

## Thank you for your interest in joining SD60 Band!

Due to a [huge demand for this program](#), we offer online sign up. In previous years, we have had 300 students interested in 120 spots! ***Sign up is first come, first served*** and online sign up gives your child a spot instantaneously while paper forms are processed in the order they are received. ***We encourage all interested students to sign up.***



### How do I sign up for Band?

1. **On Your Computer, Go To** <https://tinyurl.com/SD60Band>
2. **OR** - Fill out the form at the back of this package and hand it in to your child's school.

### Expectations for Band Students

- A desire to learn music and make friends with students across the district
- An ability to attend Tuesday night practices from 5:15-6:30pm (not every week)
- A commitment to practice their instrument outside of class at least 1 hour each week
- A willingness to work diligently during class time to the best of their ability
- The understanding band is a full year commitment and a graded course



### What is the SD60 Band Program?

Band is *primarily an in school course*, taught twice per week in the school day to smaller classes of 30. Classes are held M/Th or Tue/F during school hours. During the students' required fine arts time, they are bused to Margaret "Ma" Murray Community School, or to Anne Roberts Young Elementary School for the opportunity to learn an instrument from a professional music educator. Each of these new schools have a professionally designed room specifically meant for music.

There is also a night band component to this course, which is held Tuesday nights. These classes for the majority of the year are instrument based, with all Flutes coming in one week, all Saxophones the next, and so on. Grade 6 students are not required to attend every Tuesday, only the ones that they are specifically scheduled for. We do have some mass rehearsals in the last few weeks prior to our concerts and Festival performances.

Watch a video highlighting the program!: <https://tinyurl.com/SD60BandRecruit>

### What is the commitment?

Once per week on Tuesdays from 5:15-6:30pm, students gather together at the Anne Roberts, or Ma Murray band room to play as a full band. *Some weeks not all instruments are required*, and a complete schedule will be sent home during the summer. Students are also required to attend two kickoff events: “Squeak and Squawk”

(<https://tinyurl.com/SD60BandSqueak>) and the “Beginner Retreat” (<https://tinyurl.com/SD60BandRetreat>) where older band students and community members give them private and small group instruction to get them the best possible start. Students are also expected to practice for 20 minutes, 3 times per week outside of class time. Once classes start in the fall, band is expected to be a year-long commitment. Like sports, the evening commitments increase as students age.



### Where will the band take my child?

The band program has much local and national acclaim, with numerous gold and silver awards. The band has been to the invite-only MusicFest Canada several years in a row. Past trips have included Ottawa, Cuba, and New York City! Beginners perform two large concerts at the North Peace Cultural Centre per year, as well as smaller school performances. Several former SD60 Band students have gone on to find careers in music.

### What is the cost?

Band is a free course, but students are required to purchase a music book (\$20), and maintenance materials (\$10-20) for their instrument. Instruments can be rented, rent-to own, or bought. Shirts are available to students but optional. The instrument company Sight and Sound travels to Fort St. John each September at “Squeak and Squawk” and that is when students rent their instruments. Most instruments are about \$20/month, but some are more. Financial assistance is available upon request.



More information available online in the “Beginner Band Handbook”:

<http://www.prn.bc.ca/band>. The dates currently are from this year, and next year’s dates will be finalized in the summer. However, the “flow” of the year is the same year to year.

# What do students learn in SD60 Band?

## From the BC Ministry of Education:

All BC students must work on the following three core competencies each year, and participation in the Band Program covers all three.

See: *Core Competencies*: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>

**Communication** — Music is a universal language. Musicians engage with each other as well as the audience to convey ideas and emotions. Music, like other languages can be passed on aurally through listening, or by reading written notation.

**Thinking** — When playing in a musical ensemble, students are constantly evaluating their own playing and how it fits into the sounds others are making. MRI scans have shown that a musician's brain has all regions of their brain active at once when playing music.

<https://tinyurl.com/SD60BandBrainOnMusic>

**Personal and Social** — Playing in band makes a student a part of a team. Students learn their actions matter, and they learn how to lift each other up as they strive towards a common purpose. Students also learn to lift each other up as they work towards personal goals related to their individual musicianship.

## ***The main goals in our SD60 Framework for the Enhancement of Student Learning:***

- Goal 1: Increase Dogwood Completion Rates
- Goal 2: Increase Student Social/Emotional Competency
- Goal 3: Enhance Student Options Through Diverse Learning Experiences in Career Education
- Goal 4: Support Student Achievement Through a Systemic Learning Support Model

## ***Participation in the SD60 Band Program helps achieve these goals:***

1. *Band is a chance to achieve individually and as part of a community. If students are part of a team, they are more likely to stay in school.*
2. *Playing in a band requires students to be constantly engaged in a dynamic process that uses the full brain in a social context.*
3. *Music education is a requirement and/or asset to many career paths both involving music and those that do not - for example, medical schools like the discipline and fine motor skills musicians develop.*
4. *The band program is a close-knit community where students work with the same teachers for many years. Band teachers offer many curricular and extracurricular opportunities to support students socially, emotionally and musically.*



Band is one of the few subjects in school that utilizes all areas of the brain at once. *See: The Benefits of Music Education:*

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/>



**Who says learning music theory has to be boring?** One of the things your child will experience with band is a chance to make friends and learn music theory through a variety of fun, hands on games. On the left, students are playing “Swat the Turkey” to learn how to read the basic rhythms they will need for their upcoming songs.



**Facilities matter:** both Ma Murray and Anne Young music rooms are equipped with practice rooms and full percussion.



## Sign Up for SD60 Beginner Band

The best way to sign up is by going online to this form as the sign up goes directly to us immediately. <https://tinyurl.com/SD60Band>

If that doesn't work for you, this paper form can be hand delivered to your child's Elementary School, who will mail it to us. This method is much slower.

☐ *By checking this off, you give SD60 consent to schedule your child in Beginning Band for the upcoming School Year. You are agreeing that band is a year-long commitment, band is a graded course which requires regular home practice, and that Tuesday night band is a part of this course. You also understand that the band performs publicly and there will be pictures and videos of your child taken and shared for the purposes of highlighting the band.*

Student's Full Name:

Student's Date of Birth (D/M/Y):

Parent/Guardian Names:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Phone Numbers:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Email Addresses (this will be the **main form of communication** so please be sure to include **all** parents and guardians):

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Elementary School in **September 2025**:

What is your child's Care Card Number?

Any other additional information (Health, IEP, Learning Plan, ELL, etc.):