

Grade 8 Info Night Guide & Recruitment Guide

Overview

This guide equips high school music teachers and student leaders to run an electrifying info night for visiting Grade 8 students during the existing info night. The goal? Captivate their interest, showcase the transformative power of high school music and convert curiosity into sign-ups for band courses in 9th grade! Key sections detail strategic promotion, crafting an unforgettable experience and techniques to turn excitement into committed participation. We emphasize demonstrating the fun, community and lifelong benefits of music through hands-on engagement and authentic peer connections.

Who Should Attend?

- The Stars: Grade 8 Students! Target *all* students, especially those unsure or with no prior experience.
 - The Influencers: Parents/Guardians. They provide crucial support and encouragement/influence.
 - The Connectors: Current High School Band Members. Their enthusiasm is infectious! Include diverse sections such as woodwinds, brass and percussion.
 - The Champions: High School Administrators (Principal, VP). Their presence signals school-wide support.
 - The Enablers: Music Parent Volunteers. They help run stations and manage logistics.
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For more information and useful links visit [Bandology](#).

[Bandology.ca](https://www.bandology.ca)

Integration within the School's Grade 8 Parent Info Night:

- 1. Creating Welcoming Ambiance:** Request permission for the Jazz Band (or another suitable small ensemble) to perform on stage in the auditorium as families arrive for the main presentation. Alternatively, position small ensembles (e.g., quartets) in the school entrance area playing recognizable, upbeat music. This provides a highly visible yet unobtrusive and welcoming atmosphere, effectively showcasing the program without overwhelming guests.
- 2. Replacing Structured Stations with an Open Rehearsal/Exploration Hub:** During the open house portion commonly following the main presentation, transform the music room into a dynamic, low-pressure hub. Host an open rehearsal the Jazz Band or Choir are ideal choices due to their dynamic nature, visual interest and manageable sound levels that allow for conversation. A large Concert Band is not recommended as it consumes too much space and volume. This format demonstrates the program's energy and skill in an authentic setting. Allow prospective students and parents to wander in freely, observe, ask spontaneous questions and explore displayed materials such as posters, photos, flyers for upcoming concerts. Crucially, avoid structured station rotations or forced activities; the atmosphere must feel welcoming and guest-directed, respecting that attendees are not a captive audience.
- 3. Leveraging Link Crew Organically:** Recognize that dedicated Link Crews (often including music students) are responsible for welcoming incoming students. Do not replicate their role with separate greeter ambushes which can feel overwhelming or corny to newcomers. Instead, ensure music students within Link Crew are equipped with natural talking points about the program's benefits like friendships, skills, fun so they can advocate authentically during their standard Link duties.
- 4. Providing Clear Information:** Have a dedicated area in the music room with concise handouts addressing parent FAQs, time commitment, instrument acquisition, costs, skill-building benefits, academic impact and a simple sign-up sheet for families wanting more information.

Essential Supporting Elements:

- **Involve Keen Students:** Recruit enthusiastic current music students to perform and be present in the hub. Offer volunteer hours or simple incentives like pizza (ideally funded by the principal).
- **Coordinate Schedules:** Work with students to avoid conflicts with other activities they might be supporting that night.
- **Equip Ambassadors:** Provide teachers and students with clear, effective talking points focusing on the social, developmental, and university application benefits of music participation.
- **Utilize Bandology Resources:** Display Bandology posters highlighting the benefits of music education prominently in the hub.
- **Engage Supportive Parents:** Invite parents of current students to help staff the information area and share their positive perspectives informally.

Broader Recruitment Strategies (Especially for Grade 7s):

- 1. Elementary School Outreach** (Concerts): Widely promote the high school's December evening concert to local elementary schools. Consider offering incentives (e.g., prize draws) specifically for Grade 7/8 students and their parents to attend.
- 2. Daytime Concert Tours** (Highly Effective): Organize a daytime tour with a small, engaging ensemble (like the Jazz Band) to perform for Grade 7/8 classes at feeder elementary schools. This is a proven, powerful long-term recruitment tool. Building strong relationships with feeder school music teachers is vital for facilitating this.
- 3. Materials for Feeder Schools:** Provide posters or flyers summarizing the benefits and opportunities of the high school music program for display in Grade 7/8 areas of feeder schools.

Bandology's Role: Providing High-Impact, Practical Resources:

The most valuable support Bandology can offer focuses on practical, readily usable tools that minimize extra work for teachers:

- Compelling Talking Points: Concise scripts and key messages for teachers (e.g., a 2-minute pitch) and students for casual conversations.
- Professional Posters: Eye-catching posters showcasing the diverse benefits (social, cognitive, academic) of participating in school music.
- Parent FAQ Handouts: Clear, professional handouts addressing common parent questions and concerns.
- Templates: Sign-up sheets, promotional copy for feeder school visits/concerts.
- Focus on Integration & Low Pressure: Guidance on implementing the open rehearsal/hub model and leveraging ambient performances effectively within the existing event structure, always designing interactions for friendly passers-by.