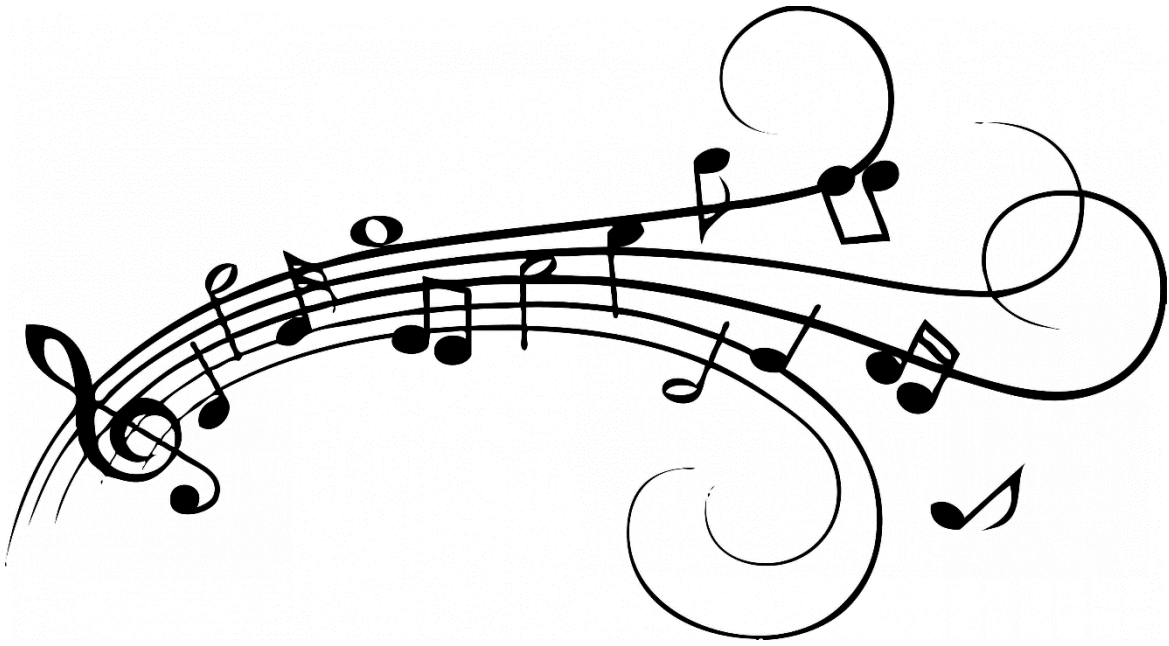


VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL



BAND

PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027

Please keep this package for future reference.

VM MUSIC PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page Number</i>
<i>Letter from Mr. Morawski</i>	2
<i>Letter from VM Music Parents Association</i>	3
<i>Creating Success</i>	4
How Can I Help My Student Succeed?	
My Student is Struggling – What can I do?	
At-home Practice	
<i>Concert Band / Jazz Band / Concerts</i>	5
<i>Uniform</i>	6
<i>Instrument Information</i>	
Instrument Rental/ To Buy or Not to Buy?	7
Where Would I Go To Purchase an Instrument?	8
Instrument Choices	
Oops! I Didn't Mean to Drop it Mom!	
Instrument Technician / Insurance	9
<i>Overnight Trips (General Info)</i>	10
Band Camp – Grade 7, 8 & 9	
Band Tour – Grade 8 & 9	
Parent Meetings for Overnight Trips	
<i>Volunteering</i>	11
<i>Communication</i>	12
Email	
Phone	
Weekly Communication	
Assessment	
<i>Enrollment Cost Information</i>	13
Fees: Instrument Rental, Course, Festival	
Trip Costs: Band Camp, Band Tour	
<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	15
<i>2026 - 2027 Calendar</i>	17
<i>Forms</i>	

September 2026

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians,

Welcome (back) to Vincent Massey and to the band! As of this year, Vincent Massey is officially the school that I have worked at the longest. I truly can't imagine working anywhere else. We are coming off another incredible year of concerts, camps, and elementary school tours, and the phrase "I can't... I have band." Is heard much more regularly throughout the hallways.

The music program at Vincent Massey has a long and strong legacy. An amazing amount of work has been put in to bringing the music program back over the past couple of years, and I am ready to keep that energy going. I'm looking forward to continuing to make music with these creative and dedicated students!

For those of you who are new to the Vincent Massey community, fear not! This handbook contains a ton of information. This is most of the information you could possibly need for this 2026-2027 school year! For those of you returning, this year will be very similar to last year, but with a couple of extra performance and trip opportunities:

Some of the highlights of this year will include: Band clinics, guest conductors, participating in the Alberta International Band Festival in Calgary, an overnight Band Camp to Camp Kindle, a potential "Alberta Tour" for the grade 8/9 students, and many performances including our own school concerts (in December and May) as well as guest concerts with Ernest Manning High School and Central Memorial High School. Ms. Esau has moved on, and I will be taking over the guitar classes – how exciting!

Let's get this show on the road! I do however need YOUR help to make things successful this year. Students: keep an open mind, keep the joy, keep the excitement, and we are going to have a lot of fun. Parents/guardians: be involved when you can – I NEED volunteers as well as new members of the Vincent Massey Music Parents Association (VMMPA) to keep everything running smoothly.

