



751 Travino Lane,
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 0C6
ph:250-479-7128 fax: 250-479-4200
e-mail: Royaloak_mid@sd63.bc.ca
<http://royaloak.sd63.bc.ca>

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Greetings!

Dear band parents and students,

Welcome to an exciting new year of music at ROMS! It has been an interesting start to the year to say the least but I am very excited to start meeting all of the band students and parents and making some great music as soon as possible! Mr. Ziegler has accomplished a lot with the band students over the past few years and I am thrilled with the opportunity to keep the ball rolling and participate in more musical adventures with the students at Royal Oak.

There are a lot of important announcements as start the year, please read carefully and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Band rental night – Oct. 3rd

For any students who have not yet acquired an instrument for the school year, please attend the band rental evening on **Friday, Oct. 3rd** from **3:30-6pm** in the band room. Rental instruments will be available either from Larsen Music or from the school. School instruments will be available to rent by a one time payment of \$120 for the school year for flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, and percussion kits, and \$150 for saxophones, bass clarinets, baritones, tubas and French horns. Payment must be made by cash or cheque. Please visit www.larsenmusic.ca for information on rental rates from Larsen music. Please note that a credit card and driver's license is needed to complete a rental from Larsen Music.

Parent Meeting – Oct. 7 – 7pm - Band room

All parents are invited to attend a brief meeting on Oct. 7 at 7pm in the band room (rm 202) to discuss trips, fundraisers, meet the teacher, and answer any questions you may have. Please also feel free to come to the band room and say hi on Oct. 1 for the school meet the teacher night.

Saanich Music Saturday – Oct. 4

This is an excellent opportunity for all grade 6 students to get off to a great start on their new instrument. Students will attend a small-group workshop with a professional musician on their own specific instrument to go over proper set up, care and maintenance, posture and tone production. Students will also meet other students and teachers from other schools in the district. Pizza will be served after the workshops! There will be a \$5 fee to cover costs. All grade 6 students are strongly encouraged to attend. We could use a couple parent volunteers to help out as well, please contact me if you would be available to help.

Website

Mr. Ziegler created a great website for ROMS band students. I will be making a few tweaks and updates soon! The weblink will remain the same: <http://romsmusic.weebly.com/>

Student expectations

Classroom expectations will be discussed with students during first week of classes and will be reviewed and in effect throughout the year. Students who sign up for band are committed to playing their chosen instrument for the entire year. Band students are expected to participate in all band concerts throughout the year, adequate notice will be given for all performance dates and of course parents are always invited and encouraged to attend!

Practice

Consistent home practice is essential to success in band. Please encourage your child to practice their instrument regularly and help them to find a quiet, distraction-free space to practice. A music stand for home practice is highly recommended. Students are expected to practice between every band class in order to keep up with the material being rehearsed in class. Working ahead if possible is also encouraged! Please help your child develop a regular practice routine from the beginning of the year, the first few months on a new instrument is always a struggle but the more they improve the more fun they will have! Quality practice time is also to be encouraged, 15 mins of focused practice with a goal in mind is more effective than 30mins of “noodling.” Students will be responsible for filling out a monthly learning log which will help them track their practice time and set and achieve monthly goals. 20-30mins of practice 3-4 days a week is a good start, 6-7 days a week is even better!

Theory program

We will be using a new computer-based music theory program called Breezin-thru-theory. This will take the place of the standard of excellence theory books which have been used in the past. There may be a small fee required but will be less than the cost of the theory books. More information on this on the way.

Important Dates

Oct. 3 – Band rental night
Oct. 4 – Super Saturday
Oct. 7 – Band Parent Meeting
Dec. 8 – Winter Band Concert

Contact

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jonnie Bridgman
250-479-7128 ext 402
jbridgman@sd63.bc.ca

Band Parent Information Form

Please fill out and return to Mr. Bridgman.

Student name: _____

Parent name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive occasional emails about upcoming band events and important updates?

Comments/questions:

Parent signature: _____