

PINE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2016-2017

Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the Pine View Middle School band program. As a member, you will learn to play a musical instrument, meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the performing arts.

To be a successful band member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with good character, have pride, and respect others and their property. As a band member you not only represent yourself, you represent the band program and the entire school. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of playing for one's own enjoyment.

It has been our experience that much of the information given to students rarely makes it home. It is with this in mind that we have a band link on the school webpage. You can access the site by visiting pvms.pasco.k12.fl.us. There will be a link at the top of the page, titled "PVMS Music Department". Scroll down to Panther Band link. There, you will find forms and other important information about current and upcoming events. You may of course call Mrs. Richardson in the band room at (813) 794-4861 or leave a message at the main office (813) 794-4800. Usually the best time to reach me is before or after school. You can also e-mail me at the following email address:

Mrs. Richardson: mlrichar@pasco.k12.fl.us

PRACTICE/PRIVATE LESSONS

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice at least 30 minutes a day outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 30 minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you skip days then try to make up time by practicing longer. As soon as we all get settled with the routine of school starting up, I will be having regular office hours where students may come into the band room and practice their instrument. I will be there to answer any questions of concerns they may have while practicing. I will send home information regarding office/practice hours. It is not a requirement that students take private lessons, but private instruction combined with practice can make a tremendous improvement in a student's playing ability. See Mrs. Richardson if you are interested in information regarding private lessons.

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE (during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attend and participate in **ALL** the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class and ensembles. The District School Board of Pasco County has Band listed as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is essential and a required component of the course. To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our band calendar. The calendar and other important information can be viewed by clicking on the "Music Department" link of the school web site <pvms.pasco.k12.fl.us>. Click on the Panther Band link for more information. Remember, **performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade.** Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness, Pasco County guidelines state that you may NOT participate in any after school activity.

We live in Florida and as you know it can get extremely hot outside so proper hydration is important. We will always provide water during outside rehearsals or performances when heat can become an issue. It is important that students take time to hydrate.

Extra-Curricular Conflicts

At PVMS, we believe that it is important for students to experience as many activities as they choose. In order for both the student and school groups to be successful, the following guidelines must be observed. That being said, I can only work around school activities. Should your child also participate in community groups like cheerleading, dance and other sporting groups, I would ask that you PLEASE check the mandatory dates listed on our calendar against those of whatever group you are considering before signing up for them and paying the fees associated with such groups. Chorus is a *class* complete with assessment and exams and community event conflicts with mandated performances will not be considered excused.

- 1) If a conflict arises where there is a *sports practice at the same time as a concert*, the student should perform at the **concert**.
- 2) If a *game occurs at the same time as a choral rehearsal or fundraiser*, the student should participate in the **game**.
- 3) We have done our best to ensure there is not a game at the same time as a concert.

UNIFORM/DRESS CODE

The dress code for Beginning Band & Concert Band is (black & white) formal. Students in PVMS Band will be issued a concert uniform in which they will wear to the Winter and Spring Concerts. While reviewing the following information, please remember that **students dressed inappropriately will no be allowed to perform.**

Girls and Boys – Please wear ONLY the concert uniform provided by Pine View Middle School Band to concerts. We recommended that EVERYONE wear closed toe shoes. We are asking Pep Band members to purchase a closed toe black shoe. The shoes purchased for pep band may also be worn with the concert uniform.

Dress Code for Music Ensembles outside of regular Band:

It is the responsibility of each student to dress appropriately while representing the school. Students in these groups need to wear the band t-shirt (\$15.00), black long pants, all black shoes and black socks during outside events such as pep assemblies and other school events. In an effort to keep costs down we will be using the same design shirt as last year. In addition, the full band uniform will be issued to Intermediate Band, Advanced Band and percussion ensemble for pep band events. Students who wear the uniform will need to provide their own **BLACK SOCKS** and **BLACK, CLOSED TOE FLAT SHOES** that are suitable for marching and concert. You should be able to use the same shoes and socks for both uniform and non-uniformed events. There is a \$25.00 cleaning fee that will be collected from students that are issued uniforms. Payments for t-shirts, cleaning fee, and/or books may be made with cash or check payable to Pine View Middle School.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- * Students will show respect at all times toward the directors, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property, and the property of others.
- * Gum, candy, food or drinks are NOT allowed in the music suite, on busses, during rehearsals or performances without director permission.
- * Smoking, tobacco products, or alcohol is prohibited by anyone entering the PVMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing PVMS Band during off campus activities.
- * Students should plan to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled events. Prior arrangements need to be made IN WRITING if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.
- * Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.
- * For sanitary, safety and liability reasons, students should only play their own instrument.
- * Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated while representing the Pine View Middle School Band.
- * Students are responsible for issued items. This may include but not limited to: instrument, supplies, uniform, lock, music, flip folder, music folder etc. Replacement or repair fees may be assessed if items become lost or damaged.

