



**PARKWAY WEST**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



# **BEGINNING BAND**

# **HANDBOOK**

## **17-18**



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**Stay connected with the West Band Program!**

Website: [www.parkwaywestband.com](http://www.parkwaywestband.com)

Twitter: @PWMS Bands

Remind: Text @pwmsbb17 to 81010

## Band Program Mission

Through the pursuit of musical excellence, the mission of the Parkway West Band Program is to provide students with life-changing musical opportunities and experiences. Utilizing a wide variety of quality literature as the curriculum, students will rehearse and perform a variety of musical styles and historical works. Our students will develop valuable leadership skills and establish a strong musical foundation that will create a life-long appreciation and love of music.

### Band Expectations

As a member of the West band program, you are a member of one of the school's most important and respected organizations. As with any other organization, the success of the West band program depends on the loyalty of all its members. We will learn, develop and establish these expectations through the understanding of the 4 C's for Creating Class.

#### C's for Creating Class

**Commitment-** taking pride and ownership in the West band program by being prepared and giving 100%.

**Community-** Respecting staff and peers in the West band program as you would yourself.

**Control-** Restraining negative and disruptive behavior by having self-control to promote pride and success in the West band program.

**Class-** Characteristic to be displayed both in winning and losing so others can see the pride you have in yourself and in the west band program.

### Yearly Goals for Beginning Band

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of music through performance, creation, and promotion.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline while participating in the band program.
- Develop the appropriate techniques to play a musical instrument (posture, hand positions, tone, embouchure and articulation.)
- Learn to read and interpret music notation (meters, keys, tempo and expression markings, etc..).
- Develop and establish the appropriate practice habits.  
Experience performing a diverse range of music.

### Course Content

1. Maintenance and Instrument Care
2. Music Literacy /Reading
3. Rhythm
4. Technical Skills
5. Tone Quality
6. Musicianship
7. Rehearsal/Performance Etiquette
8. Cultural and Historical Context

# Supplies

In addition to a quality instrument, each student will also require a set of supplies appropriate to their instrument. You should have seen the supply list through email or it is available on the west band program website located under the MS Bands tab- Beginning Band. (Parkwaywestband.com) Supplies some supplies maybe purchased through the school store (like their method book, boys concert attire) or local music stores (please see the band website under Resources- Music stores).

## **ALL STUDENTS NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO CLASS DAILY.**

(If a student does not bring the required material to class everyday they will lose participation points for the day.)

- **Instrument-** Students will need their instrument everyday for class unless directed otherwise by Ms. Emry or Ms. Frein. [If your students instrument goes into the repair shop, students are expected to bring a **NOTE** from their parent/ guardian. The note must state why the instrument is in the repair shop and when they are expecting to have it back in class.]
- **Instrument Name Tag-** Students will need a name tag to identify their instrument. When renting an instrument at a music store most of them will provide a name tag with the rental be sure to ask and see if one is available. (If not luggage tags work as well on the instrument cases.) **\*\*Please note that students may have the case as other students. This is to ensure your students is coming home with their instrument.\*\***
- **Instrument specific maintenance items-** Such as Woodwinds having reeds, cork grease and swab, Brass having valve oil and slide grease and percussion having their stick bags and etc.
- **Black 3 Ring Binder-** Each student **will need to purchase a 1 inch black binder** for class. They are expected to keep organized. Periodically binders will be check for a grade to ensure students have the appropriate materials with them for class.
- **Measure of Success Book 1-** Be sure you get the correct book that matches your specific instrument.
- **Pencil(s)-** Students are required to have pencil for class to ensure they are able to mark their music or complete any paper assignments.

Not required in class, but highly recommended for practicing at home MUCH easier and enjoyable: a folding music stand and a metronome/ tuner (most smart devices have an app for this as well.)

