

Palos South Middle School Band Handbook 2022-2023



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Band Director

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Dear Band Parents and Students,

With a new school year come new prospects for the continued growth of our band program at District 118. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, it is essential that everyone be made aware of the goals, expectations, and procedures for our band members. This handbook has been prepared to acquaint all families of the various parts of our program, and to assist you in planning your calendar for the year.

To the returning families, welcome back to the program! I am excited about the prospect of making great music with your children this year. To the families who are new to District 118, welcome! I am looking forward to working with you and your children.

Please note carefully the enclosed **Performance Calendar dates**. Notify me immediately if there are any potential conflicts for your son or daughter. It is vital that every member of the band is present for all performances; you are all important to our success. Calendar updates will be given to you as soon as I receive the information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time during the school year if you have any questions or concerns.

Musically yours,

Stavros Makropoulos
Band Director
Palos South Middle School
smakropoulos@palos118.org

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Band Performance Calendar

(Attached to handbook and available online at sites.google.com/view/palos118band)

Mission Statement

Holding high expectations, with confidence that all will succeed the dedicated team of staff, students, parents, and community of the Palos #118 Band Program are committed to the mission of developing life-long musicians, by providing an encouraging environment conducive to musical advancement, empowering students to be independent, self-motivated, and respectful participants.

Expectations

To support the mission of the Palos #118 Band program, we hold to the following expectations:

The Director Will:



1. Be organized, prepared, and punctual.
2. Design and deliver effective instruction that is student centered.
3. Create and maintain a safe classroom environment.
4. Be consistent and fair with a positive disposition.
5. Keep open lines of communication and respond to requests in a timely manner.
6. Model the behavior of a life-long musician.



The Students Will:

1. Be respectful toward the directors, peers, materials and equipment.
2. Be punctual to class and performances, equipped with music, instrument, and supplies.
3. Demonstrate their best effort in rehearsal and performance by remaining on task.
4. Practice routinely to advance their skills and make a positive contribution.
5. Attend all required rehearsals and performances.



The Parents Will:

1. Read the handbook and note all required performance dates and times.
2. Assist students in maintaining instruments and acquiring supplies.
3. Encourage students to practice and read and sign practice reports.
4. Support the students by attending concerts and participating in band activities.
5. Communicate concerns to the director as soon as they are apparent

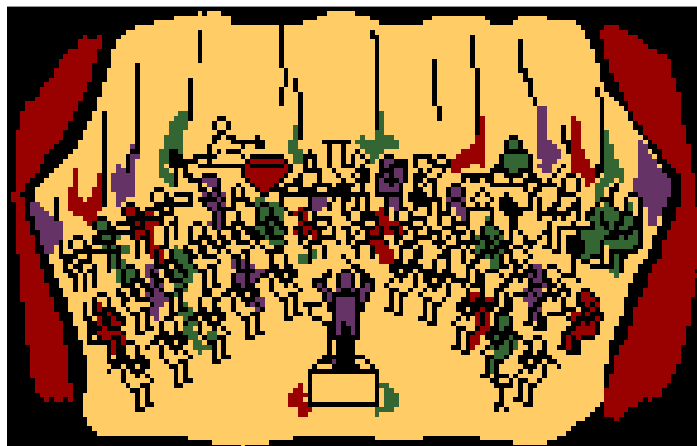
Curricular Ensembles

The band program at District #118 is organized in such a way as to best serve the needs of its members. There are four concert performing groups: **8th Grade Band**, **7th Grade Band**, **6th Grade Band**, and **5th Grade Beginning Band**.

The **8th Grade Band** is comprised of 8th grade band students who have attained a performance level commensurate to the other members of the ensemble. Rehearsal and performance literature is geared toward providing challenging and interesting performances, as well as enhancing the skills necessary for high school band. As the premier performing ensemble in the program, the 8th Grade Band performs at *most* of the events listed in the Band Calendar.

The **7th Grade Band** is comprised of 7th grade band students who have attained a performance level commensurate to the other members of the ensemble. Rehearsal and performance literature is geared toward providing challenging and interesting performances, as well as enhancing the skills necessary for 8th Grade Band. The 7th Grade Band performs at *most* of the events listed in the Band Calendar.

The **6th Grade Band** is comprised of 6th grade band students. Rehearsal and performance literature is geared toward the development of skills and fundamentals that enable members to successfully advance to 7th and 8th grade band. The 6th Grade Band performs at *most* of the events listed in the Band Calendar.



