

Music Course Descriptions

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Grade 8

Concert Band 8: Beginner

Our Band program welcomes wind, brass, and percussion players, offering ensembles for students at a range of levels, from absolute beginners to advanced musicians.

In these classes, you will refine your skills as a musician by learning to play a musical instrument at progressively higher levels of ability. Students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from traditional band repertoire to modern and popular styles. Concepts such as articulation, embouchure, blend, balance, tone, and style are explored to form a foundation of musical awareness that encourages expression, reflection, and performance.

Beyond the classroom, we offer enriching musical experiences such as field trips and special events that give students the opportunity to hear and work with some of Vancouver's finest professional musicians. In recent years, our students have enjoyed numerous music-focused excursions and have performed in festivals such as the Whistler Cantando Festival and Disney's Imagination Campus. These shared experiences also help students strengthen their ensemble skills and develop a strong sense of teamwork as they learn to listen, collaborate, and perform together.

A selection of instruments is available for rent through the school, and assistance with renting or purchasing an instrument is provided at the start of the school year.

Concert Choir 8

Concert Choir is a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring a wide variety of vocal repertoires. Open to all students in Grades 8–12 with an interest in choral music and performance, this course welcomes singers of all backgrounds and experience levels. Our repertoire ranges from classical and contemporary choral works to a variety of genres such as jazz (*including music by artists like Laufey*), R&B, gospel, indie folk, and Broadway. Students will experience the joy of creating music that is both artistically fulfilling and personally meaningful.

Singers will refine their vocal skills by developing healthy vocal technique, music-reading abilities, harmonizing in 4+ parts, and progressing to higher levels of musical artistry. Concert Choir provides a

safe, supportive space where students can explore their voices, express themselves, and grow in confidence. As part of our choral family, students build long lasting friendships and become part of a positive, encouraging community.

Public performances include the Winter and Spring concerts, the graduation ceremony, and local festivals, with opportunities for exchange concerts, trips, and competitions. Students also participate in music retreats and field trips to hear top Vancouver musicians. Our choir has travelled to perform in China, Ireland, Hawaii, California (DisneyLand), Scotland, England, and New York.

Orchestra 8

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

Our school is one of the few in the province proud to offer a **full symphony orchestra**, bringing together string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players to explore the rich world of orchestral music. Students in Orchestra participate in many of the same exciting musical opportunities as our Band and Choir programs, including field trips, workshops, and special events throughout the year.

This class is open to students with **a minimum of three years of experience on a string instrument** (violin, viola, cello or bass) who are currently taking private lessons and is not suitable for beginners.

Woodwind, brass, and percussion players with at least 2 years of playing experience are also welcome, provided they are enrolled in a Band class and receive a recommendation from their band teacher.

Grade 9

Concert Band 9: Beginner / Concert Band 9

Our Band program welcomes wind, brass, and percussion players, offering ensembles for students at a range of levels, from absolute beginners to advanced musicians.

In these classes, you will refine your skills as a musician by learning to play a musical instrument at progressively higher levels of ability. Students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from traditional band repertoire to modern and popular styles. Concepts such as articulation, embouchure, blend, balance, tone, and style are explored to form a foundation of musical awareness that encourages expression, reflection, and performance.

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A selection of instruments is available for rent through the school, and assistance with renting or purchasing an instrument is provided at the start of the school year.

Concert Choir 9

Concert Choir is a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring a wide variety of vocal repertoires. Open to all students in Grades 8–12 with an interest in choral music and performance, this course welcomes singers of all backgrounds and experience levels. Our repertoire ranges from classical and contemporary choral works to a variety of genres such as jazz (*including music by artists like Laufey*), R&B, gospel, indie folk, and Broadway. Students will experience the joy of creating music that is both artistically fulfilling and personally meaningful.

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Guitar 9: Beginner

This course is designed for students with MODERATELY little to no experience on the guitar and focuses on building a strong foundation in playing and reading music. Students will work through a method book to learn how to read notes on all six strings, including ledger lines, and develop rhythm reading skills on the staff. They will also learn to read guitar tabs and chord charts, practice a variety of strumming patterns such as pop, rock, folk, blues, and an introductory RnB/Jazz(bossa nova) chord-fingerpicking patterns that are seen and used in songs like Laufey and Daniel Caesar. In addition to individual practice, students will explore ensemble playing, where one guitarist performs the melody while another provides accompaniment, developing collaborative abilities. By the end of the course, students will feel a sense of accomplishment when they're able to read music, play simple melodies and chords, and collaborate confidently in a group setting.