I am looking forward a great year ahead, and the incredible years that will follow it!

Musically yours,

Mr. Kaj Morawski

VINCENT MASSEY MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

September 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Vincent Massey Music Parents Association (VMMPA) is pleased to welcome you (or welcome you back!) to the Band Program at Vincent Massey for the 2026-2027 year!

By providing our input to this package of information, as fellow parents, we are hoping to prepare you for what you and your student have to look forward to this year in Band. Contained in this package you will find information regarding performances, concert dress expectations, fundraisers, program and trip costs and much, much more! **PLEASE READ THROUGH THE PACKAGE CAREFULLY.....if you do, you will be well prepared for what lies ahead!** And keep this package handy so you can refer to it as the year progresses.

The VMMPA supports the Vincent Massey Music Program- providing support to the school, band (and other music classes), teacher, and students. We work diligently to resource the program with instruments and to offer all students excellent workshop opportunities. The VMMPA also provides direct support for students with our fundraising activities, giving students the means to earn financial credit toward the cost of Band Camp and other experiences.

We encourage (and implore!) you to **get involved in any way that you can**. There are many ways you can help create success no matter how much time you have to give. This could include attending monthly meetings, helping organize a fundraiser, participating in the fundraisers, supervising a field trip, etc. The success of our music program depends on the help from all of our parents. Please give consideration as to what areas you might be available to donate some of your time to during this school year. Many hands make light work!

Sincerely,

VM Music Parents Association

Email: vincentmasseympa@gmail.com

CREATING SUCCESS

HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT SUCCEED?

The following are some suggestions for helping your student to have success in band. The first few weeks of learning to play a band instrument are especially important. Good practice habits need to be established at home from the beginning, and a parent(s) or guardian(s) can **HELP**.

Help to set-up the best possible practice facility. The area should be well-lit and free from other distractions, and should accommodate a straight chair and a music stand.

Establish a regular time and routine for practice sessions. Students should begin with warm-up exercises, and then move into method books exercises and finally their concert music. Troublesome parts should be isolated and worked out before the entire song is repeated. Practice time is best used by working on the parts they find difficult to play, rather than only playing the things they know already. Students should end the practice session with a few favorites, just for fun!

Listen enthusiastically to your student's practicing. Recognize his or her efforts with a comment such as, "I really liked the sound of the low notes on that piece." Listen for improvement over time, it will become quite noticeable over a period of a month or two. You are the audience your student will most appreciate.

Participate in our three-way partnership: parent(s)/guardian(s), student, and teacher working together to make band an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Start by reinforcing your student's practice routine, attending performances and participating in the Music Parents Association.

MY STUDENT IS STRUGGLING – WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Contact the teacher if you are noticing that your student is experiencing difficulty, especially if you begin to notice frustration is accompanying more than a couple of practice sessions. It is important to address these issues early before students lose their desire to try. Many times these problems have a simple solution with encouragement and one-on-one assistance. Individual help for students is available at lunch or after school.

AT-HOME PRACTICE

Enjoyment in playing a band instrument and a desire to practice come with success; success is the result of dedicated practice. Someone said to me recently that band is a contact sport – the instrument must come into contact with the lips (hands for percussionists!) in order for improvement to take place. Check to see that this is happening at your house!

CONCERT BAND

***UPDATED Sept. 2026**

Every student is automatically a Concert Band member of their grade level band class. For instance, all students in a Grade 7 Band Class are members of the Grade 7 Concert Band. Students are divided into separate woodwind and brass/percussion classes depending on the instrument that they play. The students rehearse together outside of the time table as a Concert Band once a week since they are not all in the same class. Every student in every class is an important member of their concert band and must attend all concert band commitments – concerts, workshops, rehearsals, etc.

Weekly Morning Rehearsals:

Grade 8 Band (Tues), Grade 9 Band (Wed), Grade 7 Band (Thurs), Jazz Band (Mondays and/or Fridays)

NOTE: The Grade 8 and 9 bands will be COMBINED starting in the winter. The only change is that morning rehearsals for BOTH grades will be moved to Tuesday.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz band is an extracurricular opportunity that has to be rehearsed outside of class time as it is not offered as a course. The Senior Jazz Band is generally comprised of grade 8 and 9 students. We rehearse 1-2 times per week on a regular basis with the possibility of extra rehearsals/clinics especially as we get closer to a concert. The hope is to offer one before school practice for 60 minutes and one lunch time practice. If there is interest, a Junior Jazz Band MAY be established for our less experienced players. This would start sometime around January. There may be interest in a choir starting in future years instead of this 2nd jazz band.

All students who choose to be in Jazz band are welcome to be there. In a rare circumstance, students may have to be auditioned due to a limited opportunity for multiple players on some parts, or swap on/off different instruments.

It is imperative that once a student has committed to being in Jazz Band, they will consistently attend these rehearsals, throughout the entire school year.

CONCERTS

Every band student is **required to be at ALL concerts in which their band is performing** – we work together as a team and when members are missing it can be detrimental to the performance. We have included concert dates on the attached calendar, to give as much notice as possible to ensure your student will be able to attend. Occasionally extra events occur throughout the year, but this generally happens for the most experienced band. Think of concerts as final exams or championship/playoff games in sports.

