



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Astral Drive Junior High

January/February 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

This is the time when students and parents decide program choices for next year. The Administration, at Astral Drive Junior High School, has started planning for next year's classes, which includes our Band program. We are asking students and parents to make their final decision by completing the attached form regarding Band.

Please consider the following information in making your decision:

- Successfully completing the previous grade-level-band program prepares your child for the Instrumental program, and likewise progressing through the grades. At this time, the course is offered in grades 6 through to 12. Please note that completion of each grade is a prerequisite to continue in the program for the remaining grades.
- Willingness to practice individually and/or attend extra help sessions when needed. Approximately 120 min of personal practice per week is about right for most students. (*If students wish, much of this practice can be completed at school in the morning, at lunch or after school instead of at home.*)
- At the high school level band students have the option of using the band course to fulfill the fine arts graduation requirement.
- Instrumental Music (Band) is a credit course and is scheduled for 90 minutes weekly as part of the student's regular schedule. There is also 1 class per week outside of class time which counts towards a student's assessment.
- Students in the band course will have 3 required evening concerts as part of their course and counts towards a student's assessment.
- Additional opportunities for others if they join other ensembles.

Students/parents agree to a one year commitment. At this time of year, each year, band students with their parents can choose whether to continue the program for the following year.

Astral Drive Junior High has an exceptional band program, with a tradition of excellence recognized throughout the Halifax Regional School Board. The performing arts will provide students with valuable experiences, skills and richness to a balanced education. We welcome all students who are willing to make a one year commitment and work hard at developing their skills with lots of opportunities for extra help/support. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Fitzgerald, Principal, Astral Drive Junior High.

Please complete the attached form and return it with the registration form to homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Ms. D. Fitzgerald

Astral Drive Junior High: 902-462-8700 Ext.5



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FORM
Astral Drive Junior High

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Current School: _____ Grade _____

English _____ Early Immersion _____ Late Immersion _____

Please check the appropriate box and sign below

Please register our child in the Instrumental Band program for next year.

We will not be registering our child in the Instrumental Band program next year at Astral Drive Junior High.

*We understand that this is a **one year commitment** and that students in the band program have the opportunity at this time of year to decide whether to continue in the program in the following grade.*

Signature of parent/guardian Date: _____

Signature of student Date: _____

Most students will continue with the instrument they have played in the previous year. The balance we achieved is still needed, and the program will not start at a beginner level in grade 7. That being said, we do expect a few students to make the switch to some instruments that are not introduced in grade 6 due to size, difficulty, or greater expense. The junior high has a few of these, which are rented to students at a reduced rate. (\$60 for the school year for baritone, tuba, and French horn – for oboe, you would need your own). At this point we need to know if your child would like to be considered for a placement on any of these instruments. Some changes may be initiated now so that anyone now renting from a store is prepared for the change.

In addition to these changes, a few clarinet and saxophone students will have the opportunity to play the larger bass clarinet or tenor/baritone saxophone next year for concert music, in addition to the instrument they play now. This will be dealt with in September. The fee for using these instruments, which are used in combination with the instruments your own, will be \$25. This also applies to percussion students, who will be making extensive use of the school instruments and won't need to bring their own practice pad and bells to school anymore.

Please indicate which instrument(s) you would be interested in switching to (if any) and your request will be considered. I will let students know if they have been selected or not once all forms have been received.

_____ I would be interested in switching to tuba. (Rent from school.)

_____ I would be interested in switching to baritone (looks like a small tuba). (Rent from school.)

_____ I would be interested in switching to French horn. (Rent from school.)

_____ I would be interested in switching to Bass Clarinet. (Rent from school.)

_____ I would be interested in switching to Tenor/Baritone. (Rent from school.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. MacKay by phone or email.
kenneth.mackay@hrsb.ca (902) 462-8700 extension 7031143