

**Flossmoor School District 161**

# **Parker Junior High**



**2018-2019**

# **Band Handbook**

**Mrs. Elana Reid**

**Mrs. Heather Hoefle**

**Directors**

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## ***Band Rehearsal Schedule\****

\*Please note: “rehearsals” are during enrichment time, with the whole group. “Lessons” occur in smaller groups, once a week for ½ hour on a rotating pull-out schedule.

7th & 8th Grade Band: 10:13-10:56 a.m.

6th Grade Band: 11:32 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

**\* Bands will meet during the enrichment/music period Tuesdays - Fridays.**

**6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who are also in choir:** Tuesday band, Wednesday choir, Thursday band, Friday choir.

**6th, 7th and 8th grade students in both band and orchestra:** Tuesday band, Wednesday band, Thursday orchestra, Friday orchestra

**Blue Jazz Band** - rehearsal on Tuesdays after school from 3:05-4:05. Activity bus available.

**Gold Jazz Band** - rehearsal on Thursdays from 3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m., plus additional Tuesday sectionals from 3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m., approximately every three weeks.

## ***Grading***

Grading will be based upon the following:

- Full Band Rehearsal Participation 20%
  - Bringing supplies to class (instrument. reeds, valve oil, pencil, music, etc.)
  - Getting to seat on time
  - Remaining attentive and respectful throughout rehearsal, following classroom rules and procedures
- **Group Lesson Attendance REQUIRED** 20%,
  - Being prepared on assigned material
  - Bringing supplies (Method Book, Band Binder, pencil, instrument etc.) to class
  - Arriving promptly to lessons
- Performances 25%
- Quizzes, tests, bookwork and scales (vary) 15%
- Practice 20%
  - Practice Journals (90 min./week)
  - Taking instrument home on weekends

**You can keep track of your child’s participation and progress from home through Sykward Family Access.**

The Band is a team. In order to present the students with the best musical education possible, each member needs to be in attendance and arrive on time. ***Students who do not attend lessons regularly or meet behavior expectations may be dismissed at the director’s discretion.***

### ***Group Lessons (in school)***

In addition to attending rehearsals, students are required to attend a half hour lesson on their respective instrument every week. Students have the responsibility to come to lessons on their own. The band directors are not free to come get students out of class for lessons. Each student will be assigned a rotating lesson group. Students who are taking a test or are involved in a lab are expected to reschedule a lesson during a different time. Students who miss a lesson are responsible for meeting with their director to schedule a make-up lesson.

### ***Practice Journals***

Students should practice their lesson assignments in a well-lit area, **with a music stand**. Practice journals **must be signed by a parent or guardian, then TURNED IN** in order to be accepted. **The practice journal is due at the first rehearsal of the week.** Late practice journals are only accepted until the end of the week of the due date. Grades for practice journals are as follows:

- 90 minutes and above - A
- 70-89 minutes - B
- 50-69 minutes - C
- 30-49 minutes - D
- 29 and under - U

Every student **ALWAYS** has a scale and book work assignment, in addition to the band music. There is always something to practice for improvement!

### ***Behavior***

Students are expected to behave in a manner that does not interfere with the rehearsal process. Students who have repeated difficulty behaving to our expectations or do not take proper care of school equipment, may be asked to leave the program.

### ***Band Uniform***

- Parker Junior High **Music Department polo shirt** (also worn for orchestra and choir)
- **black adult-style dress pants** (please no grey, pinstripes, or navy blue, no leggings, skinny jeans, ankle pants or capris),
- **black socks**
- **plain, solid black dress shoes.** This will be the uniform for the Memorial Day Parade as well. A student who is not properly dressed in uniform will not be permitted to participate in performances and will lose points towards his/her participation grade. Shoes for marching should be a closed toe shoe with flat soles.

***\* 7th and 8th graders will be required to purchase a separate shirt for HF Youth Night.***

## ***Jazz Band***

In jazz band students perform big band charts and standard jazz arrangements with an emphasis on improvisation. The Jazz Bands meet once a week after school. All students participating in jazz band are given extra-credit toward their report card grade. Auditions for the Gold (advanced) and Blue Jazz Bands are held in September.

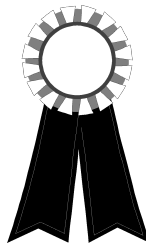
## ***Marching Band***

During the weeks between the Spring Concert and Memorial Day, both Concert Band and Symphonic Band students begin preparing for the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Homewood. Rehearsals will be during class, plus 4 to 6 additional rehearsals after school to combine the groups. **All students are required to participate in rehearsals regardless of whether or not they will participate in the parade itself.**



## ***Solo and Ensemble Festival***

All Concert and Symphonic Band students participate in our Solo and Ensemble Festival. The event takes place on a Saturday in February, and is a unique opportunity for students to perform in a solo or small group, and to gain insight from working professionals. Students who are unable to participate on the Saturday will be expected to perform their event for both Parker band instructors.



## ***Private Lessons (outside of school)***

One-to-one instruction is encouraged to ensure our students success as an instrumentalist. Professional private teachers of the highest caliber are available to teach our students on an individual basis at local music stores such as the Melody Mart (798-5500). A list of additional private lesson instructors can be obtained from Mrs. Reid or Mrs. Hoefle.

