

# Central Memorial High School Music Program Handbook

***“You are the music while the music lasts”  
-T.S. Eliot***

Since 1973, the music program at Central Memorial High School has been developing the talent, enthusiasm and discipline of student musicians. Many things have changed since 1973, but what has endured is the passion and dedication of our teachers; excellent coaching to develop a student’s discipline and skills; and exposure to expert clinicians and musicians. Central Memorial Music Parents Association, **CMMPA**, works tirelessly to raise funds to enable our students to tour the world and learn from the best.

## The Ensembles

- Symphonic Band
- Percussion Ensemble
- Jazz Ensemble
- Jazz Combos
- Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- PVA String Orchestra
- Chamber Choir
- Concert Choir
- Chamber Orchestra
- Beginner Strings
- Drumline

## **Music Courses**

### **Instrumental Music**

Instrumental music provides instruction and opportunity for growth in musical knowledge and skill. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of how music positively impacts us as people and as a society. Student progress will be monitored on an individual basis, with consideration given to experience and learning style. Musical knowledge will include theory, aural skills, technical skills, musical style and history. Musical skills will focus on performance of scales, studies, sight-reading and a variety of ensemble repertoire aimed at improving fluency.

#### **Content**

- Musical knowledge and skill through performance of a wind, percussion or strings instrument.
- Master technical and aural skills while studying a vast selection of instrumental repertoire.

### **Vocal Music**

Vocal music is designed to challenge and broaden students' understanding of specific repertoire and techniques involved in performance of music in various styles. In the ensemble, the students participate as members and as leaders. The experiences in this ensemble promote the students' abilities in the areas of self-expression, creativity, leadership and communication, and ultimately develop individuals who are confident in their musical and vocal abilities.

#### **Content**

- Develop a positive attitude and appreciation toward the art of singing
- Understand and apply the nuances of breath management
- Understand and apply proper vocal production
- Develop ensemble skills including tone quality, blend and balance
- Through performance, recognize and interpret, rhythm, melody, harmony, form and expression as they appear in various styles

### **PVA Musicianship 10/20/30**

PVA Musicianship develops the student musician as a performer, listener, critic, creator, historian and composer of music. The maturing music student will learn to appreciate, understand and analyze with discrimination the musical products of the ear, mind, voice, hand and body. A systematic development of musical knowledge and skills will contribute to the total development of the student.

#### **Overview**

Musicianship courses at Central Memorial are designed for vocal and instrumental students who are interested in expanding their musical knowledge and skills. The program will consist of units that will focus on the following topics:

- Theory:
  - Pitch – notation, melody, harmony, timbre, intervals, scales, etc.
  - Rhythm - duration, pulse, notation, tempo, subdivision, syncopation, etc.

- Style – terminology, articulation, expression, performance practice, form, dynamics.
- Ear Training – Meter and rhythm, interval recognition (melodic and harmonic), melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, harmony, active listening, etc.
- Performance skills – sight-reading, scales, solo and ensemble repertoire.
- History of Western Music – Study and identify music from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and twentieth century time periods.
- Keyboard – develop proficiency on the musical keyboard.

Students will have the opportunity to select elective units that include advanced solo technique, composition, electronic and computer music, chamber music and improvisation.

### **Advanced Placement Music Theory**

Students in Grade 12 have the option of taking an advanced place music theory course. This course offers the opportunity for students to learn first year university level music theory. The AP exam taken at the end of this course can be used towards university course credit.

### **Basic Expectations:**

#### **Attendance:**

- All students in the CMHS music program are expected to adhere to CMHS' attendance policy. In addition to this regular attendance is essential to the instrumental experience. As members of an ensemble, each student's participation is of equal and utmost importance. Students will be expected to attend all rehearsals and activities, including workshops, concerts, festivals and performances. Students unable to attend a rehearsal or performance must notify the teacher well in advance of the rehearsal. Missing a performance is the equivalent of missing an exam in another course.

#### **Behaviour:**

- Attend all rehearsals, performances and special events.
- Spend time practicing and preparing outside of class time.
- Develop and maintain a positive attitude towards musical learning and a willingness to contribute to the music program.
- Maintain and take proper care of assigned instruments.
- Respect teachers/instructors, classmates and self.

## **Music Department Uniforms & Fees**

Please note some checks are payable to Central Memorial High School (CMHS) and others to Central Memorial Music Parents Association (CMMPA)

### **Instrumental Music:**

- Instrument Rental (payable to CMHS) **\$100.00**
- Summer Rental **\$30.00**
- Percussion – Mallet and Stick set-up + Instrument Rental **\$100.00**  
(First time percussion students only – payable to CMMPA)

### **Instrumental and Vocal Music:**

**Music Program Fee** **\$150.00**

Payable to CMMPA by Sept 30, 2016.

This fee subsidizes costs of the following:

- Transportation and entry fees for local festivals
- Music
- Guest clinicians
- Uniform use black blazer and garment bag
- Transportation for local concerts/rehearsals

**Blazer/Garment Bag Deposit** **\$250.00**

Payable to CMMPA by October 15<sup>th</sup> (post-dated June 15, 2017)

Check is RETURNED upon receipt of garment bag and blazer (dry cleaned) in good condition.

