

September 2014

Dear Canterbury Music Parents, Guardians and Students:



Welcome to a new year at Canterbury High School. As always it promises to be a very busy and exciting one. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our department over this past year. Please take time to review the list of last year's highlights and accomplishments on our website and make note of the following important dates and events.

1. Music Nights & Special Events

Music students are required to attend all Music Night dress rehearsals and concerts. Please mark the following dates on your calendar and make any necessary transportation arrangements for these times. It would be appreciated if medical or other appointments not be scheduled on these dates. Work or sports commitments must be scheduled around these events.

- **Music Night:** Thurs. Nov. 27th / Fri. Nov. 28th 7:00 p.m.
Rehearsals: Mon, Nov. 24th & Wed, Nov. 26th - 3:30 - until finished (TBA)
- **Music Night:** Thursday May 7th / Friday May 8th 7:00 p.m.
Rehearsals: Mon, May 4th & Wed, May 6th - 3:30 - until finished. (TBA)
- **Grade 11 Recital:** Thursday April 2nd -9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.
NAC 4th Stage! (Parents of gr 11 students please plan to attend)
Gr. 12 students may choose to attend if their academic schedule permits.
- **Grade 12 Graduation Recital & Luncheon:** Sunday May 31st 8:30-3:30
NAC Studio and Rooftop Terrace Tent (Parents of gr 12 students please plan to attend)

2. Other Important dates:

- Sept. 15th Annual General Music Parents Meeting
- Sept. 18th Music Department Social (lunch time)
- Oct. 8th Music Coffeehouse
- Nov. 19th Morning and afternoon concerts for area elementary schools
- Feb. 25th-Mar. 1st Capital Regional Music Festival - Concert Bands Woodroffe HS
- Mar. 6-7th Capital Regional Music Festival - Jazz Ensembles Longfields SS
- Mar. 6-13th Germany Trip
- Apr. 6th-May 2nd Kiwanis Music Festival
- Apr 22 Chamber Ensembles Showcase Night

3. Keep up to date with REMIND

New this year! REMIND will be the CHS Music Dept main form of communication this year. It is very easy to sign on to the system. All you need to do is take out your phone and set yourself up as if you were about to send a text message.

Enter this number: 613-702-8802

Text this message: @chsmusdept

You will be sent a reply to enter your name so that all future messages will be sent to you.

(Note: Your phone number is not shared with any teacher or other parents)

4. Evaluation Policy

- Please refer to the Canterbury HS Assessment and Evaluation policies in the student planner and the AC Music Curriculum outline documents.
- This year students will be evaluated in their courses using levels. Students, parents, and guardians will be provided with continuous feedback on each of their major assignments using Google Drive.
- Students are expected to maintain a 65% average in their Music courses in order to receive the Arts Canterbury Fine Arts Certificate upon graduation.
- Students who achieve an 85% or higher in both music courses in grade 11 and 90% or higher in grade 12 are entitled to receive their Arts Certificate with distinction.

5. Practising and Studying Privately

Practising an instrument without a strategy for success or accurate diagnosis of what skills and concepts need to be mastered may bring about a lot of frustration and minimal improvement. By creating a consistent and structured practice routine, you can maximize your results so every practice session shows improvement.

Why study privately?

Students who take private lessons consistently experience success at the greatest level within the Canterbury Music program. Learning to play an instrument or sing is a challenging task to undertake, and to become proficient requires dedication and diligent attention to detail. While the instruction a student receives from their music director will carry them far, the opportunity to sit for 30-60 minutes each week with a master teacher on a specific instrument provides insight and evaluation that cannot be obtained through any other means. The abilities students gain through private study allow students to get beyond the technical challenges and get to the ultimate goal of joyously making music.

Will I have to practice more if I study privately?

If you already have a consistent practice routine in place, you won't have to add any extra practice time to your schedule. Students who study privately benefit from having a routine that is individualized and adjusted each week to their specific needs. As your abilities increase, you'll require less time to master technical aspects and can begin to focus on solos and materials prescribed by your private teacher. Your practice time will become more efficient.

How do I find a good teacher?

As with any investment of time and financial resources, it's important to do a bit of research so you can make that investment wisely and with confidence. Through the experiences of past Canterbury students, consultation with other music directors, and resume reviews, we have compiled a list of recommended private teachers for each instrument. Please contact your music teacher for a recommendation. Students may also want to set up a trial lesson with a new teacher before committing to lessons to make sure that the 'fit' is right and that you and the teacher can set common goals.

6. Supplies

Grade 9-11 students will be provided with a theory workbook at each level of study which will be theirs to keep. In grades 9 and 10 they will also be provided with Piano books which must be returned at the end of the term. For health reasons students are expected to supply their own headphones for use in the keyboard lab. Regular MP3 player headphones are fine for this purpose. Students will require small binders with dividers for their music courses and will need to keep a small supply of staff paper in their binder. This can be printed from various internet sites.