## *Equipment*

In addition to their **Essential Elements book** and band uniform, students will need the following:

**Flute** – handkerchief (for swab) and cleaning rod. Silk swabs are for sale at Quinlan and Fabish, but a plain men's handkerchief will work just as well.

**Oboe** – small water-tight container for water (film cases work well), at least three reeds of appropriate strength from <https://www.nielsen-woodwinds.com>, music stand clip for water container, silk or feather swab

**Clarinet, alto saxophone** – cork grease, reed guard (plastic device for holding reeds, not the same as the ones the reeds come in), several reeds of the appropriate strength (depends on the student's development), and handkerchief swab

**Tenor Saxophone** – cork grease, reed guard (plastic device for holding reeds, not the same as the ones the reeds come in), several reeds of the appropriate strength (depends on the student's development), clarinet hankie swab (for neck of saxophone) and tenor sax handkerchief swab.

**Horn** – rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease

**Trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba** – valve oil, tuning slide grease

### **Percussion –**

Listed below are the types of mallets required, with some suggestions for models that can be purchased at Melody Mart in Homewood or at [SteveWeissmusic.com](http://SteveWeissmusic.com). Once purchased, make sure that student names are placed on sticks, mallets, and the stick bag. Prices are subject to change. **If you still have the drumsticks and bell mallets from the percussion kit, then all you will need to purchase are the yarn mallets, timpani mallets and the stick bag.**

**An entire package can be purchased from [SteveWeissMusic.com](http://SteveWeissMusic.com):**

**SteveWeissmusic.com - Liberty Basic Stick Pack (SWSTICKPACK) \$49.95**

**Or items can be purchased separately from Melody Mart**

	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
<b>Concert Drumsticks</b>	Vic Firth SD1	\$9..99
<b>Plastic Mallets</b>	Mike Balter Model 91BB (Medium Hard, 1 1/8" Poly Ball) with Birch Handles	\$19.95
<b>Rubber Mallets</b>	Mike Balter O4BB light green	\$19.95
<b>Yarn Mallets</b>	Mike Balter 13BB medium blue	\$27.95
<b>Timpani Mallets</b>	Vic Firth T1 General Timpani Mallets	\$29.95
<b>Stick Bag</b>	Zildjian Black Cordura Z13255	\$13.99

# SmartMusic

SmartMusic is a computer program that your child can use at home for practice. The Essential Elements book is already in SmartMusic, along with some of our concert music, some solo pieces, and pop/movie music as well.

Generally, it is a program that accompanies your child's practice at home, to make practice more fun and productive. For example, with practicing a band piece that is included, your child can see his or her part on the screen, while hearing the whole band around them.

SmartMusic can be used for practicing band music, method books, scales, jazz improvisation and more.

More information can be found at [SmartMusic.com](http://SmartMusic.com)



## **HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN BAND**

- 1. Make sure your child has all the accessories he or she needs (music stand, reeds, valve oil, swabs, etc.).**
- 2. Listen for practicing at home, and look to see what your child is working on, and that book assignments are being worked on. Ask for performances. Listen for progress, not perfection.**
- 3. Check your email often, and Skyward to see if your child is attending lessons, following expectations in rehearsal, and turning in practice journals.**
- 4. Check to make sure your child brings their instrument home on weekends (at least!) for practice.**
- 5. Be sure your child has the proper uniform.**
- 6. Consider private lessons outside of school.**
- 7. Make sure you are familiar with the information in this handbook.**
- 8. Get your child to rehearsals and performances on time, with all of the proper equipment and music.**
- 9. Subscribe to SmartMusic.com at home.**

For Varsity and Falcon Orchestras, Beginning Band,  
and all Parker Bands and Choirs



All members of our musical groups are required to own a royal blue Music Department polo shirt. This is the same shirt used last year. Sample shirts are available at Parker to help determine sizes. **If you intend to use a shirt from last year, please make sure it is large enough to fit throughout the school year.** Shirts ordered later in the year will be charged an additional silk screening fee.

*In addition to the polo shirt, every music department participant will need to have **black adult-style dress pants (please no navy or grey, no leggings, capris, etc.), black socks, and black dress shoes.***

Please fill out the form below and return it to us **no later than September 21st.**  
**Payment must be turned in with the shirt order. All sizes except XXL are \$10.00.**

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Group \_\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you have a Parker music polo that fits \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one if ordering:      chL   chXL   S   M   L   XL   XXL (\$11.00)  
(child's sizes run small)

**All sizes except XXL are \$10.00.** Please pay cash or make checks payable to  
Flossmoor District #161. Payment must be turned in with the shirt order. **PLEASE  
WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THE CHECK.**



# **Band Commitment Contract**

## **Due no later than Thursday, September 13th.**

**Students who do not have a contract turned in by that date will not be permitted to participate in rehearsals until the contract is received.**

Failure to participate in band events, as well as all rehearsals and group lessons without proper notice, may result in consequences such as a lower grade or dismissal from the program.

Any changes to the information included in the band handbook will be announced as soon as we are aware of them.

**I have read the Band Handbook for the 2018-2019 school year and I understand all for which I am responsible.**

Student's signature (required!) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we share your contact information with the PTO band parent to help with events and donations?

\_\_\_\_ Yes, it is okay to share my contact information

\_\_\_\_ No, please do not share my information with the PTO at this time.

**Thank you!!**