Guitar 9: Advanced

This course is for students with stronger foundational experience who are looking to expand their technical and creative abilities. Students will continue developing advanced instrumental technique, music theory, ear training, and note/rhythm reading while exploring scales, arpeggios (including sevenths), and the CAGED system for fretboard mastery. Emphasis will be placed on improvisation using major, blues, and pentatonic scales, understanding jazz chords, and applying theory concepts such as whole and half steps to play in different keys. Students will practice accompaniment across genres, work on original and well-known compositions of their choice, and gain performance experience. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to improvise, create, and perform confidently in diverse musical settings.

Jazz Band 9

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

Jazz Band Senior is designed for students with **at least two years of playing experience** and the **recommendation of their band teacher**. This performing ensemble is dedicated to exploring and performing the finest music in the jazz tradition. Typical instrumentation includes **saxophones, trumpet, trombone, piano, drum set, bass (electric or upright), and guitar**. **All wind, brass, and percussion players must also be enrolled in a Concert Band class** to ensure a strong foundation in musicianship.

The Jazz Band focuses on a wide variety of styles, including swing, Latin, rock, funk, and mainstream popular music, with an emphasis on jazz technique, improvisation (solos), and jazz theory. Students gain experience in ensemble performance, listening, articulation, and style while developing confidence and individual expression.

Students also enjoy many of the same field trips and special musical opportunities as our Band and Choir students, including workshops, festivals, and experiences with professional musicians.

Orchestra 9

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

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This class is open to students with **a minimum of three years of experience on a string instrument** (violin, viola, cello or bass) who are currently taking private lessons and is not suitable for beginners.

Woodwind, brass, and percussion players with at least 2 years of playing experience are also welcome, provided they are enrolled in a Band class and receive a recommendation from their band teacher.

Grade 10

Concert Band 10: Beginner / Concert Band 10

Our Band program welcomes wind, brass, and percussion players, offering ensembles for students at a range of levels, from absolute beginners to advanced musicians.

In these classes, you will refine your skills as a musician by learning to play a musical instrument at progressively higher levels of ability. Students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from traditional band repertoire to modern and popular styles. Concepts such as articulation, embouchure,

blend, balance, tone, and style are explored to form a foundation of musical awareness that encourages expression, reflection, and performance.

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A selection of instruments is available for rent through the school, and assistance with renting or purchasing an instrument is provided at the start of the school year.

Concert Choir 10

Concert Choir is a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring a wide variety of vocal repertoires. Open to all students in Grades 8–12 with an interest in choral music and performance, this course welcomes singers of all backgrounds and experience levels. Our repertoire ranges from classical and contemporary choral works to a variety of genres such as jazz (*including music by artists like Laufey*), R&B, gospel, indie folk, and Broadway. Students will experience the joy of creating music that is both artistically fulfilling and personally meaningful.

Guitar 10: Beginner

This course is designed for students with MODERATELY little to no experience on the guitar and focuses on building a strong foundation in playing and reading music. Students will work through a method book to learn how to read notes on all six strings, including ledger lines, and develop rhythm reading skills on the staff. They will also learn to read guitar tabs and chord charts, practice a variety of strumming patterns such as pop, rock, folk, blues, and an introductory RnB/Jazz(bossa nova) chord-fingerpicking patterns that are seen and used in songs like Laufey and Daniel Caesar. In addition to individual practice, students will explore ensemble playing, where one guitarist performs the melody while another provides accompaniment, developing collaborative abilities. By the end of the course, students will feel a sense of accomplishment when they're able to read music, play simple melodies and chords, and collaborate confidently in a group setting.

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Concert Choir provides a safe, supportive space where students can explore their voices, express themselves, and grow in confidence. As part of our choral family, students build long lasting friendships and become part of a positive, encouraging community.

Public performances include the Winter and Spring concerts, the graduation ceremony, and local festivals, with opportunities for exchange concerts, trips, and competitions. Students also participate in music retreats and field trips to hear top Vancouver musicians. Our choir has travelled to perform in China, Ireland, Hawaii, California (DisneyLand), Scotland, England, and New York.

Jazz Band 10

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

Jazz Band Senior is designed for students with **at least two years of playing experience** and the **recommendation of their band teacher**. This performing ensemble is dedicated to exploring and performing the finest music in the jazz tradition. Typical instrumentation includes **saxophones, trumpet, trombone, piano, drum set, bass (electric or upright), and guitar**. **All wind, brass, and percussion players must also be enrolled in a Concert Band class** to ensure a strong foundation in musicianship.

The Jazz Band focuses on a wide variety of styles, including swing, Latin, rock, funk, and mainstream popular music, with an emphasis on jazz technique, improvisation (solos), and jazz theory. Students gain experience in ensemble performance, listening, articulation, and style while developing confidence and individual expression.

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This class is open to students with **a minimum of three years of experience on a string instrument** (violin, viola, cello or bass) who are currently taking private lessons and is not suitable for beginners.

