BUILD YOUR OWN MUSIC COUNCIL

FOSTERING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

BCMEA Conference 2023 – on the traditional and unceded territories of the
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, səlilwətaɬ | Tsleil-Waututh and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw | Squamish Peoples

WHO IS YOUR EXECUTIVE MUSIC COUNCIL?

Elected body of music students who are excited to hold managerial roles in your Music Program

Your Music Council helps you coordinate and run events such as Fundraisers, Concerts, Tours, 'Music Mixers,' Romantigrams, Fine Arts Week Celebrations, etc.

Music Council also fosters a sense of belonging for students who want to shape their favourite community in the school (the Music community!)

Elected roles at Van Tech are President, VP Bands, VP Strings, VP Choirs, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Manager, & Junior Rep

Non-elected roles are Tech Chair, Tour Manager, VT StEP Coordinator, & Member at Large

WHO IS YOUR FULL MUSIC COUNCIL?

In addition to the Executive Council, we have non-elected Section Leaders and Assistants for Senior String Orchestra, Senior Concert Band, and Chamber Choir

SL's are chosen collaboratively between teachers and current SL's, in the Spring for next year

Students are selected for these positions based on observed playing skill capabilities and leadership potential, and they have a list of duties such as running sectionals for Senior and Junior ensembles

Ideally, we try to have a grade 12 Section Leader and Grade 11 Assistant SL for our ensembles, so that the Assistant has a year of understudy before being promoted to SL the following year

MUSCO EXEC JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Teacher(s): We are at the top of the Music Council and participate in every Wednesday lunch meeting. A teacher 'chairs' the meetings and makes sure students stay on task and that all voices are heard

President: Your second in command next to the Teacher, sets Agenda with teachers for weekly meeting, manages the Student Team, intimately knows the Music Program calendar for the year and sets out to execute events and goals in a timely manner

Vice-Presidents: Call on these students to manage specific events, such as your VP Band for the Remembrance Day concert, or your VP Strings or Choir for District Festivals and communicate with Section Leaders

MORE MUSIC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Treasurer: Under teacher supervision, this student does your deposits and safely manages money at your events

Secretary: At every meeting, your secretary takes notes and posts them for an ongoing record of all topics

Public Relations: Your PR Rep updates your website and manages your Instagram and Facebook accounts

Junior Rep: One of the newest positions at Tech, this student represents the Junior voice in your Music Program

MUSIC COUNCIL EXEC JOB DESCRIPTIONS: NON-ELECTED

Tech Chair: The Tech Chair has a good basic understanding of how to set up microphones and run your sound and lighting boards for concerts, as well as enough technological know-how to run cameras and your livestreaming

Tour Manager: The Tour Manager inputs student paperwork into the teacher-created roster for tours, and occasionally helps organize tours (e.g. does research at the teacher's request, such as where to hold your 'Grad Dinner')

HOW TO ELECT YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WE HOLD ELECTIONS IN MID-MAY OF EACH YEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S COUNCIL

MUSIC STUDENTS SELF-NOMINATE (NOW VIA MICROSOFT FORMS) AND THEN CAMPAIGNING BEGINS!

STUDENTS CAMPAIGN VIA TEACHER-APPROVED POSTERS, TEAMS PROFILES, AND PREPARED SPEECHES

ONCE CAMPAIGNING IS OVER, STUDENTS VOTE OVER 2-3 DAYS (HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES TO SEE ALL OF YOUR ENSEMBLES), EITHER ONLINE VIA TEAMS FORM OR IN PERSON

AFTER VOTING CLOSES, PERSONALLY INFORM STUDENTS ONE-ON-ONE OF ELECTION RESULTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO AREN'T ELECTED, WHO YOU CAN INVITE AS A MEMBER AT LARGE FOR NEXT YEAR

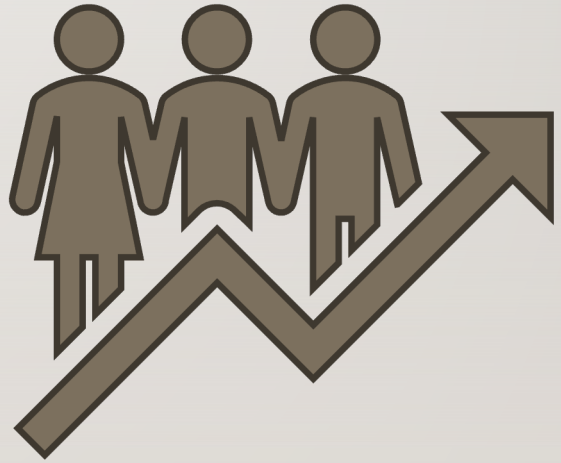
PUBLISH ELECTION RESULTS ON TEAMS AND ANNOUNCE AT YOUR END-OF-YEAR CONCERT(S)!

WHAT DOES A MEETING LOOK LIKE?

- We hold weekly Executive Council meetings on Wednesdays at lunch and a monthly Full Council meeting the first Wednesday of every month
- An example Agenda from our September 20th meeting (please refer to package for Minutes):
  -Oct. 7 Chan Centre Jazz Trip
  -Oct. 27 Orpheum Band Day Trip
  -Senior Tour Update
  -Headstart Debrief
  -Junior Tour Meeting
  -September 29 Truth and Reconciliation Assembly

LESSONS LEARNED

- In addition to using a **Section Leader Commitment** form, we recommend a set of **Guiding Principles** for your Executive to maintain a respectful environment (please refer to package for both items)
- Avoid creating a ‘think tank’ of students and put your council to work on manageable tasks so everyone feels they are a contributing member
- Start each year with a conversation with your President about the scope of the year so they keep everyone on track and a Vision Board created by your Council for inspiration



FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: JANE CHILDERHOSE

Students inspired by past councils

Legacy of Music Program and giving back to the Music Community

Creating cycle of leadership within the Music Program

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: ALPHA JIANG, PRESIDENT 2022-2023

- Reigniting the community post Covid
- Goal-setting to start off the year
- Bridging the gap between Juniors and Seniors
- Balancing friendship with work

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER: HOW TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY THRIVING

StEP Coordinator:

The newest position at Van Tech created for the 2022-2023 school year, the StEP (Strings Elementary Program) Coordinator organizes our Elementary outreach programming

TeMPO:

(Van)Tech Music Parent Organization

Semester System Solutions:

Full MusCo keeps students involved between semesters

Librarians, Ensemble Managers:

Reducing Task Load for Music Teachers and Executive Council

Senior Leaders:

Senior student who attend Junior Tour as volunteers

Pin-Points:

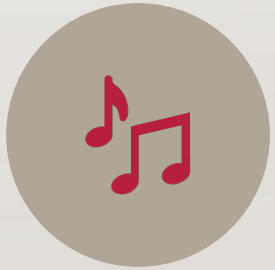
Incentive and Acknowledgment

MORE ON HOW TO KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED

Symphony: Symphony music is often the most exciting, and also keeps students involved between semesters.

Swag: Music Council/Program Hoodies, Stickers, Water Bottles, T-Shirt for on Tour

DOS: (Demonstration of Skills) Assessment is done at least once each semester/term one-on-one privately with students, and often also once in groups of 4.



Cheerio March, In the Mood, Blue Skies: Consider having a special song on repeat for your ensembles to close concerts!

QUESTIONS?

WE'RE HERE TO ANSWER!