

Poulsbo Middle School
Band Handbook
2016-2017

Rules and Expectations

- Always be respectful to yourself and to others.
- Be responsible with all equipment, not just your own.
- Come to class prepared every day and be in your seat when class starts.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band room. Water is acceptable.
- Do not talk, play, or make extra noise when Mr. Walder is teaching or on the podium.
- Stop playing immediately on a cutoff.

Homework

- Your homework every night is to practice.
- Sometimes you will have other homework in the form of writing or listening outside of class.
- All assigned homework will be recorded in students' planners in class.
- Daily practice must be recorded every day, and each day signed off or initialed by a parent. Students will record the length of their practice session, as well as one goal that was accomplished or worked towards.
- Students who do not practice at home will find it increasingly difficult to participate in class and will make it harder for the entire ensemble to be successful.

Staying Connected

- Class website: pmsbands.weebly.com
 - Check the website often for information, resources, and calendar dates.
- Remind.com
 - You (or your parents) are required to sign up for the Remind service. On the band website, click on the "contact" tab. Follow the directions to sign up for the appropriate group.
- EdModo
 - We use Edmodo to upload playing tests or to complete assignments.
 - Contact Mr. Walder if you need assistance with logging in.
- Mr. Walder
 - swalder@nkschools.org
 - 360.396.3273
- PMS Music Boosters
 - "Like" us on Facebook

"What's best in music is not to be found in the notes." – Gustav Mahler

Ensembles

Beginning Band: This class is split between the woodwind and brass players for sixth graders. The main focus of this group is on fundamentals and learning the basics of playing a wind instrument. Students may only play flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone.

Concert Band: This ensemble is comprised of mainly seventh graders, and expands on the instrumentation allowed in beginning band. Students will continue to focus on building strong fundamental skills, but will begin to approach more challenging music. A greater focus will be on building technical proficiency.

Symphonic Band: This ensemble is mainly for eighth graders, and will perform musical works that push all students in areas of musicality, technical proficiency, and listening. Throughout the year, this group will travel to local contests and festivals to perform music, and will host clinicians to work with the ensemble.

Percussion Ensemble: This ensemble is a smaller group comprised of 7th and 8th grade percussionists. Students will build, establish, and improve on percussion skills including snare drum, mallets, and timpani.

Jazz Band: This ensemble is by audition only, and meets M/W/F, 7:00-7:45am. All instruments are accepted, and is open to seventh and eighth graders who are already enrolled in a band class. Students who are not currently enrolled in a band class during the school day will not be accepted into jazz band. There is a supplemental contract that students and parents must both sign upon acceptance into the jazz band. Please see that contract for more details.

Required Materials

The following materials are required for participation in band.

- Instrument in proper working condition. Name tag on case required.
- Reed players: at least three working reeds in case at all times.
- Band binder: 1 black 1.5" 3-ring binder with pockets.
- 70 page lined notebook, college rule.
- Pencils.
- Portable/foldable music stand. Can be purchased locally or online. Stands are required for some off-site performances.
- Brass student accessories: All brass students should have valve oil, cleaning snake, tuning slide grease, and a mouthpiece brush. In addition, trombone students should also have slide grease and a slide sprayer.

“A musician’s whole life is to listen.” – Wynton Marsalis

Woodwind Student Accessories

- Flute players: cleaning rod and handkerchief swab.
 - Oboe players: oboe swab, reed case, and reed soaker.
 - Clarinet players: silk handkerchief swab, reed case, and cork grease.
 - Bassoon players: bassoon swab, reed case, and reed soaker.
 - Saxophone players: pad saver, reed guard, and cork grease
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- Essential Elements 2000 method book. Beginning Band: book 1 (yellow cover). Concert Band: book 2 (red cover). Symphonic Band: book 3 (green cover). All books are instrument specific and can be purchased through Ted Brown or online.
 - Concert/Symphonic Band members ONLY: Bach and Before for Band. Instrument specific chorale book for use in rehearsals. Can be purchased through Ted Brown or online.
 - Portable/foldable music stand. Can be purchased locally or online. Stands are required for some off-site performances. (Not required in class daily).

Percussion ensemble student supplies: Essential Elements 2000: Book 2 (7th grade) or Book 3 (8th grade), stick bag, 1 pair of drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1 or equivalent), 1 pair of hard rubber mallets (Malletech BB34 Becker Blues or equivalent), 1 pair of medium yarn mallets (Innovative Percussion IP240 or equivalent), 1 pair of timpani mallets (Vic Firth T1 or equivalent). To have at home: snare drum or practice pad with stand and small set of bells with stand. These items may be purchased or rented through Ted Brown Music.

Purchasing Equipment

Instrument equipment and method books may be purchased locally from the music stores below. However, you may also purchase equipment through online retailers. Below are some recommended links.

Castleman Music, Poulsbo	779-4828
Ted Brown Music, Silverdale	692-4030
www.wbw.com	

Concert Dress

All students are expected to wear white tops and black bottoms.

Tops: White collared dress shirt or white blouse. No sleeveless shirts.

Bottoms: Black slacks or black skirt (min. $\frac{3}{4}$ length).

Feet: Black dress shoes with black socks or black closed toed flats.

Accessories: Please keep visually distracting jewelry or other accessories to a minimum.

*“After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.”
–Aldous Huxley*

Grading Policy

(Letter grades are aligned with PMS grading scale.)

