

***NORTH NOVA EDUCATION CENTRE***

***MUSIC HANDBOOK***

***2023-2024***

# INFORMATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

## ENSEMBLES

**CONCERT BAND:** Students interested in this group should play a traditional band instrument (brass, woodwind, percussion, strings). They must have experience reading music and should have a basic knowledge of several major scales to join band. A short audition is usually required of new members to help determine the proper placement in your section. We play traditional marches, show tunes, overtures, classical transcriptions, holiday favorites, solo features, folk arrangements and other styles.

**CONCERT CHOIR:** This group is open to all students at NNEC. Previous choir experience is beneficial but not mandatory. If reading music is new to you, these skills will develop quickly with the help of those around you! This group generally performs 4-part choral music in a variety of styles

**JAZZ BAND:** This group is more specific in instrumentation. We try to set it up with 4-6 trumpets, 4-6 trombones, 5-7 saxophones, 2 bass players, 2 guitar players, 2 pianists and 2-3 drummer/percussionists.

4-6 Singers are usually auditioned for dance charts. Saxophone players are encouraged to double on other woodwinds. There may be some auditioning for this group depending on the number of students interested in a particular year. This band plays a wide variety of music from early swing, Latin, rock, funk, ballads, show tunes etc.

**\*Students must play in Concert Band to be a member of the Jazz Band.\***

**CHANGED VOICES CHOIR:** This choir sings music composed for tenor and bass changed voices. Students interested in joining the changed voices choir are encouraged to speak with Ms Aucoin about range suitability for this small ensemble choir.

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<b>Concert Band</b>	Tuesday 3:20-5:00 pm & Friday 7:45-9:00 am
<b>Jazz Band</b>	Monday 3:20 pm- 5:00 pm & 7:45 am-9:00 am.
<b>Choir</b>	Lunch Rehearsals TBD, Wednesday 3:15pm-4:30pm
<b>Changed Voices Choir</b>	TBD

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Performing in a musical ensemble is a group effort. The success of each group is largely dependent on a commitment by every member to learn the music to best of his/her ability, and to regularly attend rehearsals and all performances. We ask parents to assist whenever possible by trying to avoid booking appointments or vacations on those days. Please understand that students are expected at every rehearsal unless it is impossible to make alternate arrangements. If a student has a valid reason for missing a rehearsal or performance, the student/parent is expected to provide a note/email in advance.

Band members are encouraged to pursue a variety of interests. It is also important that students learn time management and scheduling in this situation. Compromises can be made when it comes to other school-based activities and/or sports. This can be easily done if students plan ahead and communicate with the director.

Band/choir members who skip a rehearsal or performance without permission may be removed from that ensemble. You must maintain an attendance average of at least 90% in order to participate in trips and/or concerts. A schedule of performances is provided below. Other dates may be added and confirmed via email.

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE – FALL TERM**

**Remembrance Day Ceremony – Week of November 6-10**

**Holiday Concert – December 10**

## **FEES**

First term fees are due October 1 and second term fees are due by February 1. Fees for our music program for 2023-2024 are as follows:

One student:	First term	\$130
	Second term	\$100
	Total:	\$230
Two students in family:	First term	\$175
	Second term	\$175
	Total:	\$350
Three students in family:	First term	\$225
	Second term	\$225
	Total:	\$450

**Additional fees:**

Instrument Rental fee:	\$50
Percussion fee (for percussion students)	\$50
Woodwind Reed Deposit	\$25

It is important that all students have access to quality music education opportunities. As a result, the NNEC Music Auxiliary is committed to providing bursaries for students and their families for whom registration fees would cause undue hardship. No student will be denied access to the music program due to inability to pay registration fees. Please speak with the Music Directors for a bursary form to complete. You will still be required to complete a regular registration form for information purposes.

\*These fees do not include the cost of the music trip. Information on the trip will be provided as it becomes available. Fundraising opportunities will be provided to offset the cost of any trips.\*

**FUNDRAISING**

To offset the cost of providing the music program the music auxiliary engages in several fundraising events each year.