Additional Performing Ensembles

The **Marching Band** is comprised of all seventh and eighth grade band students who have attained a performance level commensurate to the other members of the ensemble. This ensemble will perform at events requiring a large number of musicians such as combined performances with Stagg High School, Parades, and Ceremonial events. The **Marching Band** plays at *some* of the events listed in the Band Calendar in this handbook.

The **Jazz Band** is an extra-curricular ensemble comprised of students in the, seventh and eighth grade bands who play the instruments most suited to this style of music. Students are considered for membership based on a performance audition and/or the instrumentation needs of the group and are placed into the performing ensemble. The Jazz Band performs at some of the events listed in the Band Calendar however, some additional performances may be scheduled. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday after school from 2:45-3:35.

The **Percussion Ensemble** is open (by audition) to all 7th, 8th grade band students who can play precise rhythms and have at least intermediate percussion technique. All percussionists are automatically members. The Cardinal Percussion Ensemble performs at the Palos South Fine Arts Festival and other school concerts. Traditional percussion ensemble music will be performed along with other “non-traditional” repertoire ala Stomp and the Blue Man Group. Rehearsals take place every Monday after school from 2:45-3:35.



Grading Policy

All Palos South band members earn and receive grades for their membership in the band program. The grades appear as part of the student's report card, **issued every quarter**. It is the goal of the band director that the grade issued reflects both the effort and achievement of each student. Toward this end, grades are not based solely upon playing ability, nor are they based solely upon attendance. Rather, they are based upon a combination of criteria that measure a student's individual progress and his/her contribution to the overall success of the group. The grading structure is broken down into three captions:

Participation - Participation in all performances is critical for our success as a unit; therefore, attendance at every performance is required. Any unexcused absence from a scheduled event will result in the student's receiving a zero for that performance. Further absences may result in expulsion from the band program.

At home assignments – Throughout the school year students will be given at home performance assignments that are to be completed via smartmusic or schoology. All home assignments will be reviewed in detail during sectionals. All at home assignments are to be implemented into a student's practice routine (see page 11).

Class Materials - Besides an instrument, all students are required to have the necessary supplies and equipment required for band at every rehearsal: This includes their band folder (or binder), all band music, band warm ups, Essential Elements Book(s), Rhythm Vocabulary Book and a pencil.



Grading Policy Continued...

At the end of each quarter, Skyward will calculate all categories and then determine each student's letter grade for the quarter, based on the following PSMS grading scale:

A	100--90
B	89--80
C	79--70
D	69--60
F	59--0



Performance Attendance

Performance attendance is mandatory for all band members.



Mr. Makropoulos must approve any excused absence. Only legitimate emergencies will excuse a student from a performance. Birthday parties, sporting events, dance recitals, homework etc. are NOT considered excused absences.

Dropping Band

Pulling out of band in the middle of the year only weakens the band program and causes major scheduling issues. **If you are enrolled in band program, you are expected to complete the FULL SCHOOL YEAR of participation.**

Rehearsal Schedule

With limited rehearsal time it is **extremely** important that each band member understands how their participation in **every rehearsal** is vital to the success of our band program.

8th Grade Band

The 8th Grade Band meets 4 days a week (3 times during zero hour and once during the school day) to work on rhythm, technique studies and performance literature. Rehearsal begins exactly at **7:29 am!** Students must be in their assigned seat with their instrument fully assembled, stands set up and music in order by the start of rehearsal.

Students should arrive in a timely manner to avoid being tardy. Zero-hour Symphonic Band is a graded class period and attendance is mandatory. Unexcused zero-hour absences from rehearsal will affect your student's grade.

(Oversleeping, finishing assignments, team practices are not valid reasons to miss rehearsal.)

Rehearsal Days and Times:

- Monday, Thursday and Friday during zero hour
- Tuesday during 3rd period

7th Grade Band

The 7th Grade Band meets 5 days a week during the school day to work on rhythm, technique studies and performance literature. Rehearsal begins exactly **2 minutes after the bell rings!** Students must be in their assigned seat with their instrument fully assembled, stands set up and music in order by the start of rehearsal.

Rehearsal Days and Times:

- Monday – Friday during 4th period

Special Rehearsals:

- When preparing for Stagg HS events and the Palos Park Parade, some rehearsals will combine both 7th and 8th Grade Band. (Called the Marching Band)

Rehearsal Schedule Continued...

