

GRAY ELEMENTARY

10855 80TH Avenue, Delta BC V4C 1W4

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Dear Music 6 and 7 Students and Parents at Gray Elementary,

My name is Mr. Steeves. I am excited to be teaching at Gray Elementary this year! This letter is to inform you about choosing a band instrument, learning materials and supplies, Tapestry Music rental instruments and band class expectations.

Choosing a Band Instrument

Your child(ren) will have the opportunity to play one of four instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Alto Saxophone and Trombone. These instruments are beginning instruments for a concert band. There are many more instruments in concert band. Eventually, your child can change to other instruments in high school once they become proficient at the beginning level. For example, flutes can change to piccolo, clarinets can change to saxophones, trumpet can change to French horn and trombone can change to baritone/tuba/euphonium. In January, students will have an opportunity to try snare drum, bass drum and bells/glockenspiel as well as other percussion instruments. These students will have shown consistent participation in band and excellent rhythm and note reading abilities. *Students who are playing in band for a second year are encouraged to continue with the same instrument unless they have discussed it with the teacher first.*

2. Band Book and Materials

- The method book we will be using is *Essential Elements Book 1*. This book can be purchased at any music store (Tapestry Music).
- They will need a pencil to make notes on their music.
- They will need a duo-tang/small binder for their music and class hand-outs.
- *Optional:* A folding music stand to practice at home with and use at school if they do not want to use a school stand.

3. Rental Instruments from Tapestry Music: ONLINE

- Tapestry Music is offering an online instrument rental process. There will be no instrument rental night as we have had in previous years. When you rent your instrument online you will also have the option to purchase the band book, supplies and folding music stand. You can choose the option to pick up the instrument at the store or have Tapestry music deliver your instrument to the school. You must *have* your instrument by **Tuesday, September 29th** as that will be our first instrument class. **If you would like to have Tapestry deliver your instrument to the school, you will need to fill in the ONLINE FORM by Friday, September 25th.**
- To rent your instrument, go to:
- **<https://www.tapestrymusic.com/t-rentalprogram.aspx>**

4. About the Teacher

I am passionate about music and music education. I started playing piano at the age of 3 and started playing trumpet in Grade 6. I completed a music degree in trumpet performance from Trinity Western University and a Bachelor of Education (Music Specialist) from the University of British Columbia.

As a musician, I play trumpet with many groups in the Vancouver area, including the Bruce James Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, First Avenue Hot Six, and many other small ensembles. I perform in many different musical styles including jazz, classical, rhythm & blues, funk, rock and pop. As a pianist, I have performed in restaurants, weddings and private functions and other venues.

As an educator, I have been teaching private piano and brass lessons since 2001. I also have done many brass clinics/workshops in elementary, high schools and post-secondary schools in the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley.

The goals of the band program for this year:

- To learn music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills and technique on the various wind and/or percussion instruments.
- To appreciate and enjoy music as a performing art
- To learn basic/intermediate rhythm and theory

Grading/Assignments: Each area will be given a E/M/PM/NM

1. Group Playing Tests – In-class (1 each term)
2. Individual Playing Tests – by video or in-class (1-2 each term)
3. Class Participation – Instrument, music, pencil
4. Performance – 2 Virtual Performances

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school (Wed/Fri(PM)) or via email. The best way to contact me is by email.

Thank you!
Sincerely,

Mr. Steeves
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