

# LORD BYNG SECONDARY SCHOOL

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January 13, 2010

Dear Parents:

This letter is to inform you of new course offerings in Music for next year. The Byng Arts Department and the Fine Arts Department have engaged in a process to determine a shared program vision, encourage more flexible programming, meet the needs of diverse learners and meet the challenges of creating different opportunities for high level performance. There has been a renewed sense of collaboration within the department. We believe we have optimized resources in order to provide a comprehensive music education program for students enrolled in both the Arts Mini School and the regular Music programs.

The department has made the decision to replace Symphony with Instrumental Chamber Music at the grades 10, 11, and 12 for next year. The department is looking forward to the opportunities that these new courses will offer to our students. The school board has approved these new courses; we are currently awaiting approval from the Ministry of Education.

A course description of the new Chamber Music program is as follows:

*The purpose of the course is to give music students the opportunity of playing instrumental chamber music in a small ensemble setting. Students learn and build on their knowledge of blending tone, balancing volume, articulation techniques, and other such topics within an instrumental chamber group. These groups may combine wind, string, and percussion instruments. In these chamber groups, each musician will be the only player on his/her particular part (no doubling will occur). These students will continue to be enrolled in either a band or strings class but will take instrumental chamber music as an additional musical experience. Each term students will be required to prepare and perform in a concert featuring a solo or small ensemble work. The course will also teach the students marketing and promotional skills and it will also help students prepare for a career in performance in a different way than in a large ensemble like symphony, band or strings.*

The department is committed to the shared vision of providing (i). high quality music instruction and (ii). a range of opportunities and activities to support learning. The unifying principle that guides the Music Program and the Byng Arts Program is the fundamental belief that creativity is a vital means of bringing together a diverse community.

We will begin the formal process of course selection at the end of January and during the month of February. Counsellors and teachers will be available to guide students in the selection of their courses for next year. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact the Fine Arts Department Head, Mr. Scott McLennan, the Byng Arts Coordinator, Mr. Jon Hartley-Folz, or the Principal, Ms. Maria Taddei at 604 713-8171.

Thank you to the Music Society and in particular, to all the parents for your continued support of our programs.

Respectfully,

Maria Taddei  
Principal