

Beginning Band Handbook

2022-2023

5th Grade District #118



Stavros Makropoulos
Band Director

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Website: sites.google.com/view/palos118band

Palos West Elementary School
12700 S. 104th Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60464
(708) 448-6888

Palos South Middle School
13100 S. 82nd Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60464
(708) 448-5971

Palos East Elementary School
7700 W. 127th St.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
(708) 448-1084

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the District 118 Beginning Band Program. I am looking forward to working with you and your children and I am excited about the opportunity to teach your children the beauty and wonder of playing an instrument.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity, 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.

Please carefully note the enclosed **Band Calendar!** 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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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:

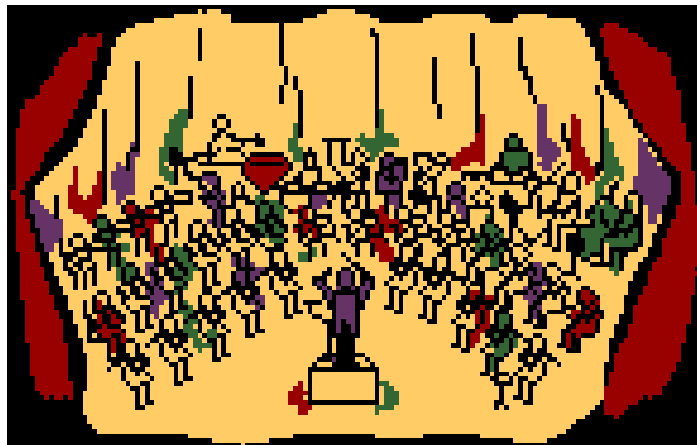
1. Read the handbook and note all required performance dates and times.
2. Assist students in maintaining instruments and acquiring supplies.
3. Encourage students to practice and read and sign practice reports.
4. Support the students by attending concerts and participating in band activities.
5. Communicate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

The **5th Grade Beginning Band** is comprised of 5th grade band students at both Palos East and Palos West. The 5th grade band meets once a week before school for sectionals and once a week at Palos South for a full band rehearsal every Wednesday before school.

Rehearsal and performance literature is geared toward the development of skills that enables members to successfully advance to 6th Grade Band when they attend Palos South.



Grading Policy 5th grade

5th Grade Band members do not receive traditional grades on their report cards, but rather a summary progress during the year. The progress report combines the following areas:

- Technical development
- Music reading ability
- Smart Music assignments
- Participation in lessons and attendance at rehearsals and concerts
- Preparation for band rehearsals
 - Besides an instrument, all students are required to have the necessary supplies and equipment required for band at every rehearsal. These items are listed on pages 8 and 9.



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.

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals:

- Rehearsals take place at Palos South Middle School every Wednesday from 8:30 am – 9:15 am. Students should arrive at South at 8:15 am and proceed to the band room to assemble and prepare their instruments. At the end of rehearsal, students will be bussed back to their elementary schools.

Sectionals:

- Students will have sectionals once a week before the school day at their school. A detailed schedule will be emailed home the first week of school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Palos West Woodwinds	Palos West Brass/Perc.	Full Band at Palos South	Palos East Woodwinds	Palos East Brass/Perc.

Sectional schedule is subject to change during the second half of the school year

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, **125 minutes a week (25 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Valve Oil- Tuning Slide Grease	Trombone <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Slide Cream- Small Spray Bottle- Tuning Slide Grease	Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Premium reeds (4 at all times)- Cleaning Swab- Cork Grease- Neck Strap (saxophone only)
Flute <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flute Rod- Cotton or Silk Cloth	Percussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stick Bag With Name Tag- General Snare Sticks (5B, 2B, SD1)- Hard Plastic Xylophone/Bell Mallets (all are in the percussion kit)	All Instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your Instrument With Name Tag- Band Folder (see page 9)- Lyre (7th and 8th grade)- Flip folder (7th and 8th 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 9th.**

Supplies Continued...

Band Folder

All band students are **required** to have their Band Folder and bring it to every rehearsal/sectional. Below are the following items that are required to be in your folder:

<p>1. Band Folder (provided by Palos 118)</p> 	<p>2. Pencils</p> 	<p>3. Essential Elements Book #1</p> 
<p>4. Rhythm Vocabulary Charts Book #1 by Ed Sueta</p> 	<p>5. Band Warm Ups, Technique Studies and Concert Music</p> 	<p>6. Metronome/Tuner</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

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.

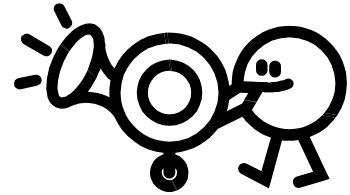
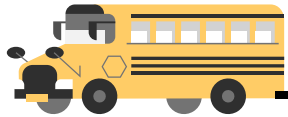
	You must provide	Provided by District #118
5th Grade Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black Dress Pants - Black Dress Shoes - Black Dress Socks - Black Dress Shoes - Red Palos Music Shirt 	N/A

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 area 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.



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.**

Other Music Activities

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

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 6th 7th and 8th grade band members are eligible 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 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



Palos South Middle School

2021-2022

5th Grade Band Calendar



AUGUST

8-8-22 to 8-12-22 (M – F)	5th Grade Beginning Band Camp	Specific timeslots on the Band Camp Flyer
Monday 8-29-22	All Sectionals Begin	8:20 am – 9:00 am

SEPTEMBER

Friday 10-21-22	Wednesday Rehearsals Begin (5 th Grade Band)	8:30 am – 9:20 am every Wednesday
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OCTOBER

Friday 10-21-22	Harvest Fest (5 th ,6 th ,7 th ,8 th , Grade Bands)	Times TBA
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DECEMBER

Wednesday 12-14-22	Winter Concert I 5 th and 6 th Grade Bands	6:00 pm
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FEBRUARY

Saturday 2-26-22	PSMS Solo/Ensemble Contest (6 th ,7 th ,8 th Band)	TBA
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MARCH

Saturday 3-12-22	PSMS Band Festival (5 th ,6 th ,7 th ,8 th Band)	8:00 am – 12:00 pm
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MAY

5-11-22 Wednesday	Finale Concert I (5 th and 6 th Grade Bands)	6:00 pm
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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 the Palos South main office by: **Thursday, June 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:** _____

SCHOOL ATTENDING NEXT SCHOOL YEAR (circle one): Palos East Palos West

PARENT NAME (Print): _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

HOME PHONE: () _____

CELL PHONE: () _____

EMAIL: _____ @ _____