GRADES

Grades are based on many factors such as class participation, performance tests (both playing and written), music preparation, performance objectives, notebook, special projects, rehearsal and performance attendance, and following the policies and procedures of the class. Students are required to bring their instrument, music, and a pencil to class everyday. All students enrolled in band are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Again, Band is a “Core Class”, which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a student’s grade.

SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. Parent contact, reflection sheet with time out and conference with a teacher.
2. Parent contact and lunch detention.
3. Parent contact and in class suspension with lunch detention and team conference.
4. Discipline referral

INSTRUMENTS LEFT AT HOME OR IN NEED OF REPAIR

Instruments left at home:

Students need to bring their instrument and actively participate everyday. Students that forget to bring their instrument to class will be given an alternative assignment and may lose participation points. It is important to remember that Band is a performance and participation class. When a student is unable to play because they left their instrument at home, they are not fully participating in class.

Instruments in need of repair:

Instruments need to be kept in good working condition. A student will NOT be penalized if their instrument needs repair. When a student comes to class without an instrument because it is being repaired they will be given an alternative assignment. The only way for us to distinguish the difference between a student that left their instrument at home and one that's being repaired is if we receive a note or phone call from a parent. This policy prevents a student that left their instrument at home from saying "It's in the repair shop."

Often the problem with an instrument is minor. You might want to see Mrs. Richardson before you bring the instrument in for repair. If the instrument needs to go to the shop, it is generally a good idea to take it back to where it was rented or purchased. Always ask for a loaner so the student doesn't fall behind. Some music stores service our school on a weekly basis, arrangements can be made for one of them to pick up the instrument from the band room and return it the following week. They usually have loaners available but you will need to contact them before they come out.

BAND ROOM INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Pine View Middle School band students are fortunate to have a beautiful facility. The music suite contains two large rehearsal rooms, a uniform room, an entrance for backpack storage, and an instrument storage facility. The instrument storage facility has lockers for instrument storage. It should be noted that the lockers are for instrument use only. Although lockers are often shared by two or more students, there are not be enough for everyone. Even though lockers are issued, students are responsible for their own instrument, equipment, and personal belongings. Locker or not, all students will have a designated place in the band room to store their instrument. Only PVMS issued Band locks may be placed on the lockers. Lockers and locks are issued free of charge however, there is a \$5.00 replacement fee for any lost or damaged lock. Using the locker room storage area is a privilege and students will need to exercise good behavior.

BAND REQUIREMENTS

In order to begin to learn how to play an instrument you must acquire a certain amount of equipment and supplies. Obtaining the following list of items is the responsibility of each student and/or parent. We strongly suggest that Beginning Band students rent an instrument their first year of playing. Most music stores will rent on a rent-to-own basis. Buying an instrument is a personal investment one should consider after playing a year or so. We highly recommend that you avoid purchasing your first instrument off the internet or from a store that sells flutes and groceries. Unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and the ability to play, be weary of pawn shops for your first purchase. It is always a good idea to do business with a store that not only sells equipment and supplies, but can also service that instrument. This is why we recommended you do business with a store that specializes in school band instruments. PVMS Band has a number of instruments available to issue to students free of charge however, it is a limited supply and we are not in the music store business.