If there is a valid reason your student absolutely cannot attend, please inform the teacher as soon as possible, as sometimes arrangements can be made to have parts covered by other students. For this to happen we need as much notice as possible.

UNIFORM

Uniforms are required for all band members. The uniform is designed so that the student is in **black from the neck to the toes.**

Provided by the Parent/Student

Black Dress Shirt:

- BEST: Black long sleeve, button-up dress shirt
- Acceptable: Black long sleeve shirt of another type
- NOT Acceptable: Shirts with logos, even if they are black

Black Dress Pants:

- BEST: Black dress pants (Hemmed so they do not drag on the floor) with NO coloured stitching or embellishments
- Acceptable: Black sweatpants (if they look good), skirts/dresses (if they extend below the knees)
- NOT acceptable: Jeans, Yoga pants, leggings, or pants with a fit and/or fabric similar to yoga pants/leggings

Black Dress Shoes:

- BEST: Plain black dress shoes with closed toe, with NO coloured laces/stripes/embellishments
- Acceptable: Running shoes (if mostly black), heels (no higher than 2" for safety)
- NOT acceptable: boots, sandals, Toms/canvas shoes, high heels

Black Socks:

- Plain black socks

Black Dress Belt:

- Plain black dress belt is strongly recommended, but optional

If obtaining any part of the uniform is a challenge for you financially, please notify Mr. Morawski.

HINT: Many parents have found the uniform elements they need at thrift/second hand stores such as Value Village and Urban Thrift.

NEW We are trying to grow a uniform lending library. If you have old black shirts or pants, please consider donating them to the band!

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

If you need to rent an instrument from the school, please continue! If you **presently own** or have access to your own band instrument for the year, please skip ahead to the next section.

Musical Instrument Registration and Rental AGREEMENT:

*****Must be signed by parents** and returned to the school before students will receive their instrument.

Music Instrument RENTAL FEE:

A fee of \$100 is charged for the use of the instrument. This fee is used to pay for repairs, maintenance and replacement costs. (At \$100 per year, it takes 6 years to replace a flute, 50 years to replace a tuba and 80 years to replace a set of timpani – this does not include the cost of repairs!)

The rental fee can be paid in the following ways:

- a. **ONLINE - *THIS IS THE PREFERRED METHOD*, or**
- b. **IN-PERSON** – In the school office. Please do NOT send cash or cheques to school with you student.

PERCUSSIONISTS are required to pay a rental fee and sign the Agreement.

This fee only gets uploaded by the first week of October. Please do not attempt to pay before then.

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY?

If your student enjoys band and especially if they intend to carry on in band through high school, now would be a good time to consider buying an instrument rather than renting. Why? Purchased instruments tend to be better quality and in better condition and often, better care is taken of the instrument, all of which often translates into being easier to play. Plus, the added bonus that the parent/student has no responsibility to the school for the instrument.

Frequently, the students who own their own instrument take more pride in their playing and develop into better musicians. Also, we do not always have the ability to supply every instrument for every student at this point in time and purchasing/renting privately can ensure your student has the instrument they want to play.

WHERE WOULD I GO TO PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT?

The following two retailers are recommended. They can provide instruments to purchase or rent and have rent-to-own plans as well.

- St. John's Music
- Long & McQuade

If you buy from a reputable store, and if your student is not a complete beginner, have them play several of the same instrument – even if they are the same brand, same model – in order to determine the one that ‘plays and feels the best’.

Any store that sells products that are NOT music related (ie. Costco, Walmart) are poor choices for purchasing an instrument.

If you'd like to purchase a used instrument that is not from one of the above listed stores (ie. Pawn shop, through the internet, privately), make sure to play it to be sure it works and “feels good”. If your student does not yet play the instrument, try to find someone to go with you who can play it and offer their opinion. It is possible to get some excellent deals, but unless you're knowledgeable in this area, it's sometimes difficult to know if you're getting a decent instrument. Keep in mind that a warranty is not available if an instrument is purchased privately.

INSTRUMENT CHOICES

Students always have choice around what they will play. The key to an excellent band that sounds great is a balanced band. A balanced band NEEDS low brass and low woodwind players and not too many flutes or drummers! Some students will say “My parents won't allow me to bring home a large instrument.” PLEASE support your student if they choose an instrument that wasn't quite what you had in mind as they may be making a decision to support a balanced band.

TUBA players are all given a second tuba for home at no extra cost. Extras of the other larger instruments will be subject to availability.

Sometimes Grade 8 & 9 Band students request an instrument change. If too many students change instruments, it will slow down our progress tremendously, so this will be discouraged. However, there are exceptions. In the past, I have sometimes not rented saxophones to first year players, therefore students may change to sax in Grade 8 and 9; and sometimes students will change instruments in order to improve the balance of the band.

OOPS! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DROP IT, MOM!

It is very important that the instruments be cared for, and not misused or damaged. Regular wear and tear of an instrument is expected, and **most** of the repairs/maintenance to school instruments will be done without an additional charge to you, as the basics are covered by the rental fee. If a school instrument is damaged or not working, ***please do not try to fix it yourself*** (even something as simple as pulling out a stuck mouthpiece), as this often does more harm than good. Return the instrument to your teacher and it will be repaired. However, if there is damage done to an instrument, a charge will be imposed directly to the student (parent/guardian!).

