

2017-2018 TPMS Band Handbook

Welcome Students and Parents to the 2017-18 School Year at Twin Peaks Middle School. You are enrolled in a class that will help you develop a lifelong appreciation of music. The skills you will learn, including working in a large group, individual preparation, and classroom discipline, will aid you in your development as a person. At TPMS, we currently have two 7th/ 8th grade bands, three 6th grade bands, one Jazz Ensemble (for 7th and 8th grade, by audition only) and a Lab Band (that is open to everyone by invitation). This handbook is very comprehensive and should answer all of your questions about the Band Program at Twin Peaks Middle School. Please take the time to read and understand the Band policies and grading procedures on the following pages. Also, take some time to explore the Band's website www.tpmsband.com; we will be updating it frequently with information.

Performances

Band is a performance-based class, attendance at your band's concerts are mandatory (except where noted). The concert schedule is below and posted on the website. We are a team and everyone is important in helping us perform to our best. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them.

Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

1. Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
2. Performances are means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
3. Band performances are a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing student. We rehearse together and we perform together.
4. ***Students must pass a music preparedness test in order to perform.***
5. Performances are worth 200 points.

Missing a Performance

1. Written excuses may be considered when submitted two weeks prior to the concert if the excuse has validity.
2. Unexcused absences for the performances will result in no points being issued for that performance
3. Students must wear the appropriate concert dress for performances. Failure to be properly attired will result in a deduction of fifty points.

4. If the concert is missed due to an excused absence (sick on day of performance (absent from school) or approval by director, a makeup essay will be assigned and will be due within three class days of the students return to school.

Concert Dress

A big part of performing is dressing nicely. The dress requirement for all concerts (except for the 7/8 grade amusement park festival) is that the boys wear nice black dress pants, black dress shoes, with the Twin Peaks Band Polo shirt. The dress for girls is black dress pants or a black skirt that goes below the knee when seated, black shoes, along with the Twin Peaks Band polo shirt. No jeans, white socks, or tennis shoes. Please contact me if you need any assistance with concert attire

Performance Schedule

All 6-8 band concerts are finalized. Jam Band and Jazz Band will be posted in the Jazz Band Handbook.

6th Grade Band Mandatory Concerts

Tuesday, December 19. Winter Concert TPMS MPR, 7pm

Thursday, March 29th. Grade Spring Concert TPMS MPR, 7pm

Tuesday, May 29. End-of-the-Year Concert TPMS Quad, 6pm (Bring a chair or blanket to sit on)

Concert Band Mandatory Concerts

Thursday, December 21st PHS Gym 6pm

Thursday, March 1st. Pre-Festival Concert PCPA 6pm

Wednesday, April 4th. Festival, PCPA 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Tuesday, June 5th. 7th & 8th Grade End-of-the-Year Concert TPMS Quad, 6pm (Bring a chair or blanket to sit on)

Wind Ensemble Mandatory Concerts

Thursday, December 21st. PHS Gym, 6pm

Thursday, March 1st. Pre-Festival Concert PCPA 6pm

Tuesday, April 3rd. Festival PCPA 6 pm – 8 pm

Tuesday, June 5th. 7th & 8th Grade End-of-the-Year Concert TPMS Quad, 6pm (Bring a chair or blanket to sit on)

Elementary School Concerts (TBD during regular class time)

Jazz Ensemble and lab Band Mandatory Concerts

Listed in the Jazz Band Handbook

All band students are invited to the following non-mandatory events

Check website for information

Thursday Night rehearsal to watch PHS Marching Band, Oct. 19th at PHS

Taco Shop Fundraiser (In the Fall)

Friday October 20th. Middle School Band Night at PHS Football game.

Saturday October 21st. Poway Invitational Field Tournament. This is also our big Candy Shack Fundraiser.

Annual Dinner Fundraiser (TBD in March or April)

Amusement Festival Performance (non-mandatory event):

7th & 8th Knotts Berry Farm, Saturday May 19th, all day.