All Parents/Caregivers are expected to participate in the organization and implementation of fundraising activities.

There are two types of fundraising:

- 1) Group – these fundraisers help to offset various budget items that are not covered by registration fees.
- 2) Individual - There are fundraising opportunities throughout the year for students to fundraise to offset registration and year-end travel expenses. Information will be shared with the students as opportunities become available.

**Fundraisers for 2023-2024**

- A Fundraising Plan will be provided separately.

## **UNIFORMS**

Members are required to wear black shoes (max. 2 inch. heels), black socks (long enough to cover ankles when sitting), black pants, black long-sleeved shirt (with buttons). PLEASE NO OTHER COLORS VISIBLE ON SHOES, SOCKS OR TOPS.

Music program members are responsible for supplying their own uniform.

We also have a casual uniform consisting of a blue NNEC Music T-shirt. There is an additional cost of \$10 for new students to purchase this t-shirt payable with registration by Oct. 1st (or contact music students from previous years to see about borrowing/buying from them). This casual uniform will be used for some of our school performances. Students will be notified of uniform choice before performances. Full length jeans (no holes or rips please) are worn with this t-shirt.

## **ACHIEVING MUSICAL EXCELLENCE**

The music program at NNEC is committed to providing outstanding musical experiences. The most important factor for achieving success in music is private practice. Regular practice is defined as practicing a minimum of 20 minutes a day, for at least 5 days per week, (100 minutes per week total). Students who practice less than the recommended amount are at risk of falling behind the other students and/or developing playing habits that will hinder their progress.

Practice can be done alone or with a few friends, at home or at school. Ensemble members not willing to make this minimal commitment will restrict the progress of the entire group. Like a chain, an ensemble is only as strong as its weakest link.

## **NNEC MUSIC AUXILIARY**

The NNEC Music Auxiliary plays a vital role in the success of our music program. As you are probably aware, we have a very active and successful program. Most of what we do for our music students at NNEC would not be possible without the assistance we receive from this organization. Please consider donating some of your time to be part of the Auxiliary Executive or to serve on one of the committees.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### COMMUNICATION

- Email Address – [nnecmusicaux@gmail.com](mailto:nnecmusicaux@gmail.com) *(use this address if you would like to send questions, comments or concerns to the executive).*
- Phone - Music room – 755-8180 ext. 1111
- Facebook - NNEC Music 2023-2024
- Instagram

The information in this section applies to all components of the NNEC's band/choir program. Please read carefully.

### HISTORY OF NNEC SCHOOL BAND AND CHOIRS

NNEC bands and choirs have been together since 2003 when the school opened. They have presented many performances in Pictou County, throughout Nova Scotia, in Ottawa, Toronto, Montréal, Washington and New York

They perform locally for many events including Halloween dances, Remembrance Day services, Christmas concerts, church services, Valentines functions, African Heritage Month celebrations, sporting events, weddings, benefits, graduation ceremonies, Music Festivals, Canada Day celebrations, adult dances, Broadway style musicals and other community events.

They have achieved top ratings at local, Provincial and National level competitions. Our bands and choirs have been chosen most outstanding groups at the New Glasgow Music Festival on many occasions.

NNEC musicians have also been successful in earning spots in the Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble, the Nova Scotia Honour Jazz Program, Provincial Youth Choir, Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Band of Canada! We have also had students compete in the open solo classes at the National Music Festival on several occasions.

## MUSIC DIRECTORS

### **Band Director Ian Grant**

Ian Grant was born and raised in New Glasgow, graduating from NNEC in 2007. He received his BA in Music (Jazz Studies) from STFX in 2011, and continued on to Memorial University where he completed his Bachelor of Music Education in 2014. After being away from Pictou County for several years of post-secondary education, Ian spent his first few years back teaching music at Dr. W. A. MacLeod Consolidated School in Riverton. Ian has a passion for music, education, community and the arts.

