

Prairie Knolls Middle School Band Handbook

2015-16 School-Year

In this packet you will find invaluable information regarding the PKMS Band Program! We are SO excited to start a fabulous year with each and every student. Please read through the packet carefully as there is a large amount of very important information.

Our mission: Empowering students through excellence in musicianship, citizenship and leadership.

Thank you for your continued support of Music Education, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!!

Sincerely,

Olivia Pannell

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2014-15 Band Concert Calendar

Date	Time	Location	Ensembles
10/20	6:30pm	PKMS	5 th -7 th Grade band
11/11	TBD	CT/PV	7th Grade Band Veterans Tour – In School
12/14	6:30pm	PKMS	5 th - 7 th Grade Bands
3/15	6:30pm	PKMS	5 th - 7 th Grade Bands
4/13	7pm	CHS	Jazz bands
4/16	9am-12pm	PKMS	6 th -8 th Band and Choirs
5/4	TBA	NIU Campus-	NCJC- (Selected 7 th & 8 th graders)
5/17	7pm	PKMS	6 th -8 th Band

The musical performances of each ensemble are the pinnacle of student growth and an incredibly important aspect of every child's musical education. **Students are required to be at every performance for their ensemble!** The only exceptions to musical performances are severe illness, death in the family, or extremely extenuating circumstances (must be communicated at least 2 weeks in advance).

Please take time **right now** to mark these dates on your calendars!

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES CALENDAR - Selected Students ONLY

Date	Time	Location	Event
TBA	All Day	TBA	IMEA Jazz Festival
TBA	All day	TBA	IMEA Concert Band/Choir Festival
TBA	TBA	TBA	IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest
4/13	7pm	CHS Auditorium	Jazz Night with PKMS Jazz Band
5/4	1-9p	NIU Holmes Student Center	NCJC Music Festival



Task

Students in band/chorus have one day a week (Wednesday) that will be set aside for Task. During this time students may work on homework, make up tests and quizzes, work in the LMC, work on group projects, and visit teachers for extra help.

Students will only be allowed to go work in the LMC with a pre-signed pass from a teacher. Mr. Piel and Mrs. Pannell will only sign passes for students to go check out new books, return books, or pay library fines.

On non-task days students are expected to be present and participating in band and chorus. Students will not be allowed to visit other teachers or complete other assignments on these days.

The only exception to this policy will be if a student has a quiz or test that was started earlier that day that they need to finish. Their teacher must e-mail Mr. Piel or Mrs. Pannell before the student will be allowed to leave class.

If students have other work that needs to be completed, whether it is individual or group work, it is up to the student and/or the teacher to make arrangements to complete their assignments outside of Task time.

Attendance

Band is a performing art form that relies on many individuals to make a quality artistic product. For a performance or rehearsal to be successful, it is important that every member be present.

Performances (Concerts, Contests, Festivals, etc.) – Illness, family emergencies, or a death in the family are among the few permitted excuses for these mandatory performances.

- * If a student knows ahead of time that they must have a parent fill out the Concert Absence Form available through the Band webpage. If the internet is not available at home, the student is responsible for obtaining a paper form from Mrs. Pannell.

- * Any performance missed due to a family vacation will be made up through a performance-based assessment

Group Lessons

Group lessons occur once each week, and are part of the District 301 Band Curriculum. Lessons are scheduled throughout the day, for 30 minutes of any given class period. Students are placed into small-groups based on levels of understanding, instrument proficiency, and like-instruments. This does mean that students will leave *another* class to attend a lesson one time each week.

Small group lessons help fulfill the District 301 Music Curriculum as it is seen in the PKMS Band Program. This provides one-on-one individualized instruction alongside a specific sequence of growth. Lessons build musical, technical, and rhythmic understanding, as well as instrument fluency, on an individualized basis. Not only is the program based upon our curriculum, but it is developed to be easily modified to fit individual student abilities and needs. Lessons are an essential aspect of our successful band program and we are excited to continue another fabulous year!

Lessons are scheduled in a way that requires students to leave certain classes once per week for small-group musical instruction. The schedule is rotating so that students leave 1 particular class no more than 3 times per quarter. Students may reschedule their lesson-time during a particular week **ONLY** if they have a test/quiz/lab in the scheduled class, or are earning a D or lower in said class.

