



Performing Arts 2025-26 Welcome Newsletter

Welcome back to both new and returning Music, Dance, Drama and Performing Arts students!

Staff

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Department Email - ocvipa@ddsb.ca

Stay informed!

Information about our program is available on our website - www.ocvipa.com

[Click here to add our list of dates to your Google Calendar](#)

[Click here to add our list of dates to other digital calendars you may have](#)

Students will join the PA Department Google Classroom. Join code: rh5ftsy

PA Instagram - @ocvipa

OMPAPA (O'Neill Music and Performing Arts Parents' Association)

Parental/Guardian support is essential and appreciated! Having a student in the program makes you a part of this incredible group. OMPAPA's role is to assist with fundraising, events, production crew assistance, and advocacy for our PA program. Monitor email and social media for calls for help throughout the year.

Join the OMPAPA Facebook group to connect with other parents. You must agree to the terms to join this private group. ***Please communicate questions and concerns directly with teachers via email. ***

PAC (Performing Arts Council)

Student leadership is essential to the running of our program! Students are empowered to organize and support many events in the PA department. The students manage our PA Instagram, YouTube Channel and our website. They plan spirit events, organize our music libraries and archives, create newsletters, reels, posters, programs, assist with fundraisers, volunteer at events and performances.

If you are new to O'Neill or missed joining in the spring, please attend a meeting to join a committee. PAC meets Mondays at lunch in room 210.

Event Dates

Event dates are posted in the Department Google Classroom (student access) and on our website. We are a busy program! Please transfer all dates to a shared home calendar to ensure conflicts are avoided. Check the website regularly for updates. Dates may change. Make sure to use the links below to add the dates to your digital calendars.

[Click here to add our list of dates to your Google Calendar](#)

[Click here to add our list of dates to other digital calendars you may have](#)

Rehearsal Schedule

The rehearsal schedule is posted in the Department Google Classroom and on our website. Success is dependent upon a consistent commitment from **all** students involved. Please avoid scheduling appointments during rehearsals. For school conflicts, communicate with the leaders of each activity to reach a compromise.

Participation in extra-curricular ensembles develops soft skills such as:

- Effective communication skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Teamwork
- Dependability
- Adaptability
- Leadership

We recommend joining as many ensembles as one can effectively balance. Memories are created that will last a lifetime!

Media Consent Forms

Students in the arts programs at O'Neill have numerous performances in the school and community which require media consent. For example, your child may be filmed or photographed during a performance. The consent form covers a four year term. If you have completed a form in a previous year, we will have it on file. Forms will be sent home with students requiring one.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be on airplane mode and out of sight. Teachers can specify when cell phone use is acceptable. They at no point should be placed on music stands. If students are dealing with an emergency, they must communicate with their teacher. We have cell phone pouches where we may ask students to place phones if they become a distraction.

Instrument Loan/Rental/Purchase

Regular home practice is integral to achieving success. We are fortunate to have many instruments that are serviced annually to keep in excellent condition which we can loan out. Conversely, we can provide you with information if you wish to rent or purchase an instrument.

Course Fees

Fees off-set the cost of special workshops and performances, guest artists, festival entries, busing, repairs, materials (sheet music, scripts, costumes, make-up, sound and lighting equipment). This is NOT an instrument rental fee.

NEW THIS YEAR - Course Fees can be paid through our website ocvipa.com - Please bring a receipt or screenshot of proof of purchase from online payment. You can also pay by cash, cheque made to O'Neill, or tap in the PA Office.

Auditioned Performing Arts Courses: \$60 for the dual course PA programs (\$30 per course)

Grade 9 and 10 Open Instrumental Courses: \$25

Open Dance Courses: \$10

We ask that the fee be paid by **Friday September 26th**. Payment plans are available upon request.

NEW THIS YEAR

Course fees can be paid online through our website - ocvipa.com

Click on the course fees page on the top and choose the correct course fee selection for your student.

Uniforms

All students need to have an O'Neill PA t-shirt. Black bottoms (pants or skirt below the knee with black tights), black socks or tights and black dress shoes. No ripped jeans or track pants. Shoes must be ALL black.

Some performances will require Dress Blacks. The bottoms are the same as above. The top may be a black long-sleeved dress shirt, neckline should be collared or a fairly high crew or V neckline. If choosing a dress, hem should be below the knee and black tights are required.

Spirit Wear <https://oneillperformingartsprogram.entripyshops.com/>

We have many designs from which to choose. Spirit Wear makes a great present!

- Visit entripyshops.com
- Search your organization - O'Neill Performing Arts Program