In 7th and 8th grade band students have the opportunity to participate in our Amusement park field trip. We perform a concert and then spend the rest of the day in the amusement park. Participating in this field trip is a privilege and not a right. In order to participate in a field trip you must have an "A" and "Gs" or better in citizenship and effort in band class. Also, students must have grades of C or better and NO "Ns" or "Us" in citizenship or effort in their other classes. Failure to do so will cause for your exclusion from the field trip. When we perform we represent not only ourselves, but Twin Peaks Middle School and the Poway Unified School District.

Grades

Grades will be assessed on a point system as follows:

Rehearsals (10 points per rehearsal)

Ensemble Behavior (Rehearsal)

Our Bands are essentially music teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. Repeat offenders will not be tolerated. A system of checks and warnings will be used to promote proper ensemble behavior:

1. One check mark will result in a 5 point deduction from overall grade and a verbal warning.
2. Two Check marks will result in a 10 point deduction from overall grade and a lunch detention.
3. Three check marks will result in a 15 point deduction from overall grade, lunch detention, and a phone call home. Parent conference if requested.

4. Each check mark after three will result in additional reductions and a parent conference.
5. There are also check marks for good behavior in the above areas as well resulting in either extra credit or removal of a check mark.

Students will be graded on the following and will lose points on their overall grade for any infraction in the following areas:

Student Responsibilities

1. Students need to bring their instruments every day that they have band and make sure it is in good working condition at all times. Instrument cases need to be clearly labeled with your name and band in bold letters, for example Fred Smith 6th Grade band period 5. You can also use a luggage tag. Twin Peaks does have a limited amount of extra instruments (including drum sticks) for the students to use during the school year. Please contact me as soon as possible if you need to borrow a school instrument. TPMS does not charge for the use of a school instrument, but you are responsible for its care while it is checked out to you, including the cost of any repairs the instrument might need throughout the school year.
2. All students are required to have a 1 inch three ring binder with their name in big letters. (I have folders available for loan)
3. All students are required to bring their own music to class and are responsible for all materials given to them in class. I will supply all students with one copy of music, 6/7 grade book, and handouts. Do not rely on your stand partner to bring their music *****Replacing any lost papers, music, or materials will be the responsibility of the student*****
4. All students will bring a pencil (not a pen) to take notes, mark fingerings, slide positions or other helpful notation. Student's music will be checked to make sure they are marking their parts appropriately.
5. Each percussion student may obtain a pair of drum sticks to use for the school year. It is to last the whole school year. The student will need to return them to me at the end of the school year in the same condition (with a normal year of use) or it will be your responsibility to replace them. I will also have mallets available to use in the classroom on the other various percussion instruments. However, It is highly recommended that all Percussion/Mallet players provide their own drum sticks, two pairs of mallet sticks (soft and hard), and timpani sticks. I will provide the drum equipment. Please label all of your sticks.

Classroom Procedures

1. Students will enter and leave the band room quietly.
2. Before class starts wait for teacher directions before playing any instrument/equipment.
3. Make sure equipment is working before class starts.
4. If you are borrowing a mouthpiece make sure you sanitize it before you play.
5. Raise your hand to ask a question, use restroom, or get Kleenex.

If you need to leave in the middle of class or enter late, please wait until there is a pause in the rehearsal. Do not try to enter the band while everyone is playing. You do not want to accidentally bump into someone while they are playing and do damage to their instrument or face.

6. "Down time" will be provided between songs.
7. Watch the Baton.

Class Participation

1. In seat and ready for rehearsal before the conductor starts class.
2. Quiet during rehearsal when not playing.
3. Demonstrates correct posture while playing.
4. Shows respect for self and others
5. Participates appropriately during rehearsal
6. Materials needed for class (Instrument, music, and pencil)

General Rules for the Band Room

1. Be respectful.
2. No playground behavior in the band room.
3. Keep the band room clean.
4. Play your instrument at appropriate times and volumes.
5. Have Fun. Specific Rules for the Band Room
6. Be prepared for class.
7. Listen to instructions the first time they are given.
8. No food or Gum in the band room.
9. Change tasks quickly and quietly.
10. Do not touch what does not belong to you.

