

Twin Peaks Middle School Band

Welcome Students and Parents to the 2009-10 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 add to your development as a person. At TPMS we have three 7th and 8th grade bands and two 6th grade bands. We also have a Jazz Band that is available through audition only. Please take the time to read and understand the Band policies and grading procedures on the following pages. These policies, concert dates, testing dates, and more will be posted on the band website www.tpmsband.com and on my Learning Point site.

Student Responsibilities

1. Bring your instrument every day that you have band and make sure it is in good working condition at all times. Instruments cases need to be clearly labeled with your name and band in bold letters. ***Fred Smith 6th Grade band period 5.*** You can also use a luggage tag.
2. All students are required to have a 1 inch **three ring binder** with their name in big letters.
3. All students are required to bring their own music to class. Do not rely on your stand partner to bring their music. Each student is responsible for all materials given to them in class. I will provide all students with one copy of music and handouts. ******Replacing any lost papers, music, or materials will be the responsibility of the student******
4. All students should have a pencil 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. Your main homework assignment for the year is to learn your music. You are responsible to be able to play all the music in your folder, including scales, chorales, and rhythm studies. Occasionally you will be called on to perform your instrument in class. Students will also have classroom and homework to go along with various music tests.
6. All students will need to show proficiency on scales. Scales tests will be given during class at the end of both semesters (January and June). The scales tested on will be the same scales that the students have worked on during the school year.
7. All Percussion/Mallet players must provide their own drum sticks, two pairs of mallet sticks (soft and hard), and timpani sticks. I will provide the drum equipment. Music stores have a packaged set available for purchase. 6th Grade percussion students we will have a *required* drum class in the month of September.
8. 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 use a school instrument. There is no fee to use a TPMS school instrument.

Classroom Procedures

Students will enter the band room quietly.

Before class starts wait for teacher directions before playing any instrument/equipment. Make sure valves are oiled before class starts.

“Down time” will be provided between songs.

Raise hand to ask a question, use restroom, or get Kleenex.

Quietly leave classroom.

Band room rules

1. Do not chew gum or eat food in the band room. (Water is ok)
2. If you have 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 someone while they are playing and do damage to their instrument or face.
3. Do not run in the band room.
4. If you are borrowing a mouthpiece make sure you sanitize it before you play.
5. Never play directly into someone’s ears. This could cause permanent damage.
6. Do not play your instruments outside of class.
7. No personal instruments are to be left in the storage room at the end of the day.
8. No yelling or horsing around.
9. Do not touch any instrument that does not belong to you.

Concerts

1. In order to perform a concert you must demonstrate that you have learned your music. During class I will use ongoing assessments to determine if students are ready. A phone call home will be made at least two weeks before a performance if a student is not properly prepared for the concert.
2. Concert dress: A big part of performing is dressing nicely. The dress requirement for all concerts (except the 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 ladies 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 or tennis shoes.**
3. Each year the all band students have the opportunity to participate in a field trip that has the band perform a concert and then spend the rest of the day in an amusement park. Participating on 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 in their other classes and NO “Ns” or “Us” in citizenship or effort. Failure to do so is cause for your exclusion from a

field trip. When we perform we represent not only ourselves, but Twin Peaks Middle School and the Poway Unified School District.

4. Concerts are **mandatory** (except the amusement park festivals). I realize conflicts do happen please give me at the minimum at least two weeks' notice. I realize emergencies (broken bones, sick, death in the family, etc.) happen and I will do everything possible to accommodate you. Unexcused absences from a concert will drop your overall letter grade by 30%.

How you receive your Citizenship and Effort Grade in Band

Citizenship Grade

Any unnecessary talking or behavior will lower this grade. During rehearsal you are expected to be quiet and courteous to all students in the classroom.

O = Outstanding: Student does not talk in class and is on task.

G = Good: Some minor talking and/or off task behavior but not enough to cause a disruption in class

S = Satisfactory: Some occasional talking and the student has been told to stop talking by instructor more than three times in a quarter.

N= Needs Improvement: Student is talking in class and/or off task numerous times.

U = Unsatisfactory: Student frequently talks and disrupts class.

Students in danger of receiving an N or U will receive a phone call home.

Effort Grade

O = Outstanding: Student is prepared for every class and has shown improvement on their music.

G = Good: Student has forgotten either their music or instrument on two occasions.

S = Satisfactory: student has come unprepared to class and has forgotten their music or instrument three times in a quarter.

N = Needs Improvement: Frequently unprepared for class and has forgotten their music or instrument four times in a quarter.

U = Unsatisfactory: Unprepared for a class five or more times during a quarter.

Students in danger of receiving an N or U will receive a phone call home.

If your instrument is being repaired please give Mr. Moreau a note with the name of store and the estimated return time. These are excused and will not count against your effort grade.

Letter Grade

The overall breakdown is as follows.

Citizenship 25%

Effort 25%

Concert, Performance evaluations , scale and other music tests or assignments 50%

******Missing any concert will cause your grade to drop 30%******

Students in danger of receiving a “D” or “F” will receive a phone call home.

Switching Instruments

We are always in the need of more low brass players and double reed (bassoon and oboe) musicians. We have the following instruments available to switch to and borrow:

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 see me or Mr. Nowak. 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.

Reed and mouthpiece recommendations

These are only recommendations and should not be seen as set in stone, each child is different.

ACCESSORIES:

Woodwind instruments should have at least 4 extra reeds in the case at all times. 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

Brass valve oil and slide cream (trombones also need water spray bottle)

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

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. If the student is struggling do not hesitate to call or email me. Encourage your child to either ask for after school tutoring or start taking private lessons.
4. Make sure your student uses their practice time effectively. Use a room that has no distractions (no TV, iPods, or cell phones). 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.

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.

Fundraising: This year we will ask for a small donation, continue with the restaurant fundraisers, and some other activities. All of the money donated or raised will be used by the band exclusively. Donating money to the band program is not mandatory.

Twin Peaks Band Boosters: If you want more info on our Band Booster program or to hear how you can help please contact our Band Booster President Mrs. Alkire at tpmsbandmom@yahoo.com.

Please email me at amoreau@powayusd.com with your best email address to reach you so that I can send you important band information throughout the school year. Please include your son or daughters name and what band they are in.

Please sign and return this page to Mr. Moreau by August 27th.

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

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian signature

Comments/questions: