**Letter from Parents & Guardians**

**For use where Band Programs are being decreased or negatively altered – but not outright cancelled.**

*This is a sample letter that can parents can use to send to School Principals, Superintendents and Trustees emphasizing the importance of band programming in the province and the benefits that it provides to students. Schools should strive to allow band programs to occur and allow teachers to be creative with their teaching.*

Re: Supporting Band Programs Long-Term

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

My child has been an active and avid participant in {INSERT SCHOOL NAME}’s band program for the past {NUMBER} years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, maintaining access to some level of school band programming, provided my child with a lifeline to normalcy and a much-needed escape from the realities of the pandemic. I applaud our band director for {HIS/HER/THEIR} valiant efforts to keep my child engaged in artistic expression and exploration. It would be a shame to see this hard work wasted by {ALTERING OR CANCELLING} our band program before it has time to fully recover.

I know that school boards are faced with growing costs and limited funding. The choices are not easy, but I implore you to provide band the time it needs to rebound from the extra challenges placed on it during the pandemic. From outsized social distancing requirements to lockdowns, program “pauses”, gathering restrictions and much more band programs have faced added challenges just to survive. Making an enrollment based decision at this time would be unfair and will place the long-term viability of band programs in jeopardy.

Please remember that part of my child’s health and well-being, as well as their academic success, comes from participating in band. The benefits of band are too important for our students to miss. Research has proven that band, and other music programming, helps students develop enhanced critical thinking skills, increase their academic success, build confidence, commitment, and discipline, along with many other benefits. These are benefits that will last their lifetimes. From experience, we know that once a band program is lost it is usually lost for good. Don’t let this happen in our school, give programs time to fully recover and succeed.

{INSERT ANECDOTE REGARDING THE IMAPCT OF BAND ON YOUR CHILD HERE – HOW HAS YOUR CHILD GROWN/CHANGED/BEEN SUPPORTED BY PARTICIPATING IN BAND?}

Please ensure that band programming, including in-person playing of instruments, continues for my child and that other children both now and into the future will also receive the same great benefits band has provided to my child.

Sincerely,

{INSERT NAME HERE}

Band Parent