Ian has been performing in and around Pictou County since joining multiple groups through Junior and High school. He is a regular performer in the jazz and rock scene, and in local community musical theatre productions throughout the county including the annual Rotary Club of Pictou musical. Ian can be seen performing with groups such as The Ian Grant Trio, Alexander and the Great Ones, NNEC Alumni Big Band, and as a sideman to many local acts. He can also be seen as the Event Coordinator for New Glasgow's Art at Night, an annual evening of art spread throughout downtown New Glasgow in the springtime.

### **Choir Director Sheila Aucoin**

Fueled by her own musical experiences in the New Glasgow community, she developed a provincial-winning middle school choral program at New Glasgow Academy before taking the reins of the NNEC program in 2020, leading the program through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A graduate of Acadia University and Memorial University with degrees in music and music education, her passion lies in music education and choral conducting. The NNEC choirs were recently recognized as the top high school choirs in the province, and were nominated to the national level. Knowing that our choirs include all interested students, ranging from those with a deep wealth of music experience, to newcomers to the choral genre, this is an incredible accomplishment for our program.

Sheila is proud to hold the seat of Vice Chair with the Nova Scotia Music Education Council: an organization which reflects her commitment to ongoing advocacy for music education in Nova Scotia for our students now, and well into the future.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1) Register in September *\*\*Form is subject to changes.*
- 2) Attend a minimum of 85% of rehearsals and all performances
- 3) Be punctual – ready to work when the rehearsal begins!
- 4) Bring music, instrument, pencil, and a good attitude to all rehearsals and performances.
- 5) Inform your instructor before rehearsal if you cannot attend.
- 6) Show respect to others.
- 7) Practice at home is a necessary component of this program.
- 8) Be attentive and quiet during rehearsals and performances.
- 9) Keep music room neat and safe by storing your “belongings” carefully. Students who choose to leave items in the music room do so at their own risk!
- 10) Be present one hour before performances to warm up, tune, dress, check music, instrument.
- 11) All electronic devices need to be turned off and out of sight during all rehearsals and performances.
- 12) Water only is permitted in the music room/ performance areas.



## CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

The Three “R’s” of Conduct are:

**Respect:** It is expected that school members will exhibit behavior that shows respects for the rights, property and safety of themselves and others.

**Responsibility:** It is expected that school members will accept personal responsibility for their behavior in order to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.

**Rights:** It is expected that school members will honor the rights of others in the process of learning and demonstrate appropriate behavior in the context of social responsibility.

*These principles are supported by the Education Act under several sections including the Preamble and those pertaining to the duties of students, parents, teachers, superintendents, and support staff. Reference will be made to school members throughout this code. School members include students and all adults those roles or jobs place them in contact with students in school settings and school activities.*

## THE PARENT/ CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parent/Caregiver of every student registered in band or choir groups at NNEC **automatically** becomes a member of the NNEC music auxiliary.

Parent/Caregiver responsibilities include:

- Support their program member so he/she can be **prepared to effectively participate** in all aspects of the program.
- Make sure student arrives on time for ALL rehearsals and performances.
- Pay fees in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the student being removed from the program
- Support the activities and events sponsored by the band and choir.
- Play an active role in one of the Music auxiliary by volunteering

**Everyone has responsibilities on a daily basis, but by working together we can ensure our dedicated and talented youth have the opportunity to be “the best they can be”! Your involvement is very much appreciated. Please email [nnecmusicaux@gmail.com](mailto:nnecmusicaux@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns so they can be handled by the executive confidentially.**

## FAQ'S

### WHAT DO MY FEES COVER?

#### The registration fee covers:

The fees are used for a variety of expenses, including but not limited to:

1. Sheet music for eight performance groups
2. Uniform upgrades
3. Festival registration fees
4. Accompanist fees
5. Guest performances
6. Workshops
7. Equipment purchases and maintenance
8. Truck rentals
9. Substitute costs when travelling with groups
10. Band and choir supplies, like folders, etc
11. Local travel for performances, etc
12. Capital instrument purchases (keyboards, piano, tubas, etc.)
13. Hospitality
14. Student social events
15. Bursaries
16. Instrument repairs

### CAN REGISTRATION FEES BE REFUNDED DURING THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR?

If a student decides to leave the program during 1st term, the 1st term fees will only be refunded if notice is given before October 15<sup>th</sup> of that year.