Concert attendance 25%

Attendance at all concerts is **mandatory**. We spend the majority of class time preparing music for the concerts in order to showcase the progress and musicianship of each band. Since there are only a handful of concerts, please mark the dates on your calendars so that there are no conflicts in the future. If you have a scheduled conflict, please consult Mr. Walder to determine the best course of action. The only excuse for missing a concert is a family emergency such as a death in the family or tragic event. If possible, please give notice of such an event prior to the event, but a written explanation afterwards is understandable. All concerts begin at 7pm, unless otherwise stated, and students are expected to arrive at 6:30pm in preparation for the event. Concert make-up assignments are available from Mr. Walder.

Playing tests 25%

As a regular part of class, you will be asked to perform playing tests. Ample time and notice will be given to allow you to prepare for the playing tests. Tests will be graded on accuracy and growth over time.

Class participation 40%

You will be graded on your participation and attitude during class. You will come prepared to class every day and to always try your best. Failure to do so will be reflected in your grade. Sometimes you will be asked to complete written work for class. This may be an in-class test or a take-home assignment. Late or missing work will be reflected in your grade.

Individual practice 10%

Home practice is extremely important for you to grow as a musician. The expectation is that you practice for at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week. Please mark on the practice card for each day you practice.

Late-work policy

The expectation for all students is for work to be turned in on time. However, late or missing assignments understandably happen from time to time. Please note: for each school day an assignment is late **the grade on that assignment will drop 10%**. For example, if you turn in a theory assignment two days late, your grade will automatically be lowered 20%. The same policy goes for missing assignments on a day when a student is missing with an **unexcused absence**. Only **excused absences** can be made up for full credit.

“Do not fear mistakes. There are none.” – Miles Davis

Band Calendar

(Dates subject to change – See website calendar for updates. Field trips will be added at a later date)

October

21 PMS/NKHS Marching Band Night @ NKHS (7th/8th grade only)

December

6 Winter Band Concert – 7 PM

February

2-3 Viking Jazz Festival @ PMS

16-19 NAFME All-Northwest

25 OMEA Instrumental Solo/Ensemble @ CKHS

March

14 Spring Band Concert – 7 PM

27 Regional Band Contest @ PMS

April

14 Elementary Concert Tour (NKSD)

May

TBA PMS/NKHS Jazz Night

20 Viking Fest Parade (7th/8th only)

June

6 Final Band Concert – 7 PM

9 Band Picnic @ Raab Park

“For me, music is a chance to exchange ideas, perspectives, and emotions with other musicians you’re playing with. I learn something from every musical experience.”

– Joshua Redman

August 31, 2016

Dear Choir and Band Parents:

Welcome to the most enthusiastic and effective support group in our community, the *Poulsbo Middle School Music Boosters*. Now that your student is an active member of the music program, we hope you will take advantage of this outstanding positive family experience. It is the opportunity to join your son/daughter in the attainment of a mutual goal, something you do not want to miss.

At a time when young people are making crucial decisions concerning personal behavior, ethics, integrity, morals, and an array of vital life choices, wouldn't you like to be around to have some influence on their direction? Booster parents enjoy this unusual vantage point, and all of the performing groups benefit from such a healthy relationship.

Booster parents are also integrated into every phase of the music program. They are not passive observers, or simply a polite sideline audience, but active contributors in the daily operation of the program. The ongoing success of our program is in direct proportion to the support of our parents. We need you!

We, the directors, often think there is as much *pride* in our music booster parent organization as there is in the performance groups themselves. Many of our parent participants have found hidden social benefits for their own growth and development. Not only do our boosters work hand-in-hand with our music program, but they relish the exchange with other parents who share a common interest.

You may think there are not enough hours in the day to add one more responsibility to your schedule. This is a legitimate consideration; however, we are sensitive to the situation. You will find everyone is willing to make the necessary accommodations so all parents can become involved. It is a chance that will only come around *once* in life for your student.

Our monthly meetings are the **second Monday** of each month. The meeting will be held in the PMS choir or band room, 6:00pm. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to be with us for a get-together to meet our veteran members and get a bird's-eye view of the band and choirs future. You will also enjoy the optimistic atmosphere of our music program's number-one fan club -- our music parents. You will quickly sense the caring and sharing attitude that has become the trademark of this group. We urge you to attend our meetings, become an active participant of the various committees, and join the ranks of a wonderful "group of parents" that ensure our students are at the front of life's stage.

Personal regards,

Julie Gallant
Director of Choirs
360-396-3272

Sam Walder
Director of Bands
360-396-3273

Band Commitment Agreement & Permission Form

Please read, sign, and have your parent/guardian sign the following form. Tear off this and return it to Mr. Walder by **Wednesday, September 14** to receive credit on this first assignment. Keep your handbook in a safe place for reference throughout the year.

1. I agree to follow all the rules outlined in this handbook.
2. I agree to make a concerted effort to come to class prepared every day, ready to learn and make music.
3. I agree to attend all performances, extenuating circumstances aside, with the proper concert attire.
4. I agree to practice at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week, and record my work in my planner.
5. I agree to respect everyone in band and work together as a team.

(Print student name)

(Student signature)

(Date)

I, parent/guardian, have read through the handbook with my student and agree to support him or her in order to be a successful musician in the PMS band program. I have marked all the dates on my calendar and understand the expectations for my student in band.

(Print parent/guardian name)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)

Permission for School Field Trips/Recording/Medical Service

In order for my child to take part in and receive the advantages of a program planned and sponsored by North Kitsap School District, I hereby give permission for my child to participate in any or all of the trips included in the band program for the 2014-2015 year, including but not limited to trips to Poulsbo Elementary and/or North Kitsap High School.

I grant permission for my child to be photographed or video/audio recorded in conjunction with performances or daily lessons for educational purposes only.

I authorize North Kitsap School District and its employees to secure the services of a physician or hospital in the event of an accident or illness, and I assume responsibility for the expenses and will provide repayment of these costs.

(Print parent/guardian name)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)