A SmartMusic (practice/recording software) and Noteflight (online notation software) account will be provided to each student to complete assignments. SmartMusic requires a microphone for the student to record their performances. You can purchase one from the school for \$35 or from the [MakeMusic website](#).

7. Uniforms - Vocal and Winds uniforms will be fitted/assigned Thurs., Sept. 4th at lunch.

Students in Intermediate Band

- You are asked to purchase a uniform blouse/shirt during the first part of the semester. Contact Ms. Vigneron for more details.

Male students in Male Chorus and Canterbury Singers (Intermediate choir):

- You are asked to provide your own long sleeved black shirt and black dress pants. Ties will be provided.

Tuxedos for Males in Senior Concert Band and/or in Chamber Choir:

- A deposit cheque for \$200 dated June 1, 2015 (this will only be cashed if the tux is not returned)
- \$15 dry cleaning payment also dated June 1, 2015
- For students who need a tux shirt they need a \$30 cheque dated Sept. 4, 2014

Dresses for Ladies in Senior Concert Band and/or Vocum/Chamber Choir:

- Deposit cheque for \$120 dated June 1, 2015 (only cashed if dress is not returned)

Note: All cheques should be made payable to CHS Music Parents Support Group or CHS MPSG

8. Music Parents

Canterbury Music Department is pleased to have an active Parents Support Group. (www.chsmusic.ca/parents). This group plays a vital role in assisting students and teachers with many of the logistical aspects of running a very busy and successful music program. Please go to the website to complete a short parent communications/volunteer survey form at your earliest convenience. A link to the form will be sent out via Remind. Any assistance you can offer will be sincerely appreciated. A general meeting for parents of music students will be held on **Monday September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.** Please come to find out how you can assist our music students and staff by getting involved in Music Parents activities. Music teachers will also present information on the importance of private lessons.

9. Concerts in the Community

Students are encouraged to attend concerts to enhance their artistic development. **Students must attend at least one live professional performance of 'art' music each semester.** The Genre must be chosen according to curriculum studied in each grade. One Concert review is due in each of the two semesters. First semester concert reviews for all Music students are due by Dec. 5th, 2015 and second semester reviews are due May 25th, 2015. Preliminary Concert Reviews are due Oct. 6th and Feb. 23rd. Guidelines will be supplied by theory teachers.

Special prices are from the following major performing organizations:

- National Arts Centre - Live Rush cards entitle students and an accompanying adult or friend to excellent last minute discounts on many NAC performances.
- Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. - Special prices are available for CHS students. Ask your teacher.
- Frequently there are free concerts presented in Ottawa. There are also often last minute complimentary tickets to various concerts made available to Canterbury students. Students are encouraged to listen for announcements to take advantage of these opportunities.

10. Music Clothing

There will be an opportunity for students to order music clothing (sweat pants, hoodies etc.) later in the fall after the new music students council sorts out the logo they would like for this year.

11. Fundraising

Canterbury Music Council, in partnership with Canterbury Music Parent Support Group works hard throughout the year to fundraise to support the needs of the program. With each fundraiser, a portion of all proceeds is reserved in a separate fund for the student to use towards trips, music clothing or events (recitals/socials) that are sanctioned by the Music department. Currently, 75% of monies raised goes toward the student accounts and 25% goes to the Music Parent Support Group to support the Music Department in various ways. This school year funds are being raised to help with the costs associated with the trip to Germany, and implementing new technology into the classroom. Students must "spend" the funds in their personal account before the end of their grade 12 year. Any funds remaining are re-directed back into the general music fund for the good of the entire program. For information on the student accounts visit this link on our website <http://www.chsmusic.ca/parents/accounts.php>

There are two main fundraising programs that are done each year and are listed below. For more information on these and other fundraisers, please visit this link on our website:

<http://www.chsmusic.ca/parents/fundraising.php>

Fundscrip

This is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year with the first order to be placed on September 8th. FundScrip is an online gift card program. You purchase cards online for the products that you are already using for the retailers where you are already shopping. FundScrip pays you a percentage of the value of the card which will be deposited into your student's account at Canterbury. Orders are placed every other week on Monday and the cards are delivered to the school for pickup in the office on Friday.

Citrus

This fundraiser runs from October to November (specific date TBA). Every year the Canterbury Music Parent Support Group runs a citrus fruit fundraiser. We offer a 20 pound or 40 pound box of either Florida oranges or pink grapefruit. This year campaign will run for three weeks and final orders must be submitted by the end of Friday's Music Night in November.

Thank you for the support you provide to all of us at Canterbury. Please do not hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions.

Yours truly,

The Canterbury Music Department
Jason Sinkus, James Caswell, Damian McLaughlin, John Pohran, Grace Vigneron

c.c. Alan Johnson : Principal

Caroline McAteer : Arts Coordinator

Please return the Arts standards form to your performance teacher by Friday Sept. 6th