Woodwind, brass, and percussion players with at least 2 years of playing experience are also welcome, provided they are enrolled in a Band class and receive a recommendation from their band teacher.

Ableton & Bandlab: Music Technology & Composition 10

This hands-on course introduces students of all musical backgrounds to the world of digital music creation. No prior experience required. Working at individualized MIDI workstations equipped with USB piano keyboards, students learn to compose, record, and produce music using Digital Audio Workstations, beginning with BandLab and progressing primarily to Ableton Live.

Throughout the course, students develop practical skills in beat-making, arranging, sound design, and mixing while exploring their own creative voice. Whether you're new to music or an experienced musician, this class offers a fun, supportive environment to experiment, create, and bring original musical ideas to life.

Grade 11 & 12

Concert Band 11: Beginner / Concert Band 11 / Concert Band 12

Our Band program welcomes wind, brass, and percussion players, offering ensembles for students at a range of levels, from absolute beginners to advanced musicians.

In these classes, you will refine your skills as a musician by learning to play a musical instrument at progressively higher levels of ability. Students will perform a wide variety of music ranging from traditional band repertoire to modern and popular styles. Concepts such as articulation, embouchure, blend, balance, tone, and style are explored to form a foundation of musical awareness that encourages expression, reflection, and performance.

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Concert Choir 11/12

Concert Choir is a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring a wide variety of vocal repertoires. Open to all students in Grades 8–12 with an interest in choral music and performance, this course welcomes singers of all backgrounds and experience levels. Our repertoire ranges from classical and contemporary choral works to a variety of genres such as jazz (*including music by artists like Laufey*), R&B, gospel, indie folk, and Broadway. Students will experience the joy of creating music that is both artistically fulfilling and personally meaningful.

Singers will refine their vocal skills by developing healthy vocal technique, music-reading abilities, harmonizing in 4+ parts, and progressing to higher levels of musical artistry. Concert Choir provides a safe, supportive space where students can explore their voices, express themselves, and grow in confidence. As part of our choral family, students build long lasting friendships and become part of a positive, encouraging community.

Public performances include the Winter and Spring concerts, the graduation ceremony, and local festivals, with opportunities for exchange concerts, trips, and competitions. Students also participate in music retreats and field trips to hear top Vancouver musicians. Our choir has travelled to perform in China, Ireland, Hawaii, California (DisneyLand), Scotland, England, and New York.

Guitar 11/12: Beginner

This course is designed for students with *MODERATELY little to no experience* on the guitar and focuses on building a strong foundation in playing and reading music. Students will work through a method book to learn how to read notes on all six strings, including ledger lines, and develop rhythm reading skills on the staff. They will also learn to read guitar tabs and chord charts, practice a variety of strumming patterns such as pop, rock, folk, blues, and an introductory RnB/Jazz(bossa nova) chord-fingerpicking patterns that are seen and used in songs like Laufey and Daniel Caesar. In addition to individual practice, students will explore ensemble playing, where one guitarist performs the melody while another provides accompaniment, developing collaborative abilities. By the end of the course, students will feel a sense of accomplishment when they're able to read music, play simple melodies and chords, and collaborate confidently in a group setting.

Guitar 11/12: Advanced

This course is for students with *stronger foundational experience* who are looking to expand their technical and creative abilities. Students will continue developing advanced instrumental technique, music theory, ear training, and note/rhythm reading while exploring scales, arpeggios (including sevenths), and the CAGED system for fretboard mastery. Emphasis will be placed on improvisation using major, blues, and pentatonic scales, understanding jazz chords, and applying theory concepts such as whole and half steps to play in different keys. Students will practice accompaniment across genres, work on original and well-known compositions of their choice, and gain performance experience. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to improvise, create, and perform confidently in diverse musical settings.

Jazz Band 11/12

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

Jazz Band Senior is designed for students with **at least two years of playing experience** and the **recommendation of their band teacher**. This performing ensemble is dedicated to exploring and performing the finest music in the jazz tradition. Typical instrumentation includes **saxophones, trumpet, trombone, piano, drum set, bass (electric or upright), and guitar**. **All wind, brass, and percussion players must also be enrolled in a Concert Band class** to ensure a strong foundation in musicianship.

The Jazz Band focuses on a wide variety of styles, including swing, Latin, rock, funk, and mainstream popular music, with an emphasis on jazz technique, improvisation (solos), and jazz theory. Students gain experience in ensemble performance, listening, articulation, and style while developing confidence and individual expression.

Students also enjoy many of the same field trips and special musical opportunities as our Band and Choir students, including workshops, festivals, and experiences with professional musicians.

Orchestra 11/12

This is a before school class that starts at 7:30am.

