

February 19, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

As a result of input we received from our student and parent community, teachers in the Byng Arts Department and the Fine Arts Department have a renewed shared commitment to offer Junior Symphony (LBSJ) and Senior Symphony (LBSO) as part of the repertoire of music courses for next year.

In addressing some of our enrolment and curricular challenges, we are sharing some highlights of the adjustments we are planning for next year's Lord Byng Symphony Program:

- String and Band students will not be required to take two additional classes if they choose to participate in the Symphony program. If students take Symphony they only need one other music class in their timetable.
- The Senior Symphony class will remain on timetable; the Senior Wind Ensemble and Honour Orchestra classes will be off timetable; Junior Honour Orchestra will be on timetable and Junior Symphony off timetable.
- Strings courses will be streamlined to create distinct classes based on the ability level of the students involved.
- In order for symphony students to benefit from the talents of both teachers, Mr. MacLennan and Mrs. Kurth will rotate between the LBSJ and the LBSO. More specifically, the teachers will alternate teaching each class for one term durations.
- The top Band and String students will be encouraged by both teachers to sign up for Symphony so that it involves the highest quality players available.
- Both symphony classes will have limited enrolment and both teachers will be involved in auditioning the new students.

It is recognized that this new model is a work in progress and it might require further adjustments as it is implemented. Planning will continue throughout this spring and we intend to monitor the impact on enrolment in the Music programs and the impact on student learning throughout the next school year.

We appreciate the diverse input we have received concerning our challenges and issues. If you have any questions about our course offerings and/or student scheduling please contact the grade counsellor and/or the Fine Arts Department Head, Mr. MacLennan or the Byng Arts Coordinator, Mr. Jon Hartley-Folz.

Thank you again for your continued support of our programs.

Respectfully,

Maria Taddei

Jon Hartley-Folz

Scott MacLennan

Odette Kurth