Beginning Band “Wind Instrument” Requirements:

- * Pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as instrument cleaning supplies, swabs, reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * Book: “Essential Elements 2000” book ONE *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * For clarinet and saxophones: Rico Reeds 2-2 ½ strength are recommended
- * Black shoes and black socks for concerts
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)

Beginning Band “Percussion” Requirements:

- * Pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Medium rubber or yarn mallets, practice pad and set of light weight drum sticks. You will need the mallets first.
- * Book: “Essential Elements 2000” book ONE *Note: You need the percussion book.*
- * Black shoes and black socks for concerts
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)

Intermediate Band “Wind Instrument” Requirements:

- * Notebook & pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as instrument cleaning supplies, swabs, reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * For clarinet and saxophones: Rico Reeds 2 ½ to 3 strength are recommended
- * Book: “Essential Elements 2000” book ONE (used as review) *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * Book: “Tradition of Excellence” book TWO *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * All black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * Pep Band Uniform cleaning fee
- * Pep Band Wick Away set (\$30.00)
- * Pep Band Music lyre and flip folder (issued free of charge)

Intermediate Band “Percussion” Requirements:

- * Notebook & pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Practice pad, stick bag, at least one set of medium rubber or yarn mallets
- * Book “Essential Elements 2000” book ONE (used as review) *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * Book: “Tradition of Excellence” book TWO *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * Book: “Alfred’s Drum Method” Book ONE by Sandy Feldstein and Dave Black
- * All black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * Pep Band Uniform cleaning fee
- * Pep Band Wick Away Set (\$30.00)

Advanced Band “Wind Instrument” Requirements:

- * Notebook & pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as instrument cleaning supplies, swabs, reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * For clarinet and saxophones: Rico Reeds 2 ½ to 3 strength are recommended
- * Book: “Tradition of Excellence” book TWO *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * All black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * Pep Band Uniform cleaning fee
- * Pep Band Wick Away set (\$30.00)
- * Pep Band Music lyre and flip folder (issued free of charge)

Advanced Band “Percussion” Requirements:

- * Notebook & pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors
- * Practice pad, stick bag, at least one set of medium rubber or yarn mallets
- * Book: “Alfred’s Drum Method” Book ONE by Sandy Feldstein and Dave Black
- * Book: “Tradition of Excellence” book TWO *Note: Each book is instrument specific.*
- * All black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * PVMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * Pep Band Uniform cleaning fee
- * Pep Band Wick Away Set (\$30.00)

MUSIC STORE INFORMATION

We have included a list of music stores that rent and sell new and used instruments, music and supplies. We are not endorsing any particular vender. However, we can tell you that most of our students have done business with one or more of the following stores. Be a wise consumer and shop around for the best deal. A word of caution, avoid doing business with a store that is not music specific just because they're close. Also, we recommend that you do business with a store that specializes in new and used brass, woodwind and percussion instruments and has an on-site repair shop. You should also know that you will probably only visit a particular store once or twice a year and that the larger stores often carry a greater selection and newer instruments. Remember, your child will be playing the instrument every day so it may be worth the drive. Most music stores will require that you have a major credit card for a deposit in order to rent an instrument. Music Showcase, Inc. services our school on a weekly basis. Give them a call if you need anything and they will deliver it to the school.

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| A Allegro Music Co. | Largo/Seminole | (727) 251-9439 |
| Bringe Music | St. Petersburg | (727) 822-3460 |
| Bigel Music | Tampa | (813) 463-8968 |
| Dynamic Music Center | Palm Harbor | (727) 772-5555 |
| Encore Music Emporium (a satellite store for Bringe Music) | New Port Richey | (727) 862-2882 |
| Happy Tunes | Lutz | (813) 948-1419 |
| Jam Music | Wesley Chapel | (813) 973-8430 |
| Music Matters | New Port Richey | (727) 834-8856 |
| *Music Showcase, Inc. | Tampa (813) 932-9008 | Brandon (813) 685-5998 |
| Paragon Music | Tampa | (813) 876-3459 |
| Ramblin' Rhodes Music | Trinity | (727) 375-0123 |
| Sam Ash | Clearwater (727) 725-8062 | Tampa (813) 908-5556 |
| The Brass & Woodwind Shop | Wesley Chapel | (813) 971-2120 |

The following questions may be helpful when looking for a music store.

1. How long have you been in business?
2. Do you carry several different brands and models?
3. Do you rent and sell both new and used instruments?
4. Are you a satellite store for a larger store?
5. What is your repair policy and do you offer a loaner instrument?
6. Do you repair at this facility or do you send instruments out?
7. Do you offer different rental prices for new and used instruments?
8. Will you be sending a representative regularly to Pine View Middle School?
9. In what country are the instruments you rent or sell manufactured?
10. Will you apply the paid rental toward a purchase if I choose to buy at a later date?

We encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in band was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

I have read and understand the information included in the Band Handbook.

Date: _____ Period: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____