



# EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

## Band Program

February 2021

Dear Grade 9 Parents and Future ESDH Students:

My name is Allison Penwell and I am the band teacher at Gaetz Brook Junior High School and Eastern Shore District High School. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a few things about the band program at ESDH.

**Students who are currently enrolled in a Band 9 program may opt to continue with this program into Grade 10. All students in high school are required to have a Fine Arts credit to graduate and Music 10 (Band) completes this requirement. Students may opt to take band for all three years at ESDH, with Music 11 and Music 12 counting as an ACADEMIC credit on their transcript.**

Music at ESDH is a really exciting program to be in. Of course, this is a different year than most, but on any given year: we have 4+ concerts, often collaborate with other programs/schools, we attend festivals in and out of the province/country, we play at various events in the community, and have a few extra curricular activities to participate in as well. Even throughout this challenging year, we have put on 3 virtual concerts (another one planned for next week) registered for virtual festivals, have started our extra-curricular jazz band and have scheduled workshops with the composers of pieces we are planning.

### WHAT DOES BAND LOOK LIKE AT ESDH?

A student who enrolls in the band program will find Band 10 in their regular schedule. It is an Academic and Fine Arts credit, and is scheduled like any other course. All students are allotted time for Fine Arts, so this does not take away from any class time.

### WHY SHOULD MY CHILD JOIN BAND? HOW DOES IT AFFECT OTHER SUBJECTS?

Music, and band specifically, would not be part of our provincial curriculum if students did not show benefits from participating. After prolonged experience in band, students show many improvements in their solving of mathematical problems. Reading scores improve, and they feel accepted in a large group with a common goal. Students who read music understand what note to play (foreign language), how long of a duration in time to give the note (mathematics), which finger to put down (physical dexterity), etc. Band also encourages self-discipline through practicing the instrument to improve, and is a community environment that fosters acceptance and teamwork.

As you can tell, it is very difficult to summarize a program in a letter, so I hope I have done it justice. The real testament comes from students, so I encourage you to be in touch with any students you know who are currently in the program/past graduates.

I hope to see you all in September 2021. Please, let me know if you have ANY questions at all about the musical life of Eastern Shore District High.

Thank you very much for your time and attention,

Allison Penwell  
Music Director

[apenwell@gnspe.ca](mailto:apenwell@gnspe.ca) \*quickest method  
@mspennwell Instagram: @music\_on\_the\_shore (student run)