**\*\*\*All students are required to have all the supplies they need for class by  
August 28, 2017\*\*\***

## **Instrument Maintenance**

Instrument Maintenance is vital to the success of your students band experience. Understand the importance of instrument maintenance is just like having a car for transportation but it is out of gas or the tire is flat. So you are unable to complete your job for the day. Instruments that are maintained are the easiest for your student to find success on. Please refer to the band website under the MS Bands Tab- Beginning Band for the recommended maintenance sheet for their instrument. Students will also be taught how to properly maintain their instrument in class by their teacher as well. Please note that instrument cases should be kept clean and free of unnecessary items as well. Another note as well if your student gets sick at any point throughout the year be sure to clean their mouthpieces or wipe down their mallet/stick handles. Also throw away reeds because they carry a lot of germs.

**\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*** Please do not attempt to due ANY instrument repair at home. Please have your student bring it to class or take it to a music store with a properly trained repair technician. We have seen too many cases of “at home instrument repairs” that cost more to fix than it should have.

## Tips for Practicing at Home

- Practice is necessary to build the muscles and skills that ensure the mastery of the instrument. (Just like an athlete devotes many hours into honing his/her skills with a particular sport.)
- Daily practice should become a part of the regular homework routine.
- Be sure to set up a practice area that is free from distractions.
- Try to practice at the same time and place each day.
- Always have a pencil available to mark or circle the areas you are struggling with in the music.
- It is also recommended to practice with a metronome to help internalize the pulse of the music. Once you feel comfortable with the pulse be sure to take away the metronome. This is because we don't perform with a metronome at concerts.
- Have a goal in mind for your practice sessions. (Start by reflecting on what you may have struggled in class with that day or previous day's. Break it down into manageable chunks of music. Sometimes it may take more than one practice session to reach your goal. That is perfectly acceptable and in most cases reality for even the professional musicians.)
- It is strongly recommended to record your practice sessions to reflect on them later. This may also help you better identify the areas you may have not heard while practicing but heard during the playback of the video.
- Students video chat with another student while practicing you can play for each other and listen for items you may not hear as your playing.
- Parents ask your student to perform you at least once a week if possible. This will help your student with performing but also let you see the strides they are making on their instrument.

We also this year for at home practicing will assign certain assignments for the student to work on either through Google Classroom or other recommended websites. At times students will ask to record their practice session and turn in through Google Classroom. Then the teachers will observe and provide feedback to help the student with their practicing. Students will be given a grade on their practice assignments. A rubric will be giving out so the students can see what they will be graded on.

## School-Owned Instruments

Students who play school owned instruments such as low woodwinds, low brass or etc. will need to fill out an instrument loan agreement sheet that will be kept on file. If any damages occur to the instrument while in the student's possession, they will be responsible for any repairs except for regular maintenance repairs which is covered by their maintenance fee. Students will be charged a maintenance fee of \$75 per year or \$25 per trimester. Students will take the money to the school store to pay for it. At the end of the school year, instruments are to be returned and all personal items are to be removed from the case and cleaned.

## Band Room Policies

1. **Cleanliness-** Band members are expected to keep the band room cleaner than in which they found it. (Example: keep chairs, music stands and instruments in place and use the trash cans for items that need to be thrown away.) \*\*The band room is not a closet either with limited space this can cause an undesirable learning environment \*\*
2. **Food/Drinks-** NO food, gum, candy or beverages other than water kept in a sealable container is allowed in the band room. Be sure to properly dispose your empty bottles if necessary and do not store them around the room either.
3. **Instrument/ Music Storage-** You will be provided with a shelf space to store your instrument(with a nametag on the case) and slot in the folio cabinet to store your music. Be sure to properly close your

case to ensure that your instrument does not fall out of it in case it has to be moved or you pick it up. Extra items are not to be stored on your shelf space or in your folio slot.