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

School instruments are regularly being repaired or maintained and we have access to an instrument technician who will also repair student owned instruments. If you require his services, contact the band room. The cost of repairs on student owned instruments will be the responsibility of the parents. You are under no obligation to use this technician if you would prefer to access one on your own.

INSURANCE

Whether you own or are renting an instrument, you may want to inquire with your insurance company what would be involved in insuring the instrument. Although likely covered under house insurance, do keep in mind that many homes have a \$500-\$1000 deductible, which in some cases is the whole cost of the instrument. Ask about whether they have a policy (usually referred to as a “rider” that is attached to your house insurance) which would decrease or eliminate the deductible. If it is insured properly, you can rest assured that there will be no extra costs to you if something happens to the instrument. If uninsured, and an instrument gets lost or seriously damaged, you WILL be responsible for the entire cost of or replacement or repair.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS (General Info)

***UPDATED Sept. 2026 (Specifics about this year's camp/tour on page 13)**

Band Camps are co-curricular, which means that they are part of the course, as opposed to an extracurricular activity which is something outside the curriculum. Therefore, the expectation is that each Band student will participate in these activities. Band Tours are "optional", however it is always best if most students can attend for the group to be successful.

BAND CAMP – Grade 7, 8, 9

Band Camp is planned for all Grade 7, 8, 9 Band students. Band Camp is designed to give students extra hours of instruction and practice on their instrument. Students will work in their instrument sections and as a whole band. The amount of improvement in the students' ability to play and the progress they make on learning their music is SIGNIFICANT while at Band Camp. The work is so valuable that students who do not attend will find that they have fallen behind in their progress.

*Grade 7 (April): 1-night/2-days. Approx. Cost \$280

*Grade 8/9 (October): 2-nights/3-days. Approx. Cost \$400

These costs reflect NO subsidizing by the VMMPA. Depending on fundraising efforts, the cost may be lowered.

BAND TOUR – Grade 8 & 9

Band Tour for the Grade 8/9s takes place in the Spring. Tour is the culminating event of the students' two or three years in Band where they have the opportunity to celebrate and showcase all that they have learned and accomplished together. Tour involves performing; therefore, each member's presence is very important.

*The cost of Band Tour is in the range of \$400-2000. The final cost is completely dependent on the number of students participating, where we go and for how long. All meals, accommodation, transportation, activities and the cost of the Band Tour jacket are included in the Band Tour fee.

**Fund-raising opportunities are made available for students/parents during the year to help raise the required fee. It is critical that these opportunities are taken advantage of when they occur, particularly if the fee for the trip could present an obstacle for your family.*

PARENT MEETINGS FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS

As per CBE policy, meetings are **mandatory** for parents who have students going on an overnight trip. This is to ensure that parents fully understand what their students are taking part in and what risks may be involved. The Teacher-In-Charge must meet with EVERY parent.

A meeting will be scheduled for each overnight trip (band camp and band tour). Dates for these meetings are published in the calendar contained in this Information Package and reminders will be emailed as the date approaches. Please make every effort to arrange your schedule so that you can attend these important meetings. It is important to note that the **parent who attends the mandatory meeting** for parents must be the **same parent who completes and signs the forms** associated with the trip.

VOLUNTEERING

***UPDATED Sept. 2026**

A significant part of the work done for our music program is provided by volunteers. Your help as parents/guardians is essential to the program's continued growth and success. Information on volunteer opportunities will be made available at the AGM and throughout the year as activities arise that require your help.

There are many ways you can help! . . .

- ✓ Attend monthly Music Parents Association Meetings
- ✓ Assist with Music Library Maintenance
- ✓ Assist with organizing Fundraising Initiatives
- ✓ Field Trip and Activity Supervision (Band camp, festival, concerts)

...And more!

Do you want to volunteer at Vincent Massey?

ALL adults planning to work with or around students at Vincent Massey must complete the registration form EVERY YEAR as outlined on the school website. All forms and links are available at the following website: <https://vincentmassey.cbe.ab.ca/volunteer>

Step 1

- Go to MyCBE and click on the "Online forms and School Registration" tab and complete the volunteer registration 2026-2027 form.
- School administrators will verify your identity and register you in the CBE volunteer database. The school office will provide you with a letter enabling you to obtain a police information check from the Calgary Police Service (CPS).
- Note: prospective volunteers must reside in Canada for a full year before registering. Police clearances from countries other than Canada are not accepted.

Step 2

- Visit the CPS online system, electronic Police Information Check (ePIC), to obtain your police check using your CBE volunteer letter.
- Volunteers should wait to submit their request until they receive an email from Calgary Police Service – Record Check inviting them to apply for their Police Information Check with VS for Volunteer. This will ensure the voucher is ready to be redeemed by the volunteer.
- Voucher costs are covered for online applications only. If a volunteer applies to Calgary Police Service in-person with the e-Pic letter given them from their school, the \$21.25 application fee will apply.
- If a volunteer submits their own payment, there is no option for a refund. There is no refund option for volunteers who have previously submitted applications.
- If you are unable to complete the process online, you may visit a police information check location instead.

Step 3

- Once you have received your clearance document from CPS you will need to share it with the school in-person or by email.