### **Central Memorial Music Program Uniforms**

All music students wear a uniform when performing. Choir students have the option of wearing a kilt. The CMHS Blazer is available for use through our deposit program (see above).

#### **Music Uniform:**

- White oxford shirt, gray slacks, black socks, black dress shoes and a black tie with Blazer (see above).

#### **Choir Uniform (kilt option):**

- White oxford shirt, gray kilt, black pantyhose, and black flats with Blazer (see above).

**Halpern's** is the supplier of all of our uniform components. [www.halperns.ca](http://www.halperns.ca). They have a location in Calgary for in-store shopping.

A limited number of pre-owned kilts, pants and shirts are available through the CMMPA. Please email Marilyn to inquire about sizes and cost [cmpa@telus.net](mailto:cmpa@telus.net)

**Items to be purchased from Halpern's (see below):**

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Gray Slacks              | ( \$52.49 plus tax) |
| ▪ Gray Kilt (Choir Option) | (\$79.99 plus tax)  |
| ▪ White shirt              | (\$36.99 plus tax)  |
| ▪ Black tie                | (\$23.49 plus tax)  |

**Reeds and Accessories**

The CMMPA stocks reeds, valve oil and other accessories that can be purchased at below retail price. Checks are payable to CMMPA or cash is accepted.

**Tour Fees**

All travel undertaken by the music program involves a separate tour fee assessment. Detailed information pertaining to a specific trip will be outlined in the year of the tour. The CMMPA subsidizes the cost for each student.

## Communication

Announcements regarding rehearsal schedules, performances and upcoming events will be posted on our website. It is currently being redeveloped, and we will send you information when the work is complete.

Email is our primary mode of communication, so **please ensure we have the current email for all parents and students.**

## Student Drop off and Pickup

Students must arrive 15 minutes before the rehearsal or departure time for off campus activities. CMMPA pays for bussing for most of our performances, but occasionally students will need to be driven, and adequate notice will be given when that is the case.

## Uniform Details

- Each blazer and garment bag is numbered and recorded with the student's name. Students should know the numbers of their uniform items.
- Students are required to wear a clean, complete uniform to each performance.
- Central Memorial has These uniforms include:
  - **Music Uniform** – Black blazer (supplied by the Parent Association), white oxford shirt, gray slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, black belt and black tie (optional). The collars on the shirt are “button-down” and must be buttoned down at all times. Students not opting to wear a tie may have the top button of the shirt undone. Shirts are to be tucked in and sleeves **must not** be rolled up. Blazer buttons must be fastened at all times.
  - **Choir Kilt Option** –Black blazer (supplied by the Parent Association), white oxford shirt, gray kilt, black pantyhose and black flats. The collars on the shirt are “button-down” and must be buttoned down at all times. The top button of the shirt only is undone. Shirts are to be tucked in and sleeves **must not** be rolled up. Blazer buttons must be fastened at all times.
- Students are responsible for having their own pants hemmed. The hem should be no more than 1.25 cm from the ground behind the heel in bare feet and just above the top of the feet in the front. The kilt is to be worn at waist level, not hip level, and the hem should fall to the top of the kneecap.
- To preserve decorum, please either wear the complete uniform in public, or remain in street clothes.

## **Rehearsals**

Developing a habit of consistency is integral to every musician's success in our program. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. Failure to do so affects the entire ensemble, as well as individual student success in the program.

- Students are expected to arrive to rehearsals (and performances) on time, with proper equipment, music, etc. Students are asked to quickly find their seat and begin warming up. Punctuality is important as late arrivals disrupt the process and impact all students.
- Students should always have a pencil and eraser to take notes. Remembering everything that is discussed is difficult and important notes will not be repeated next rehearsal.
- During stoppages, students are expected to refrain from talking and playing instruments as this is distracting to instruction. Distracting behaviour may result in being asked to leave a rehearsal. In these cases the student will need to meet with the director prior to returning to class.
- Students are expected to demonstrate effort and a desire to improve and learn their parts to the best of their ability. This will require individual practice outside of class time.
- Students are encouraged to respectfully voice their questions and opinions regarding the musical process by raising their hand. Students are expected to always show respect for the questions and opinions of others.
- Designated section leaders have the authority to consult with the conductor regarding part assignments or issues within their sections. Section leaders are there to provide support, guidance and encouragement to their section. A section leader has the right to arrange for sectional practices outside of rehearsal time in consultation with his/her section. Students are expected to attend sectionals. Poor attendance could impact overall assessment.
- Instruments must be stored in the proper storage spaces provided during non-rehearsal times.

## **Performance, Festival & Tour Dates (Tentative)**

Additional dates will be added to our website and email notices will be sent as they become available.

