & Wed, March 6-7 - Concert Band 9 Tour to the Okanagan Concert Band Festival -  
Penticton, BC**

SPRING BREAK - MAR 10 - MAR 25

**POSSIBLE BENEFACTOR TOUR - Tues. Mar. 27 - Sun. Apr. 1st - Las Vegas Jazz  
Festival - JazzBand12 only.**

Wed. Apr. 25th - Mon. Apr. 30 - Music Dept. Tour to Disneyland California

Ensembles: Senior Wind Ensemble  
Grade 10 Jazz Band  
Grade 11 Jazz Band  
Grade 12 Jazz Band

**Fri. April 6th - Mon. Apr. 9th - Easter Weekend**

**Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - Spring Jazz Night at Semiahmoo - 7pm**

\*please note - this is the evening of a school Pro-D-Day when school is otherwise  
not in session. Ensembles:  
Jazz Bands 8-12

**May 16 - 21 – MusicFest Canada - possible Benefactor Tour for JazzBand12 only.  
Ottawa and Montreal.**

**Thursday, June 7th - Year End Concert & Awards - 6:30pm**

Ensembles: Grade 8 Concert Band  
Grade 9 Concert Band  
Senior Wind Ensemble  
Jazz Band 11  
Jazz Band 12 – performance and “Farewell”  
Massed Sr. Wind Ensemble and Alumni and Staff - 1812 Overture with  
pyrotechnics.

**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 “e-mailout list.**

## MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

**This form will be used for all Music Dept. field trips this year. Please be sure to update and/ or provide missing information as soon as possible. Send updates by email. \*\*Send new phone numbers to the school as well!**

**Please print all information clearly.**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ write English name here

Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*accuracy very important here\*\*

Student number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number \_\_\_\_\_

What other documentation is necessary for your international travel? Visa etc?

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's cell # \_\_\_\_\_

BC Health Care Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

First call emergency contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

First call emergency contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies, important medications or medical problems you may have that could affect full participation in Music Dept. sponsored field trips. When applicable, expect a call from your child's chaperone where anything below may be discussed prior to departure. Please note that medical insurance has been purchased for all members and support staff for all multi-day field trips.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this Medical Form with the Music Society forms by Friday Sept. 23, 2011.