COMMUNICATION

EMAIL

Morawski: tkmorawski@cbe.ab.ca

Email is an essential means of keeping in touch regarding opportunities for students and upcoming activities and deadlines. Please provide your email address on the appropriate paperwork included in the Forms Package.

If you have not received a ‘test’ email from the VMMPA by the end of October, it would be an indication that we do not have your correct email address. Please email your correct email address to vincentmasseympe@gmail.com . Multiple email addresses for each student can be included if that is helpful.

If you do not have an email address, please indicate this and an effort will be made to ensure paper copies of information is made available. However, history suggests this is not consistent. Please take some responsibility in this regard and remind your student to ask for information AND contact the Band Room via telephone to inquire about information you might have missed.

PHONE

BAND ROOM Phone Number: 403-777-7870 Ext. 2029

It is rare that the phone will be answered during the day, partly because it’s hard to hear when it rings during class! Also my voicemail doesn’t work properly!

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

All band student will have access to google classroom (grade 7) and D2L (grade 8/9). Morawski will post weekly messages there with upcoming events, as well as playing assignments and what to practice. Morawski will send the same communication to parents/guardians through the CBE mass messaging system “School Messenger”. Please check your spam folders to ensure that this communication is not mistaken for spam.

ASSESSMENT

Like all other classes, marks/assessment will be posted to Power School. Students and parents are encouraged to check this website regularly.

- **Performance** – Demonstrates musical techniques by performing alone and in groups
- **Analyzes** – Analyzes, evaluates and responds critically to a variety of musical genres
- **Understands** – Demonstrates understanding of the elements of music

4	Excellent	The student has demonstrated excellent achievement of grade level expectations.
3	Good	The student has demonstrated good achievement of grade level expectations.
2	Basic	The student has demonstrated basic achievement of grade level expectations.
1	Not meeting expectations	The student is not meeting grade level expectations.

VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM
ENROLMENT COSTS INFORMATION
2026 - 2027

ENROLLMENT COSTS **UPDATED Sept. 2026**

Instrument Rental **\$100.00**

- Used for the repair and maintenance of the instruments.
- Any damage to the instrument due to negligence on the part of the student will be charged to the student over and above this fee.
- This fee must be paid as soon as it is uploaded by the CBE (usually first week of October)
- Students who own their own instrument do not pay this fee.
- Percussionists DO pay this fee.

Course Fee **\$40.00**

- All students pay this fee.
- Covers cost of books, supplies such as reeds & valve oil (to a reasonable extent), drumsticks & mallets, music, etc.
- Includes access to Breezin' Thru Theory software
- This fee will be visible once class lists have settled within the first week or two.

Festival Fee **\$25.00**

- All Grade 7-9 students pay this fee.
- Covers cost of venue, buses, and instructors at the University of Calgary for the Alberta International Band Festival performances.
- Families will be notified when the festival and band camp fees are uploaded.

Jazz Festival Fee **\$25.00**

- Only student in the jazz band pay this fee. This is the only cost associated with the jazz band.

TRIP COSTS

<i>Band Camp Grade 7</i>	- 1 night/2 days	Anticipated Cost: \$250-280
<i>Band Camp Grade 8/9</i>	- 2 nights/3 days	Anticipated Cost: \$375-400

Band camp is an overnight, out of town experience giving students the opportunity to have intensive instruction and rehearsal on their instrument. These costs reflect NO subsidizing by the VMMPA. Depending on fundraising efforts, the cost may be lowered. ALL students are able to go to band camp – information about financial assistance to come.

Band Tour (Grade 8/9)

Band Tour for the Grade 8/9s takes place in the Spring. Tour is the culminating event of the students' two or three years in Band where they have the opportunity to celebrate and showcase all that they have learned and accomplished together. Tour involves performing; therefore, each member's presence is very important.

This year's tour will be to Red Deer and Edmonton, Alberta, and will cost in the approximate range of \$400-500. All meals, accommodation, transportation, activities and the cost of the Band Tour jacket are included in the Band Tour fee. These costs reflect NO subsidizing by the VMMPA. Depending on fundraising efforts, the cost may be lowered for all students. There is NO financial assistance for individuals available for tour – information to come.

**Fund-raising opportunities are made available for students/parents during the year to help raise the required fee. It is critical that these opportunities are taken advantage of when they occur, particularly if the fee for the trip could present an obstacle for your family.*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our goal is to have all students participate regardless of their financial limitations. However, neither the School nor the VMMPA have unlimited resources available to support students financially. Therefore, a discussion must take place, initiated by the parent/guardian, to determine what support might be available. Generally, there is support available for all costs EXCEPT the spring band tour.

If you will have difficulty meeting the financial commitment of participating in the Band Program as outlined above, please arrange to meet with the Music Director to discuss your individual situation. Contact information for Mr. Morawski: Email: tkmorawski@cbe.ab.ca or via phone at 403-777-7870 Ext. 2029

If you are unable to pay the entire cost of a specific trip, the financial support offered to you will generally include your participation in the **fundraisers designed to help support the costs of these trips**. These will include things such as but not limited to the Purdy's Chocolates fundraiser, bottle drives, etc.