Homework (25-50 points)

Classroom Assignments/ Homework

Music Theory, Music History, Music Vocabulary, listening to professional musicians and different musical styles are all very important parts of a band class. Besides playing our instruments we will be working on those topics in class. The students will have various assignments to complete in class and occasionally at home. The majority of their homework will be practicing. Your main homework assignment for the year is to learn your music. You are responsible for all the music in your folder, including scales, chorales, and rhythm studies. Just like other classes students will be occasionally called on to perform your instrument in class. Students will have a practice card to maintain in class and at home to help them prepare for music performance quizzes that will be done in class.

Quizzes (10-25 points)

Tests on playing improvement/Concert tests (25-100 points)

Testing

We are a team and every student is important to the Bands success. Band is more enjoyable for everyone involved if students practice and learn their scales and music at home. The more students practice the smoother classroom rehearsals will run. We would not have to stop so much and repeat the same warm-ups or sections of music. This would also allow us to play more challenging music. With the rotating block schedule if you do not practice what you learned in class on Monday then by Wednesday's class you most likely will have forgotten what you have learned. Therefore, I will be using different methods of testing of the students to make sure they know their scales and music. The students will receive their concert music (or know what scale they need to learn) well in advance of the testing date. If you need help you can always come in before school, after school (by appointment only), and the band room is always open during RAM/lunchtime. Students who do not do well on the tests will come in during RAM/Lunch time to practice and/or practice cards will be assigned. They will re take the test until they pass it because I believe all students can be successful in music. I am aware that I have bands with students with different level of abilities in them. Especially in the 6th grade bands where I will have beginners and student's who have been playing their instrument for two or more years. Each Band and student will be tested at their appropriate level. We will test for chair placements at the beginning of the year but that process is not for a grade. It is to hear what you do well and what you need to work on. Do not be discouraged if you end up in the lower part of your

section. You will not receive an “F” because of what chair you are in. I am more interested in your progress throughout the school year. There will be chair challenges where a student can move up in the section. In years past I have students move up over 8 chairs in the course of a year. Also, I reserve the right to move a student up or down based on in class behavior or improvement (or lack of improvement) on their music.

Music Practice Journal (200 pts)

This will be used in class and at home to help students with their practicing. This will be collected near the end of each quarter.

Performances (200 pts)

In order to perform in a concert you must pass a concert music proficiency test. Students that fail the test will have time to retake the test and parents will be notified if a student has not passed the test.

100 point total for attendance

50 listening assignment

50 Reflective Paper

Grading Scale

86%-100% of possible points in a quarter = A

72% -85% of possible points in a quarter = B

55%-71% of possible points in a quarter = C

40% -54% of possible points in a quarter =D

0%-39% of possible points in a quarter = F

Citizenship and Effort Grade in Band

Once again our bands are music teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. Repeat offenders will not be tolerated. A system of checks and warnings will be used to promote proper ensemble behavior. Talking out of turn, not being prepared for class all slow down the learning process for everyone.

Citizenship Grade

O=Outstanding:No check marks for behavior problems in class.

G= good:One to three check marks for behavior problems in class.

S = satisfactory: Four to Six check marks for behavior problems in class.

N=Needs Improvement: Seven to Nine check marks for behavior problems in class.

U= unsatisfactory: 10 or more check marks for behavior problems in class.

Effort Grade

O=Outstanding:No check marks.

G= good:One to three check marks.

S = satisfactory: Four to Six check marks.

N=Needs Improvement: Seven to Nine check marks.

U= unsatisfactory: 10 or more check marks.

Parents will be contacted if your son or daughter is in danger of receiving a D, F,N, or U.

