



Intermediate Group Lesson Guide

Updated: February 18, 2011

The Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums provides Group Bagpipe Lessons for intermediate students who are preparing to integrate with the pipe band setting.

This platform offers an aggressive curriculum for students to learn proper fingering technique, bagpipe control, instrument maintenance, and the band's music in both private and group settings. This approach is intended to prepare students to advance into our Grade V group, and eventually audition to compete & perform with the band.

This group lesson setting is intended to be a "stepping stone" into the band's Grade 5 performance and competition practice sessions, and is intended to be an eight week aggressive curriculum that will require the student to study and practice hard. Endurance and proper fingering technique will need to continue advance quickly as the students work with the group instructors. This is only achieved by practicing on both the practice chanter and bagpipes daily.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

1. Fill out and bring the form below to your first group lesson.
2. Every student attending our Group Lessons is required to also be taking private lessons from a qualified instructor. If you do not already have a private instructor, please [email us](#), and we will have an instructor contact you right away.
3. Every student must already be able to read music and be able to play the basic embellishments/grace notes, and be able to correctly play the band's ¾ set (Green Hills, Battle's Over, Lochanside) completely from memory on the practice chanter (with a metronome) & on the bagpipes. We will be using this set to play as a group, so please have that set memorized completely.
4. Each student must bring the following items to every Group Session:
 - Practice chanter
 - Metronome
 - Bagpipes
 - A pad of paper and a pencil/pen (used for weekly instructor notes)

- A printed copy of the band's basic repertoire (available on our FAQ page)
5. Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums does not charge for these group sessions. We volunteer our time in hopes that new students will eventually become band members and contribute to the band.
 6. Students are expected and required to practice at least 30 minutes every day. If a student is not practicing regularly, that student will be asked to stop attending our Group Lessons.

SESSION SCHEDULE

5:45-6:30	<u>Group Instruction</u> Playing tunes from the basic repertoire and identifying issues that you will be concentrating on with your private instructor. You will be playing these tunes on both your Practice Chanter and your Bagpipes.
6:30-7:00	<u>Self Practice Time</u> During this time, students are expected to stay and practice what has been reviewed. After, you are <u>strongly</u> encouraged to sit in on the remainder of Grade 5 practice and finger along silently with the tunes we are playing.

YOUR OBJECTIVES

Your objective, as a student, is to develop your fingering technique, and to learn to play the band's repertoire correctly, with others, on both the practice chanter and on the bagpipes. Once you reach that point, you will be invited to begin practicing with our Grade V group, and eventually audition to compete & perform with the band.

It is CRITICAL that you practice daily in order to build up your piping stamina. Stamina can only be increased by playing frequently, with determination and guidance from instructors.

Any notes provided in your notebook by the group instructor should be presented to, and reviewed with, your private instructor at your next private lesson. Your group instructors will be expecting quick progress/improvement on the noted items needing to be addressed.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, or if you need to reach us, please email us at join@grpds.us.

Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums

Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums Group Lesson

Student Name

Street Address

City / Province

State

Postal Code

Phone

Email

Emergency Contact

Emergency Contact Phone Number

Your Private Instructor Name

Your Private Instructor Phone Number

By signing below, I am stating that I have read and understand what is expected of me as a student. I also understand that, with most things, you get out of it what you put into it, and that learning a musical instrument is no different. Practice, focus and dedication are the keys to success.

Student Signature

Date

This form should be filled out and presented to one of the instructors during your first group lesson.
Please be sure to contact the band prior to attending your first lesson.