The group lesson program not only teaches to our music curriculum, but it also requires students to develop responsibility by:

- Remembering when their scheduled lesson is, preparing for, and attending it each week
- Talking with their classroom teacher prior to the day of their lesson about their lesson
- Communicating with Mrs. Pannell if they need to reschedule (test, lab, etc)
- Talking with teachers and peers to obtain any homework, notes, or other items from the class which they left for the lesson.

Our Prairie Knolls staff is incredibly supportive of the music program and our students. They see and support the value of the Group Lesson program and have open communication with Mrs. Pannell regarding specific student concerns. Please continue to contact your director with any concerns.

Group Lesson schedules are disseminated by academic quarter. Students will receive the upcoming quarter's group lesson schedule approximately 3-4 days prior to the new quarter. **Students are encouraged to write "Band Lesson" on the day/class period that they have a lesson in their assignment notebooks to help them remember each weekly lesson.

Group lessons are approximately 24% of the band grade. Lessons are graded weekly based upon:

- Attendance and timeliness
- Remembering all materials: instrument, music, prepared HW for each week
- Progress on assigned materials
- Signed practice chart with at least 4 days of 15 minute practice sessions

Weekly Band Homework

Band students will be expected to practice weekly. To make adequate improvement in performance and understanding, ANY musician, mathematician, linguist, etc., knows that practice reinforces the knowledge that will help develop the skill or performance! Band practice charts will be checked in

weekly small group lessons. Students are expected to log 4 days of 15 minute practice sessions with a parent signature.

Each week, students will be required to perform various exercises from their book, technique, or rhythm packets. Homework assignments will be given on an individual basis each week. Assignments may be repeated if the student is not performing the exercises to the expectation. Grades will be determined by weekly progress for each student. There will be small performance and written assessments to aid in assessing progress throughout the quarter. While these will be graded, they will hold less weight than daily and weekly class work and performance.

Extra Credit

Students can earn extra credit by

- Attending concerts of students or professional musicians and bringing in the program.
- Logging 5 days of practice for 30 minutes each day WITH parent signature.

Grading Policy

Students will be graded upon their: Concert Performance (22%), Group Lessons (24%), In-Class Work (18%), Ensemble Daily Points (24%), Playing Quiz (6%), Written Concepts Assessments (6%).

Band Uniform + Materials

Each instrument has a unique set of materials that are needed for success. Below is a list of materials needed for band. Please read carefully. An order form is attached if you would like to order through Mrs. Pannell. You may also choose to seek out these materials elsewhere.

All Students:

- Concert Attire: ***Music Dept Polo*** + Black Dress Pants/Socks/Shoes (no gym shoes or jeans)
- 1 inch 3-ring binder + 5 tabs
- *Essential Elements 2000 for Band Book 1 and Book 2* for their instrument

Flute: Flute Silk Swab

Oboe: Oboe Silk Swab, 3 Oboe Reeds – Medium *Please have a minimum of 3 working reeds*

Clarinet: Clarinet Silk Swab, Reed Protector Case, Woodwind Cork Grease, 1 Box Vandoren Clarinet Reeds Size 3 (Please have a minimum of 6 working reeds), Thumb-eez for RH thumb rest - if desired

Saxophone: 1 Box Vandoren Alto Saxophone Reeds - Size 3, Saxophone Silk Swab, Woodwind Cork Grease, Reed Protector Case

Trumpet/French Horn/Baritone/Tuba: Brass Valve Oil, Brass Slide Grease, Mouthpiece Cleaning Brush, Cleaning Snake

Trombone: Trombone Slide Cream, Trombone Spray Bottle, Mouthpiece Cleaning Brush, Cleaning Snake

Percussion: Vic Firth SD1 General Drumsticks, Kaces “Xpress” Standard Drum Stick Bag, Balter Basic Yarn Mallets – Blue/Medium

Website Use

Mrs. Pannell’s Band Website hosts a multitude of pages with important information regarding the band program: www.pkband.weebly.com

Handbook Contract Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Instrument: _____

Parent Name: _____ Preferred Contact Email/Phone: _____

We understand and support the each portion of the Band Program indicated in this packet!

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

We understand the Concert Commitment, have marked each performance in our calendar, and will be at each performance of our ensemble!

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

We have accessed and know to utilize the Band Website for information regarding the program:

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

We have: returned the polo shirt order form

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

****Please sign, detach this page, and return entire sheet to Mrs. Pannell by Friday, August 28th.** Please keep the rest of the packet at home for your reference throughout the year! Students who have not returned the form by this date will not be allowed to participate until the form is turned in.