### **2016-2017**

October 21 – 23	Choir Camp
November 5	MAC Extravaganza Music/Silent Auction
November 10	Remembrance Day Ceremonies
November 21	Fall Band/Strings Concert (Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary)
December 13	Choir Christmas Concert (Scarboro United Church)
February	Alberta International Band Festival
April 27-30	Whistler Tour (all ensembles)
May 10	Spring Concert (Knox United Church)
May 12	PVA Gala
May 18	Graduation Ceremony (Winsport)
May 29	PVA Instrumental Recital
May 30	PVA Vocal Recital
May 31	Jazz Performance

## **CMPMPA Partnership**

The Central Memorial Music Program and the Central Memorial Music Parents Association (**CMPMPA**) have a long and successful partnership. **CMPMPA** is the fundraising arm of the program and supports the administration of the program, enabling the music students to have an enriched and comprehensive music education. Without the CMPMPA, the music program could not exist in its current form. As a parent with a student in the Music Program, you are automatically a member of the CMPMPA.

### **What the CMPMPA does:**

- Provides the primary source of funds for the music program.
- Executive and Board of Directors, one year term.
- Supplements the purchase of instruments and equipment.
- Purchases music for commissions.
- Pays for Clinicians and Guest Conductors.
- Subsidizes tour trips.
- Subsidizes professional music development for teachers.
- Pays for festivals and workshops.
- Pays for an assistant to support the teaching staff, students, Board and parents.
- Provides the Blazer and Garment bags for performances.
- Manages Tour and performance logistics.
- Manages various budgets and financial reporting.
- Collects some fees and deposits.

**CMPMPA** has an office in the music room, and a part-time assistant, Marilyn Oshry, who can be reached at [cmpmpa@telus.net](mailto:cmpmpa@telus.net) or 403-287-1404. The CMPMPA utilizes the personal information collected by the school to create a contact list, to communicate vital information to you. This information is strictly confidential and is not distributed to any other party. Please let Marilyn know of any privacy concerns and to make alternate arrangements.

The Board of Directors of the CMPMPA is elected at the Annual General Meeting each September. This year's AGM is scheduled for **Monday, September 26th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the school**. Plans for the year, including touring plans, will be discussed at this meeting. The executive members of the Board of Directors are selected by the board at the first meeting after the AGM.

### **Fundraising**

The music program at Central Memorial High School has a rich tradition of excellence and opportunity. When you add up the costs of clinicians, support instruction, travel expenses, festival and concert fees, uniforms, administrative staff, repairs, printed music costs, instruments, equipment, music camps and numerous other program expenses, you quickly appreciate the importance of CMPMPA fundraising.

Music families pay a portion of operational expenses through our annual fee of \$150.00; however this amount covers a small portion of the cost to operate the music program. The majority of our costs are covered by fundraising. We have always been fortunate to have dedicated, passionate families who contribute as best they can, enabling our program standards to remain high.

### **Bingos**

Our major source of funds is our Bingo License at the Grey Eagle Casino. Grey Eagle is the highest earning bingo program in Calgary. It is a smoking facility.

Every music family is expected to help with the bingos throughout the year - many hands make light work! We are asking for each family to sign up for 8-10 bingos (you can work doubles and check them off extra quick!)

Sign up early for your bingos. You can even work some over the summer.

### **Student Accounts**

A portion of some of our fundraisers is put into a special tour account for students. This account is to help offset the cost of music tours. If your account has an unused balance at the end of your child's high school career, the money can be carried forward to siblings coming into the program, or donated to help other students in need of more financial assistance for our tours in the future.

\$40 of every casino worked will go towards your child's tour account. This perk starts applying after you have worked 4 casinos (you will be back-credited for the first 4 bingos at this point).

### **Fundraising events**

- Year round Bingos at the Grey Eagle Casino and Bingo
- McMahan/Saddledome
- Concert Revenue/Raffles - admission is charged for some concerts where we pay a facility fee
- Shopping cards – Monthly
- Various smaller fundraisers determined by the Fundraising Chair
- Oct 15 & May 27 - Bottle drives
- November 5 - MAC Extravaganza: Silent Auction, music by students & food

**Important CMMPA Dates:**

Sept 26	CMMPA AGM Meeting
Sept 30	Shopping cards orders due
Oct 17	CMMPA Board Meeting
Oct 31	Shopping cards orders due
Nov 5	MAC Extravaganza
Nov 14	CMMPA Board Meeting
Nov 21	Fall Concert
Nov 30	Shopping cards order due
Dec 12	CMMPA Board Meeting
Dec 13	Choir Concert
Dec 14	Shopping cards orders due
Jan 16	CMMPA Board Meeting
Jan 30	Shopping cards orders due
Feb 13	CMMPA Board Meeting
Feb 28	Shopping cards order due
Mar 20	CMMPA Board Meeting
Mar 31	Shopping cards order due
Apr 10	CMMPA Board Meeting
Apr 27-30	Whistler Music Festival Tour
May 1	Last shopping cards order
May 10	Spring Concert
May 15	CMMPA Board Meeting
May 18	Graduation
May 29	PVA Instrumentals Recitals
May 30	PVA Vocal Recitals
May 31	Jazz Performance
Jun 19	CMMPA Board Meeting