Instruments

We have the following instruments available for loan: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, and Tuba. All instruments have been worked on over the summer to make sure they are in good working order and the condition of each instrument has been documented. ***Replacing or repairing any instruments borrowed from the school will be the responsibility of the student*** If your son or daughter would like to play one of these instruments please have them talk to Mr. Moreau. We have plenty of these instruments and mouthpieces available for a student to give a trial period to decide if it is the right one for them. In the past we have found that clarinet students have had success switching to oboe, bassoon, and bass clarinet. Alto saxophone students have switched to Tenor Saxophone or Baritone Saxophone. Flute students have changed to low brass and Trumpet players have switched to French horn and low brass. If you need to use a school instrument, you accept the responsibility of maintaining and keeping the instrument in good working condition. We are always in the need of more low brass players and double reed (bassoon and oboe) musicians.

Reed and mouthpiece recommendations

These are only recommendations and should not be seen as set in stone, each child is different. Some reeds are defective and it isn't obvious until they are used. The following are recommended reeds:

Clarinet 6th Grade: Mitchell Lurie 3 or VanDoren 2.5

7th Grade: Mitchell Lurie 3.5 or VanDoren 3

Advanced: Mitchell Lurie 4 or VanDoren 3.5

Saxophone 6th Grade: LaVoz Medium Soft or VanDoren 2.5

7th Grade: LaVoz Medium or VanDoren 3

Advanced: LaVoz Medium Hard or VanDoren 3.5

MOUTHPIECES: If your instrument uses a mouthpiece, and you are still playing on a mouthpiece that came with your instrument, Mr. Moreau highly recommends the following mouthpieces to help with better tone quality and control of your instrument. Students will need these mouthpieces for high school.

Clarinets: VanDoren B45 Saxophones: Selmer C star

Trumpet: Bach 5C or 3C

French Horn: Schilke 31

Trombone: Bach 6.5 AL (check for shank size Small or Large)

Baritone: Bach 6.5 AL

Brass players should always have valve oil and or slide cream (trombones also need water spray bottle).

How Parents can help keep students motivated

1. Help your child while they are practicing or just listen in. Students should be practicing a minimum of 15 minutes a day.
2. Praise them while they are practicing.
3. Make sure your student uses their practice time effectively. Use a room that has no distractions.
4. Ipods, cell phones and computers all have free tuners and metronomes to help them practice. Make sure they are using them.
5. Help them identify what they need to practice and focus on one musical aspect at a time. Remind them to do their warm-ups and scale exercises. Always save time to practice the songs they enjoy playing.

I want band to be an enjoyable class and if a student is struggling on their music or instrument it is not fun. If the student is struggling do not hesitate to call or email me. Encourage your child to talk to me so that we can work together to make band more enjoyable.

Private Instruction

I highly recommend all students take private lessons. In a band setting there is no way for each student to get the individual attention that they need. Private instructors will be able to help a student improve drastically and their enjoyment of music will also increase. There is a list of recommended teachers on the band website. Also, students at TPMS are always willing to help out a struggling student.

Fundraising/Twin Peaks Band Boosters

Thank you to everyone who donated at registration, it is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, due to school budgets we are not provided enough funds to maintain a high level music experience in school. Because of that we have to fundraise. In October, we will hold our "Taco Shop" fundraiser where we get 20% of the profit of food purchases with our coupon. Also in October we work a booth selling concessions at the Poway High School Field Tournament. In the spring our big Annual dinner is held which has helped buy new instruments (including new trombones, alto saxophones, trumpets, clarinets, and audio equipment) and music. All of the money donated or raised will be used by the band exclusively. Donating money to the band program is not mandatory. If you want more info on our Band Booster program or to find out how you can help, please contact our Band Booster President Mandy McDonough at tpmsbbpres@gmail.com.

Please remember Band is a yearlong elective. Students are not allowed to transfer out of the class at the end of the semester. Students need to make a commitment and fulfill their contract for the school year. If students are struggling at home with their music or any other problems please contact me. I want band to be a positive experience that they can take with them throughout life.

Please print, sign, and return this page only to Mr. Moreau by Friday, September 1st, 2017.

We have read and understand all of the materials presented in the Twin Peaks Middle School Band Handbook.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____