Our school is one of the few in the province proud to offer a **full symphony orchestra**, bringing together string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players to explore the rich world of orchestral music. Students in Orchestra participate in many of the same exciting musical opportunities as our Band and Choir programs, including field trips, workshops, and special events throughout the year.

This class is open to students with **a minimum of three years of experience on a string instrument** (violin, viola, cello or bass) who are currently taking private lessons and is not suitable for beginners.

Woodwind, brass, and percussion players with at least 2 years of playing experience are also welcome, provided they are enrolled in a Band class and receive a recommendation from their band teacher.

Music Leadership 11/12

The Music Leadership course is designed for senior students who demonstrate a strong commitment to music and a desire to take on meaningful leadership roles within the school's music program. Students in this course develop essential skills in conducting, mentorship, and advanced musicianship.

Music Leaders play an active role in supporting our ensembles. They assist with organizing concerts and events, act as tutors for younger musicians, and help students strengthen fundamental skills such as note reading, rhythm reading, tone production, and ensemble awareness. Leaders may also guide sectionals, conduct warm-ups, and contribute to the smooth running of the program by serving as music librarians, helping manage scores, parts, and equipment.

Throughout the course, students gain hands-on experience in leadership, collaboration, and musical direction. Students with a strong interest in music and a willingness to contribute positively to the music community are encouraged to apply. Applications for this course can be found in Student Services.

Ableton & Bandlab: Music Technology & Composition 11/12

This hands-on course introduces students of all musical backgrounds to the world of digital music creation. No prior experience required. Working at individualized MIDI workstations equipped with USB piano keyboards, students learn to compose, record, and produce music using Digital Audio Workstations, beginning with BandLab and progressing primarily to Ableton Live.

Throughout the course, students develop practical skills in beat-making, arranging, sound design, and mixing while exploring their own creative voice. Whether you're new to music or an experienced musician, this class offers a fun, supportive environment to experiment, create, and bring original musical ideas to life.

AP Music Theory

AP Music Theory 12 provides an in-depth exploration of advanced musical concepts designed to prepare students for the AP Music Theory Exam and higher-level music study. The course develops comprehensive musicianship through integrated work in music theory, aural skills, dictation, sight-singing, and beginning composition. Students deepen their understanding of music notation, score analysis, part-writing, and tonal harmony in the eighteenth-century common-practice style.

By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze, interpret, and create music with greater fluency and sophistication, strengthening both their theoretical knowledge and practical musicianship.

Prerequisite: A solid foundation in basic music theory is required to keep up with the course. This includes a fluency in rhythm reading, note-reading, and experience playing an instrument.

Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre: Orchestra 8 – 12

Pit Orchestra for Spring Musical 2027

Our school is proud to offer a unique and exciting opportunity for instrumentalists to be part of a **professional-style pit orchestra** for our full-scale Musical Theatre production opening in Spring 2027. This course brings together dedicated string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians to explore the specialized world of **musical theatre performance**, including stylistic interpretation, ensemble precision, and live collaboration with singers, dancers, and actors.

Students in Musical Theatre: Orchestra will rehearse and perform the complete score of the Spring Musical as part of the production's pit orchestra, gaining invaluable experience in real-time accompaniment, following a conductor, adapting to staging needs, and supporting storytelling through music. Students will also have access to workshops, guest clinicians, and collaborative rehearsals with the Musical Theatre Company throughout the year.

This class is open to students with **a minimum of three years of experience on a string instrument** (violin, viola, cello or bass) who are currently taking private lessons and is not suitable for beginners. String players should also be enrolled in Orchestra (7:30am)

Woodwind, brass, and percussion players with at least 2 years of playing experience are also welcome, provided they are enrolled in a Band class and receive a recommendation from their band teacher.

Musical Theatre: Vocals & Dance 8 – 12

For all stage performers wishing to be a part of the Spring 2027 Musical

After School: Monday and Wednesdays 3:15–5:00 pm

Co-Requisite for ACTORS: Theatre Company-(for performers in the Spring 2027 musical)

No experience necessary!

Musical Theatre: Vocals & Dance is a performance-based course for students who want to train as singers and dancers for our full-scale Spring 2027 Musical Theatre production. This class develops essential musical theatre skills, including vocal technique (breath support, tone, harmony, diction) and dance/movement foundations (jazz basics, musical staging, character movement, choreography).

Students will rehearse ensemble numbers and staging that will later integrate into the Spring Musical, working in collaboration with Theatre Company–Acting, the vocal director, choreographer, and guest clinicians. The course emphasizes expression, ensemble work, professionalism, and confidence in live performance.

This course must be taken alongside Musical Theatre: Theatre Company Acting for students wishing to perform in the Spring 2027 musical. Open to students in Grades 8–12 of all experience levels. A willingness to sing, move, and participate fully in the creative process is essential.