The Calgary Board of Education offers a waiver for the Instrument Rental Fee for those who qualify. Waiver forms can be obtained on the CBE website here: <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/waivers>

****NOTE**** The waiver mentioned above is only for the Instrument Rental Fee (and other non-band related fees), however we do look at whether a family has applied for this waiver when making decisions about removing or lowering the fees we have control over at the school (course fee, festival fee, band camp fee). So, it is very important to fill this out if you feel that you need to.

VINCENT MASSEY MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Announcement

Hello all Vincent Massey Music Parents,

This is a formal announcement for the Vincent Massey Music Parents Association (VMMPA) Annual General Meeting. This meeting will feature:

- All necessary information for the 2026-2027 band season including dates and an overview of the band handbook,
- An introduction to the Music Parents Association, and the election of a new board,
- Consent to receive communication from the Music Parents Association,
- Mandatory safety/information session for overnight off-site activities (Band Camp to Camp Kindle) – The parent/guardian who will sign the forms (the SAME parent/guardian) MUST be in attendance at this meeting in order for the student to go to band camp. This portion will be for grade 8/9 only. The grade 7 band camp meeting will occur in March 2026, so they can leave early.

Date: Thursday September 17th

Location: Vincent Massey School South Gym

SCHEDULE:

6:30-6:55

- Band Program information for the 2026-2027 School Year

6:55-7:20

- VMMPA AGM

7:20-7:45

- October Band Camp Parent Meeting (Grade 8/9 families MANDATORY, Grade 7 families can go home)

This meeting is MANDATORY for PARENTS/GUARDIANS of students enrolled in Grade 7-9 Band. Students are NOT required to be there but are strongly encouraged! Information outlined in this meeting is crucial to your student's success this year and private meetings will need to be scheduled with Mr. Morawski over the phone or in person if you are unable to attend this meeting. But as there are numerous students, this is not ideal. The sooner that you notify Mr. Morawski with conflicts, the better.

Call for Board Members:

Many returning families know, it takes a lot to run a band program at a middle school! Mr. Morawski needs some help, and that help comes from the VMMPA board. A couple positions will be available this fall as the members' students will be moving onto High School. We would greatly appreciate if you would consider running for one of the following positions as outlined below:

Chair: Audrey Newcombe (up for re-election)

- Oversees all social activities, chairs all meetings
- Assists on committees when required
- Acts as spokesperson for the committee

CURRENTLY SEEKING Vice-Chair:

- Assumes all responsibilities of the Chair in their absence
- Assists on committees as required

Secretary: Erryn Colling (up for re-election)

- Attends all meetings and keeps accurate minutes of the Society and the Board
- Ensures that a record of names/addresses of all members of the Society is kept.

Treasurer: Kimberlie Ferrier (up for re-election)

- Receives and deposits all monies paid to the Society
- Properly accounts for all funds and keeps accurate records
- Presents a detailed account of revenue/expenditures at all meetings
- Makes sure an audited statement of the financial position of the Society is prepared for the General meeting

CURRENTLY SEEKING Directors-at-large (2):

- Creates teams with various responsibilities – different board members can do different things, or assign others to do them (share the load)
- Investigates fundraising options
- Coordinates timing of fundraisers to avoid conflicts with school fundraising activities
- Coordinates the execution and completion of fundraisers as required
- Organizing, recruiting, and managing volunteers to support the band program (i.e fundraisers, concerts, band camps, etc.)

Notes:

- Each position will hold office until the following Annual General Meeting (normally held in September/October)

If you would like to run for any of these positions please contact the current VMMPA at vincentmasseympa@gmail.com . If you have any general questions, feel free to contact Mr. Morawski at tkmorawski@cbe.ab.ca . It would be great to help guide people this year for what to expect in the future. The VMMPA is integral to a successful and full program, so please consider volunteering your time.

Sincerely,

Audrey Newcombe - Current Chair
Gareth Hughes - Current Vice-Chair (outgoing)
Kaj Morawski - Music Teacher

BAND CALENDAR 2026-2027

Grades 7 – 9

This list may not be complete as other events may come up throughout the year and dates may change – Please stay tuned!!

Date		Event	Time/Place	Who should attend/Notes
SEPTEMBER				
Thursday	17	Instrument Rental Form Due Agreement – Handbook & AGM Attendance Due	Turn forms into Band Room	<i>Instruments and supplies cannot be issued and taken home until their respective forms are turned in.</i>
Thursday	17	Band Program Parent Information Night VMMPA Annual General Meeting Gr 8/9 Band Camp Overnight Parent Meeting **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE** Consent for Communication with the VMMPA Due	6:30-7:45pm (South Gym)	ALL Grade 7, 8, 9 Band Students and Parents
Thursday	24	DEADLINE FOR GRADE 8/9 BAND CAMP FORMS Deposit for Grade 8/9 Band Camp Due	Turn forms into Band Room Fee paid online is preferred.	I need to send final numbers to camp THIS WEEKEND. Grade 8/9 students.
OCTOBER				
Thursday	1	<u>Beginner Band Clinic</u>	4:10-5:40pm (Vincent Massey)	ALL Grade 7 Band students + Grade 8/9 Beginners
Thursday	1	1 st VMMPA Monthly Meeting (Future dates/times may change depending on board member availability)	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Monday	5	Jazz Band Begins	8:15am (Band Room) Doors open 8:00am	Interested Gr. 8/9 Students
Tuesday	6	1 st Morning Rehearsal (Gr. 8) - Weekly	8:15am (Band Room) Doors open 8:00am	Grade 8 Concert Band (Tuesdays)