4. **Director's Office/Area-** The director's office/area will be off limits to students. Students do not have permission to be behind or in the director's space without given explicit permission.
5. **Band Phone-** The band phone is not to be used unless explicit permission is given by the director. When using the band phone be sure to leave a message if possible so your parents are not confused by the phone number.
6. **Technology-** Student are prohibited to use technology during class unless permitted by the teachers. This includes cell phones, tablets, and chromebooks. Technology will be used only to enhance the lesson when necessary. All actions will be taken in order with school policy if this rule is broken.
7. **Punctual-** Students are expected to be in the classroom by the time the bell rings, then expected to be prepared for class before the 5 minute timer goes off and on time for performance outside the school day. (Any performance outside the school day will be communicated what time they are expected to be there.) If this policy is not maintained by the student it will affect their grade by the lose of participation points or performance points.
8. **Organized-** Students are expected to have all necessary items for class as in their instrument, music binder, pencil and etc. If a student comes unprepared to class as in they forget their instrument at home, they will be given an alternative assignment by the teacher and lose their daily participation points.
9. **Class-** Students are expected to follow the 4 C's of Class as previous listed before to ensure the proper characteristic behavior in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

## **Travel Policies**

All travel policies will fall under the Parkway School District's policy for traveling as a school activity.

No student will be allowed to sign out from an event without a parent/ legal guardian signing them out with a teacher. If your student is going be signed out by someone other than the parent/ legal guardian we must receive a note from the parent/ legal guardian 72 hours prior to the event (This includes siblings, grandparents, aunts and etc.).

It is important to remember as we travel as the West Band Program, we are not only representing our school, our district and in some cases even our state.

## **Grading**

**Students' grades will be based off these overall criteria categories:**

**Performance (Concerts)- 30%**

**Assessments (Playing, Written, Oral and At Home)- 40%**

**Daily Participation/Preparation(Binder, Pencil and Instrument Checks) - 30%**

### **The grading scale is as follows:**

**93% - 100% A**

**90% - 92% A-**

**87% - 89% B+**

**83% - 86% B**

**80% - 82% B-**

**77% - 79% C+**

**73% - 76% C**

**70% - 72% C-**

**69% or below F**

### **ATTENDANCE- CONCERTS**

1. Band members will have NO unexcused absences from performances. (Only severe illness, family emergencies or extenuating circumstances declared so by the teachers.)
2. An unexcused absence from a performance will automatically result in a score of zero for the assignment. Students who do have an excused absence from a performance maybe be subject to an alternative assignment given out by the teachers to ensure they receive their grade for the performance. (An example of an alternative assignment is play all the concert material in from of the teachers outside of their regular class period).

(We cannot stress enough the importance of attendance. Band is the one class where every single student matters in order for a proper execution of the music. Students rely on each in an ensemble such as band setting to collaborate together.)

### **Performance Attire**

**All band students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will wear the same performance attire.**

**Girls:** Concert black, consisting of black pants, black blouse or shirt, black socks/tights/nylons and black shoes.

**Gentlemen:** Dress black pants, black socks, black dress shoes, white long sleeved button down shirt, Parkway West tie. The tie is the same from year to year and is available for purchase in the school store.

### **Important Dates!!!!**

(This is located at [parkwaywestband.com](http://parkwaywestband.com) under the calendar tab- MS Band)

**12/07/2017- Winter Middle School Band Concert @ West Middle School @ 7pm**

**03/07/2018- West Area Band Concert @ West High School @ 7pm**

**TBA- Solo and Small Ensemble Festival**

**05/07/2018- Spring Middle School Band Concert @ West Middle School @ 7pm**

## 6th Grade Band

### Student Information, Acknowledgement of Band Handbook Must be returned by August 28, 2017 (This will be a grade)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email

\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that **WE** the undersigned have read and understand the Parkway West 6th Grade/ Beginning Band Handbook and do hereby agree to abide by these rules and policies.

Specifically, we are aware of the grading and concert dress policies and understand that we must provide the appropriate attire for concert events.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

Parents be sure to go to [parkwaywestband.com](http://parkwaywestband.com), under the MS Bands Tab, click on Beginning Band. That page will have a link for Files. Please complete the personal instrument inventory. If you don't know the serial number put N/A and I will fill it out.