



*Lauren Hill Academy
Music Department*

*Département de
Musique de
l'Académie Lauren Hill*

Music Option Information

In the coming weeks, students who are preparing for registration in high school next fall will be asked to choose whether or not they wish to study music. This brochure is intended to inform students and their parents about the merits and special enjoyment of music classes at Lauren Hill Academy

Learning to Play Musical Instruments

Very shortly after you start music classes you will start learning how to play a musical instrument. If you have tried to play guitar or keyboard in the past without the help of a professional teacher, you may have found the experience frustrating. You will find however, that your music teacher will give you personal help in understanding your chosen musical instrument and you will be sounding out musical notes properly soon afterwards. You will find that once you learn the basic music theory, and the procedure of playing a musical instrument, learning other instruments is quite easy. You will be thrilled the first time you proceed through a measure of music notation and the sounds that you make become a piece of music that you recognize.

Playing in a School Band

One of the objectives of music education is to teach music students to play in a group, called an orchestra or band. This is one of the best parts of music class. You will learn to understand how a group of musicians perform pieces of music together, each person contributing a part of the whole harmonious sound. You will find a special satisfaction performing music for an appreciative and admiring audience, and special friendships with your fellow musicians who share in these achievements.

Music is More than Making Sounds

Studies have proven that children raised in cultures rich with music tend to develop learning and communication skills more quickly than other children. These researches have also shown that there is a correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, self-esteem, and interest and involvement in school music. Also, music experience instills positive attitudes, a positive self-image, a desire to achieve excellence,

an ability to set goals, cooperation, and group cohesiveness.. Many studies have also demonstrated that students participating in music outperform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math. These differences become greater the longer the students participate in music.

The Cultural Aspects of Music

Learning about music in school will also provide you with cultural benefits that will last for a lifetime. After you learn music theory, listening to a piece of music will never be the same. You will hear music in a whole new way. You will understand and appreciate what the musician is doing, and how he is accomplishing the notes he is producing. If you are particularly excited about a new piece of music that you hear, you will not only be able to obtain a recording of the piece, but you could get out your musical instrument and play it for your own satisfaction. You may eventually want to play in a band, a classical orchestra, jam with a rock band on weekends or pour your soul out with a tenor saxophone and a super jazz selection. Music knowledge will open many doors that may otherwise stay closed.

There is a Future in Music

Music is a huge industry. Many music students find satisfying lifelong careers in music. Recent statistics indicate that Canadians purchase about 50,000,000 CDs as well as many recordings in other formats and of course millions of DVDs each year. Many feature-length motion pictures, television programs, and stage performances are constantly in production in Canada. Many thousands of performers, music engineers, producers, directors,

production and marketing professionals and others with professional music knowledge are employed creating these products and services.. Modest beginnings have grown into great achievements for music students. In 1993 a former student of Laurentian High School in Ottawa, Mark Smith was awarded the Academy Award in Hollywood for best musical sound score in a motion picture. He was quoted at the time as crediting his former teacher, the late Mr. Henry Bonnenburg with teaching him and inspiring him to reach the top of a very competitive profession. He went out of his way to encourage other young people to strive for their goals and enjoy the journey along the way.

Music at LHA

At LaurenHill Academy, music is offered as a fine arts subject in both French and English from grade 7 through 11 and specializes in teaching music through the Jazz/Rock idiom. Students will have the opportunity to learn one of the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric bass, drums and percussion. For those who have previous experience of keyboard/piano or guitar, they will be able to further improve their knowledge of the instrument. At LaurenHill Academy, all music students have the opportunity to join one of our school bands as an extracurricular activity and participate in concerts, festivals and other events.

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