



# Wilson Middle School

2003 – 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. North  
Lethbridge, AB T1H-1J3  
329-3144 (P) 329-3611 (Fax)



Dear Prospective Band Parents/Guardians:

Taking band in middle school helps students immensely in more areas than just music. Studies have shown that students in band programs:

- Achieve greater success in their core classes, particularly in math and science; creating music is a whole brain activity.
- Music helps students foster a sense of commitment
- Working in a group situation holds students accountable to each other and creates a feeling of camaraderie that is not always felt outside of team sports.
- Performing in school ensembles also gives students chances to travel to places they may not have thought of going before, particularly at the high school level. To experience these amazing things, students must begin in Grade 6 Band.

In most cases, instruments for grade 6 band can be rented from Wilson Middle School. However, I would encourage families with students playing smaller instruments to consider securing their own instrument from a quality music retailer (Long and McQuade, The Music Court, St. John's Music, etc.) for grade 6. By grade 7, students playing the flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and alto saxophone will be required to secure their own instrument. Large instruments such as the bass clarinet, bassoon, euphonium (baritone), french horn, tuba, and percussion are available to rent from the school, and will continue to be available through the school until the end of grade 8; most high school programs rent the large instruments as well. If finances are a concern, please call me at the school to discuss different options.

***Please note that students with at least two years of piano/drum lessons may also be encouraged to play percussion. Generally, 5 - 6 students are chosen for this section each year.***

Due to our current situation and isolation, we will not be able to have the kids test out instruments this spring. Please watch both band videos included in this email with your child. This will help them understand more of what band is and help inform them different choices of instruments.

At the bottom of this form they can select three of the instruments they **think** they would like to play. We will then, in the fall, spend the first week of school showing kids the different instruments and allowing them to make a final decision.

For more information, please contact me at Wilson Middle School at (403) 329-3144 or email me at [janel.heth@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:janel.heth@lethsd.ab.ca)

Sincerely,

Janel Heth  
Music Director  
Wilson Middle School

Please fill out the following information, then take a picture and email back this page to [janel.heth@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:janel.heth@lethsd.ab.ca) ...

**Please check one:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child will be taking band at Wilson Middle School next year.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, my child will not be taking band at Wilson Middle School next year.

**Grade 5 Student's FULL Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Elementary School:** \_\_\_\_\_

***If your child is taking band next year, please fill out the remainder of this sheet.***

- We already have an instrument at home: \_\_\_\_\_ (type)
- My child has taken **piano lessons** (*please circle one*): **yes** **no**
- My child has taken drum/percussion lessons (*please circle one*): **yes** **no**
- How many years has your child taken these lessons? \_\_\_\_\_
- Will your child be taking a **bus** to school? \_\_\_\_\_

My child's top three "**instruments of interest**" after watching the *WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE IN THE BAND* video are the following...

For Band 6:  
Alto Sax = small  
Tenor Sax = medium  
Baritone Sax = large  
Soprano is **not** an option

**PLEASE CIRCLE THREE:**



I have read the letter and acknowledge my child's instrument choices above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number