VMMPA Email: vincentmasseympa@gmail.com

Morawski's Email: tkmorawski@cbe.ab.ca

Tuesday	6	Band Camp Final Fee Due (Or payment plan)	Fee paid online is preferred.	Please talk to Morawski regarding a payment plan or financial assistance.
Wednesday	7	1 st Morning Rehearsal (Gr. 9) - Weekly	8:15am (Band Room) Doors open 8:00am	Grade 8 Concert Band (Wednesday)
Thursday	8	1 st Morning Rehearsal (Gr. 7) - Weekly	8:15am (Band Room) Doors open 8:00am	Grade 7 Concert Band (Thursdays)
Saturday	17	Bottle Drive (Tentative)	TBD	Any Band Students /Parent Volunteers
Tues-Thurs	20-22	Grade 8/9 BAND CAMP	Camp Kindle	All Gr. 8-9 Students + Parent and Teacher Volunteers
Wednesday	28	Ernest Manning High School Feeder School Concert 10 minute performance + Watch the rest	Time TBD (evening) Ernest Manning	Grade 8 Band Students/Parents (Some Grade 9s possible)
NOVEMBER				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Tuesday	10	<u>Remembrance Day Concert</u>	South Gym, During school day	Grade 9 Band – All Black Uniform +Poppy (Some Grade 8s)
Wednesday	18	Central Memorial High School Feeder School Concert 10 minute performance + Watch the rest	Time TBD (evening) CM High School	Grade 9 Band Students/Parents (some grade 8s)
DECEMBER				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Thursday	10	Vincent Massey WINTER CONCERT MANDATORY attendance by Gr 7-9 Band students	6:30pm (South Gym) Arrival Times TBD	ALL Grade 7-9 Band Students / Parents
JANUARY				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
TBD	TBD	Guest Conductor Workshops (prep for festival)	During Weekly Morning Rehearsals 8:15am (Band Room)	All Grade 7, 8, 9 Band Students (each a different day)

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FEBRUARY				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Tue-Tue	16-23	<u>GRADE 7,8, 9 Alberta International Band Festival</u> (Our Date/Time released around winter break, but will be during a school day)	U of C , Rozsa Centre	All Grade 7, 8, 9 Band Students
Tue-Thurs	16-18	<u>JAZZ Alberta International Band Festival</u> (Our Date/Time released around winter break)	U of C , University Theatre	Jazz Band Students
MARCH				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Thursday	4	Band Camp Overnight Parent Meeting (Grade 7 ONLY) DEADLINE FOR GRADE 7 BAND CAMP FORMS Deposit for Grade 7 Band Camp Due	6:30pm (South Gym)	Parents of Grade 7 Band Students
Tuesday	16	Band Camp Final Fee Due (Or payment plan)	Fee paid online is preferred.	Please talk to Morawski regarding a payment plan or financial assistance.
TBD	TBD	Ernest Manning High School Big Band Gala 10 minute performance + Watch the rest + Food	Time TBD (evening) Ernest Manning	Jazz Band Students/Parents
APRIL				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Thurs-Fri	1-2	Grade 7 BAND CAMP	Camp Kindle	All Gr. 7 Students + Parent and Teacher Volunteers
Fri	9	Gr. 6 Feeder School Tours of VM + Open House	During the school day + afternoon	Performing Group TBD

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Morawski's Email: tkmorawski@cbe.ab.ca

TBD	TBD	Elementary School Feeder Concerts Each band with play at 1 or 2 of the following schools: Wildwood, Olympic Heights, Dr. Roberta Bondar, or Alexandre Ferguson	TBD (during school hours) Sometime in April/May/June depending on schedules	Each band responsible for at least 1 performance
MAY				
TBD	TBD	VMMPA Monthly Meeting	6:30pm (Band Room + Virtual)	Any and All Music Parents Welcome
Mon-Wed (Tentative)	17-19 (Tentative)	Grade 8/9 Band Tour (Red Deer + Edmonton, Alberta)	*Information to Come*	Interested Grade 8/9 Students + Parent and Teacher Volunteers
Thursday (Tentative depending on Tour)	20 (Tentative depending on Tour)	Vincent Massey FINAL CONCERT MANDATORY Attendance by Gr 7-9 Band Students	6:30pm (South Gym) Arrival Times TBD	ALL Grade 7-9 Band Students / Parents
JUNE				
TBD	TBD	End of Year VMMPA Meeting + Potluck	6:30pm (Band Room)	All Music Parents Welcome Planning meeting for 2027 - 2028
Friday	4	Grade 7/8 Instrument Returns + Optional Summer Rental Forms Due	Band Room	All Band Students
TBD	TBD	Grade 9 Farewell Performance Perform 1 piece at each ceremony (Morning/Afternoon) + Grade 9 Instrument Returns	During school day Either June 23 or 24	Grade 9 Band Students



Musical Instrument Registration and Rental Agreement

2026-2027

Please read both sides carefully before completing.

Reminders |

- Certain musical instruments have been made available by The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) for use by students enrolled in instrumental music classes.
- Completing this form is your request that a musical instrument be registered to the student named.
- Return completed form to your school and make payments online. Fee may take 4-6 weeks to appear online after the submission of your form.