Second term fees will only be refunded if the student leaves the program during the 1st term. After February 1 of that school year there are no Registration Fee Refunds.

### **CAN I RENT A BAND INSTRUMENT?/ FEE/PAYABLE?**

NNEC Music Auxiliary has various instruments for rent to students. There is a \$50 annual fee to cover the rental (payable with Oct. 1 registration fee). Students are expected to maintain the instrument as if it were their own while renting it. You will be responsible for damages and rental agreements will need to be completed (copy in appendix).

### **ARE THERE PROVINCIAL GROUPS AND ENSEMBLES? HOW DO I BECOME INVOLVED?**

All Provincial Groups and Ensembles require an audition from the interested student. Groups include: NS Honour Jazz, NS Wind Ensemble, NS Honour Choir, NS Junior Wind Ensemble, and the Provincial Youth Orchestra. Contact your Music Directors for information about auditions in our area. (There is an additional fee to belong to these Provincial groups.)

### **ARE THERE BURSARY OPPORTUNITIES? HOW DO I APPLY?**

There are applications for bursaries from the Music Auxiliary if the need help paying for registration fees, trips, provincial groups, and/or summer camps. You will be required to complete an application based on need. See your Music Director for details and to obtain an application.

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENT FUNDRAISING CREDITS AFTER GRADUATION?**

Fundraised money cannot legally be refunded; therefore, a choice can be made from the following options upon leaving or graduating from NNEC:

- 1) Credit may be transferred to a sibling already at or entering into the NNEC Music Program or at a sister school (ie New Glasgow Academy, Trenton, East Pictou, etc)
- 2) Credit may be allocated to a trip bursary fund for music students in need at NNEC.
- 3) Credit may be transferred into the General Budget Account of the Auxiliary to be used where needed.

Specific directions must be given by September 30 of the year following graduation, or it will automatically be transferred to the General Budget Account.

### **IS THERE OPTIONAL MUSIC CLOTHING I CAN ORDER?**

In the past, the student executive has made it possible to order music program clothing.

This information will be made available to students if it becomes available.

## **IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL?**

Yes. Each year, usually in May, the music students go on a yearend trip. On the odd years, students have the opportunity to travel to a further destination, usually outside of the Maritimes. On the even years, students have the opportunity to travel to a destination within the Maritimes (\*this is not guaranteed and is subject to change).

Additional opportunities may arise and students will receive information as it becomes available.

Please note: Travel may include International travel. It is recommended that all students registered in the music program have a valid passport.

## **MUSIC FESTIVAL: WHO IS ELIGIBLE? HOW DO I ENTER? WHAT IS THE FEE?**

All groups and ensembles participate in the local New Glasgow Music Festival. All students are encouraged to participate in additional solo or small group classes. If a student is interested, contact your Director early in December for information.

Note: Additional information regarding individual applications and fees may be accessed at [www.newglasgowmusicfestival.org](http://www.newglasgowmusicfestival.org)

## **NNEC MUSIC AUXILIARY & VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Executive positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary
2. Registration – make sure all students registered and payments collected, keep track of rentals
4. Concerts- includes: advertising, chaperones, tickets, etc for Christmas and Spring Concerts.
5. Fundraising - Assorted
6. Hospitality- phone, organization food
7. Trips- planning, chaperone
8. Billets - Visiting students are always billeted in pairs
10. Spring Dance - Organize, advertise, tickets, set-up, decorate, bar
11. General - Willing to help out in any area needed!