6th Grade Band

The 6th Grade Band meets 2 days a week during the school day to work on rhythm, technique studies and performance literature. Rehearsal begins exactly **3 minutes after the bell rings!** Students must be in their assigned seat with their instrument fully assembled, stands set up and music in order by the start of rehearsal. In addition to rehearsals, 6th grade band students are required to attend one lunch sectional per week.

Rehearsal Days and Times:

- **Quarter #1, #3, #4:** Tuesday and Wednesday during 5th period
- **Quarter #2:** Monday – Friday during 5th period

Lunch Sectionals:

- Lunch sectionals are essential and therefore part of the attendance/performance grade for all 6th Grade Band members.

6 th Grade Lunch Sectionals (6 th period)				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Flutes	Clarinets	Saxophones	Brass	Percussion

Students will have 10 minutes to eat lunch, then must immediately report to the band room on their sectional day.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band rehearses every Tuesday after school from 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm. **Attendance is mandatory.** Two unexcused absences will result in removal from the ensemble.

On occasion, the need for more rehearsals may exist. This will be scheduled and agreed upon by both the director and ensemble members.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble rehearses every Monday after school from 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm. With such limited rehearsal time, **Attendance is mandatory.** Two unexcused absences will result in removal from the ensemble.

At Home Practice

At home practice is essential to both the student's and the band's growth. Therefore, it is expected that every band student practice, at the minimum, **150 minutes a week (30 minutes per day)**. This will ensure a student will maintain proper dexterity and technique on their instrument and allow them to master homework assignments in the lesson book.

Please know that rehearsal time is not for working on individual parts or issues. This is what sectionals and practicing at home are for. Having to address individual issues due to lack of practicing is counter-productive during rehearsal time and disrupts the overall purpose of rehearsal.

ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE TO GO HOME EVERY DAY!



Supplies

Instrument Supplies

Students need certain materials in order to play and maintain their instruments properly. Below are specific items required for each instrument

Trumpet, Horn, Baritone, Tuba - Valve Oil - Tuning Slide Grease	Trombone - Slide Cream - Small Spray Bottle - Tuning Slide Grease	Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone - Premium reeds (4 at all times) - Cleaning Swab - Cork Grease - Neck Strap (saxophone only)
Flute - Flute Rod - Cotton or Silk Cloth	Percussion - Stick Bag with Name Tag - Staccato Timpani mallets - General Snare Sticks (5B) - Wire Brushes - Hard Plastic Xylophone/Bell Mallets	All Instruments - Your Instrument with Name Tag - Band Binder (see page 12) - Lyre (7 th and 8 th grade) - Flip folder (7 th and 8 th grade)






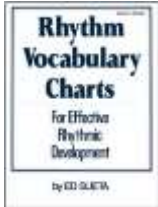


It is the responsibility of the student and his or her parent/guardian to purchase the above items and have an adequate supply at all times. The Director will advise each student in regards to specific reeds, lubricants, sticks, etc. are needed. You may purchase these items at any local music store. **All students must have these items before Friday, September 2nd.**

Supplies Continued...

Band Binder and Band Folders

6th grade Band members will be given one complimentary **Band folder** at the beginning of the school year. In the band folder, must have all of the student's band music, band books and a pencil.

Due to the large amount of music to be performed, the 7th and 8th Grade band students are highly encouraged to have a **Band Binder** and bring it to every rehearsal/sectional. Below are the following items that should to be in your binder. Please see the 6th grade band folder information above if you do not choose to use a binder.

<p>1. 2 inch, 3 ring binder</p> 	<p>2. Sheet Protectors</p> 	<p>3. Dividers</p> 
<p>4. Pencil Case (only used for band)</p> 	<p>5. Pencils + Highlighters</p> 	<p>6. Rhythm Vocab Charts Book #1 by Ed Sueta</p> 
<p>7. Essential Elements Book (7th and 8th Grade will need book #2)</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Book 1 Book 2</p>	<p>8. Metronome/Tuner (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can go in instrument case if it does not fit in the binder - Alternatively, you can download a free app on your smart device 	



Band Uniform

	You must provide
6 th 7 th 8 th Grade Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Black Dress Pants- Black Dress Shoes- Black Dress Socks- Black Dress Shoes- Red Palos Music Shirt

The Red Palos Music Shirt can be purchased via the Palos 118 Webstore. Purchasing windows will be open until mid- September.

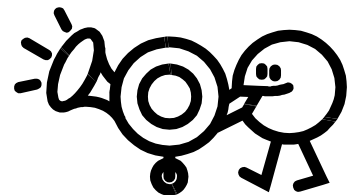
Band uniforms are required for performances. The student will not perform if he/she does not have all the components of the uniform at the time of the performance.