Student Information |

Student's Last Name:	Student's First Name:	CBE ID Number:	Grade:	School:
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I understand and agree to the Terms and Conditions and acknowledge receiving the following musical instrument in good condition.

Musical Instrument:	Make:	Serial Number:	Barcode Number:
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Student	
Signature	Date

Parent Information |

Parent / Guardian (student's primary residence)		
Last Name:	First Name:	Home Phone:
Address:	City:	Work Phone:
E-mail:	Postal Code:	Cell #:

Fee Schedule |

A rental fee is charged for use of Calgary Board of Education musical instruments as follows:

CBE Music Instrument Rental Program	Fee	Fee Type
Flat Rental Fee	100.00	School Year

Authorization for Release of Information / Acceptance of Terms and Conditions |

The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Alberta's *Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Education Act* and its regulations, and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Section 23. This information will be used to support the student in the requested program and will be treated in accordance with the privacy provisions of *POPA*. If you have any questions about this collection, contact the school principal.

In signing this form:

- I understand that financial and other information provided is confidential;
- I certify that the information given in this application and in any documents attached is updated, correct and complete;
- I accept the terms and conditions of this agreement;
- I agree to pay the fees for Musical Instrument Rental by means of one of the payment options on the reverse side of this form.

Parent / Guardian / Independent Student		
Full Name (Print Name)	Signature	Date



Terms and Conditions |

The following terms and conditions form part of this Musical Instrument Registration and Rental Agreement.

- 1| The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Alberta's *Protection of Privacy Act (POPA)*, the *Education Act* and its regulations, and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*, Section 23.
- 2| **A registration form must be completed before a musical instrument can be issued to a student. Fees must be paid once they are added to the fees section on MyCBE.** A new Musical Instrument Registration and Rental Agreement must be completed for the use of the musical instrument at the commencement of each music program. Students are not assured of the availability of the same musical instrument they have been loaned previously.
- 3| The parent/legal guardian, together with the student, assumes responsibility for the musical instrument through the registration period and to reimburse The Calgary Board of Education for any loss of or damage to the musical instrument.
- 4| The parent/legal guardian is advised to carry personal insurance against loss or damage to the musical instrument. The value of these musical instruments may exceed \$500.00.
- 5| The musical instruments and cases will be returned to the school when the music program concludes or on the request of the teacher, whichever occurs first. The student is expected to return the musical instrument to the music teacher for inspection, cleaned and in good working condition.
- 6| The parent/legal guardian, together with the student assumes responsibility for the supplying of reeds, oil, straps, grease, strings and cleaning materials necessary in the use of the musical instrument.
- 7| The parent/legal guardian, together with the student, shall inform the school principal immediately in the event of loss or damage to the musical instrument.
- 8| Negligence by the student in the care of her/his musical instrument or lack of attendance at practices will result in the cancellation of the privilege accorded by this agreement.
- 9| A refund of fees is not permitted.
- 10| Students studying percussion must be prepared to share these musical instruments with students from other classes.
- 11| Summer rental procedures:
 - a| A new Musical Instrument Registration and Rental Agreement must be completed and the appropriate fee submitted for use of the musical instrument during the summer.
 - b| Conditions also apply to summer registration (please note Item 2.)
 - c| The musical instrument is to be returned, cleaned and in good working condition, the first day of school after summer vacation to the school from which it was issued.

Payment Options |

- **online** | by VISA, MasterCard, VISA Debit or Interac Online. Payment can be made on MyCBE at www.cbe.ab.ca/mycbe (<https://sis.cbe.ab.ca/public/home.html>) once the student has been registered. Please allow 4-6 weeks for registration before checking the online fee payment system.

Return completed form to your school

SCHOOL USE ONLY		
Teacher (Print Name)	Signature	Date
School Code #	Registration #	Return Date

Agreement – Handbook & AGM Attendance

I acknowledge that I have read the “Band Program Information for Parents & Students” and the “Vincent Massey Band Parent and Student Handbook” enclosed within. I agree to abide by expectations within and acknowledge that some things, including dates, are subject to change.

I acknowledge that the Annual General Meeting at 6:30pm **Sept. 17th, 2026** is **MANDATORY** and I or another guardian must attend the meeting or find another way to get the information (Schedule a meeting with Mr. Morawski or video/phone call).

_____ (Student Name & Grade)	_____ (Student Signature)	_____ (Date)
_____ (Parent/Guardian Name)	_____ (Parent/Guardian Signature)	_____ (Date)

Consent for Communication with the VMMPA

I agree to the VM Music Parents Association (VMMPA) sending me communication via email regarding fundraising information, band program events, volunteering, and some band financial information. The VMMPA will only use the email address that you provide, and all emails will come from vincentmasseympa@gmail.com.

Please talk to Mr. Morawski if you would NOT like to give your consent.

****NEW**** We are going DIGITAL! Please scan the following QR code, which will take you to the following URL where you can submit your student’s name, their grade, and YOUR email for communication. If you have any issues, please email vincentmasseympa@gmail.com, and we will also have QR codes and physical forms at the AGM Sept. 17.

<https://forms.gle/GpyBpaora6wD71uC7>