Permission Slips + Student Pickup

Permission Slips will be sent home with every student for all **out of school** performances. Details of the event will also be included with the permission slip. Please adhere to the following guidelines concerning field trip permission slips and student pick-up:

- Permission slips for field trips **must be turned in on time.**
- Any special circumstances must be written on the form or attached note.
- The band director must have prior notice of alternate transportation/pick-up plans.
- Only pick up students in front of the commons are at the specified time on the permission slip.
- Please do not park in front of the commons area before the busses arrive. There must be room for the busses to turn, park, unload students and unload equipment.

My main concern is for the safety and well being of the students. Since I am dealing with a large number of students, I need to be organized well before any event. **Please do not be offended if I refuse your request to take your child from an event without prior notice.** Last minute changes only add more confusion to the event. When your children are in my care, I want you to know that they are safe.



Other Music Activities

Two annual activities open to 8th grade students are the **ILMEA Honor Band** and the **SWIC All Conference Band Festival**. These are performing groups comprised of the most accomplished players in the school district. ILMEA is an auditioned event. Each school in the SWIC conference selects up to 12 members to participate.

Summer Band Camp is an activity strongly recommended to all band students. Summer Band typically takes place in late July or early August, depending on enrollment, school availability and the band director's schedule. Summer Band is the training camp for our school. Statistics show that students who participate in Summer Band are more likely continue band all three years and demonstrate a higher level of musical achievement. There will be an additional fee for Summer Band.

Private Lessons is by far one of the most rewarding long-term musical endeavors outside of school time. Studying with a professional who specializes on your instrument is the best way to improve musical skills, mastery of instrument technique and above all, maximize the enjoyment of playing an instrument. A list of private lesson teachers is attached to this handbook and will be posted in the Palos South band room.

All Palos South band members are required to participate in **Solo/Ensemble Contest**. Students will perform a solo piece for a solo/ensemble adjudicator and receive a medal on a rating basis of: Division I, Division II or Division III. Students must have their solo/ensemble performance approved by the band director before being allowed to participate in the contest. There is a fee for this contest.

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands will have the opportunity to participate in the **Palos Band Festival** in the second half of the school year. There is no additional fee for this festival.

Private Lesson Teachers

First Name	Last Name	Telephone	Email	Musical Instruments				
David	Vrablic	309-333-6537	David.brian0979@gmail.com	Clarinet				
Julie	Abuska	708-233-9732		Flute	Clarinet	Saxophone	Oboe	Bassoon
Ernie	Hendrickson	815-519-7851	edhendrickson@hotmail.com	Guitar				
Mike	Balthazar	630-234-4027		Guitar				
Donna	Briggs	708-754-1886		French Horn				
Ben	Clark	773-230-7265		Trumpet				
Don Pasquale	D'Andrea	630-322-9187		Bassoon				
Gerry	Glander	708-601-1947		Flute	Clarinet	Saxophone	Trumpet	
Christina	McBride	708-269-5537		Flute	Piccolo			
Luke	Malewicz	708-752-0824		Trumpet	Baritone	Tuba		
Wendy	Miller	708-425-0286		Flute		Woodwinds		
Mike	Szczasny	708-979-3132		Trumpet	Trombone	Baritone	Tuba	
Palos Music Instruction		708-974-8002		All Band Instruments		Guitar	Voice	Piano

BAND HANDBOOK CONTRACT 2022-2023

All Palos School District #118 band members and parents – please read the following page carefully. Then complete and return this contract to Mr. Makropoulos or the main office by **Friday, September 2nd, 2022**.

The Palos School District #118 Band Program is dedicated to excellence in performance. Its members share a unique musical and social experience. Membership involves making a commitment to band. This is not a decision to be taken lightly. If you commit, do it completely. Please understand the expectations of the organization by reading this handbook. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Makropoulos, at smakropoulos@palos118.org.

1. I/We have read and understand all of the guidelines and procedures stated in this handbook and agree to abide by everything stated within for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. I/We have received a calendar of events for the 2022-2023 school year and agree that **I/my child will attend every scheduled rehearsal and performance** unless the absence is excused.
3. I/We understand the consequences if the guidelines and procedures outlined in this handbook are not followed.

STUDENT NAME (Print): _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT GRADE (circle one): 5th 6th 7th 8th

PARENT NAME (Print): _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

