



BAND HANDBOOK 2018/2019

About the handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the Handbook Agreement Form should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations. If there are any questions, or concerns, please feel free to email Mr. Schmidt at:

Email: mschmidt@pasco.k12.fl.us

Phone: (352) 524-8400 (School Main)

Pirate Band Objectives

The Pasco Middle School Band forms an integral part of campus life. It is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations. The primary objectives of the band program are:

1. Cultural: To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of diverse music literature.
2. Educational: To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education, and prepare students for musical activities in school and in life.
3. Service: To lend color and atmosphere to certain school events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Pasco Middle School.
4. Citizenship: To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, to enhance the student's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.
5. Recreational: To provide all students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

Classroom/Rehearsal/Performance Rules

1. Every minute matters during rehearsal time, including the school day, which makes it imperative for students to be prepared on time. During the school day, students should be in their seat and ready to perform within two(2) minutes of the tardy bell.
2. Students will need their instrument, music, and a pencil with them at their seat every class/rehearsal/performance to receive credit for participation.

3. Students will be responsible for keeping their music and instruments in playing order. It would be helpful for students to purchase a binder/folder to keep their music in. Students will also be putting their instruments away, including covering up percussion equipment, after each use.
4. No food or flavored drinks are allowed in the band room unless instructed other wise by the band director. This includes **gum**. Students may keep a bottle of plain, unflavored water with them at their seat.
5. Students should respect the music building and the equipment in it. Some instruments, including percussion instrument and pianos, will be left in the main room. This is not an invitation for anyone to use them. Only use equipment that is assigned to you.
6. Students and chaperones are required 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.
7. 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 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick your student up at that time. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate, ie. football games. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.

All school, and District, policies will be enforced during all activities and events.

The band director shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time if it is deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

Communication

Please understand that our communication with you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns that you may have. Please contact Mr. Schmidt for clarification on any concerns

Email: mschmidt@pasco.k12.fl.us

Phone: (352) 524-8400 (School Main)

Mr. Schmidt will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail and text message throughout the year. Please email Mr. Schmidt for clarification or to schedule a conference.

Our students and parents are able to stay informed a number of different ways. We encourage all of our parents to follow our program through:

The school Website (<http://pms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>)

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Pasco-Middle-School-Music-1086429178199744/>)

Rehearsal & Performance Attendance

(during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attends and participates in **ALL** scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. The District School Board of Pasco County lists Band as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is an essential and required component of the course.

To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our band calendar on the school website (<http://pms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>).

Performances and rehearsals are graded events and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade. Please contact Mr. Schmidt if there is any 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 until you have returned for a partial day of school.

As you know, it can get extremely hot outside, so proper hydration is important. We will always provide water during outside rehearsals or performances where heat can become an issue. It is important that students take time to hydrate.

Uniform/Dress Code

To avoid unnecessary expense of band shoes and uniform cleanings, we will be wearing concert dress to several performances. This clothing should reflect the professional setting in which it will be worn. As such, all clothes should be clean, well fitted, and appropriate.

Beginning Band:

Girls must wear a white blouse with black dress pants/slacks/long skirt (no jeans) with black shoes. Additionally, girls may wear a school appropriate black or white dress. If you choose to wear a dress, it must meet school dress code requirements (no spaghetti straps or short skirts are allowed).

Boys must wear a white button-down dress shirt, tie, black dress pants/slacks (no jeans), and black dress shoes. Jackets are **not** required.

Symphonic:

Football Games, Parades, Pep Rallies- Students must wear their 2018 band t-shirt, school appropriate jeans (no holes), socks and sneakers or athletic shoes (not boots, sandals, etc...).

Some Performances (Girls and Boys) - Students will wear their school-issued uniform, black socks, and black dress shoes unless concert attire (see beginning band section) is appropriate.

Grades

Grades are based on many factors, that include:

- Class Participation
- Performance Objectives (playing and written)
- Music Preparation
- Special Projects
- Rehearsals and Performances
- Following Classroom Policies and Procedures
- Care of Facilities and Equipment

Students will receive a list of performance objectives each quarter to complete. All students enrolled in band are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Again, Band is a "co-curricular" course which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a students grade.

Discipline Policy (for class, rehearsals and performances)

1. Verbal reminder
2. Student will be removed from the activity with a deduction in participation points.
3. Parent contact: conference, note home, phone call, etc.
4. Detention, discipline referral, and possible removal from class.

Instruments

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 and 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 who left his or her instrument at home and one whose instrument is 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 Mr. Schmidt before you take the instrument in for repair because it may be something he can fix easily. 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 bi-weekly basis, so arrangements can be made for one of them to pick up the instrument from the band room and return it the following visit. They usually have loaners available, but parents will need to contact the store before they visit Pasco Middle School. Contact Mr. Schmidt for a list of stores that service the school.

Practice/Private Lessons

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice a minimum of 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week (**100 minutes total per week**) outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine and when they practice more than the bare minimum. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 20 or more minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique, and endurance.

In order to have an efficient practice session, students should break down their music into small sections to focus on before attempting to play an entire piece. Sometimes, this means working on one measure at a time. This process of "musical chunking" will set up your child for success. Band takes patience and hard work!

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. Remember, quality private instruction doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Contact Mr. Schmidt for a list of local teachers if you are interested in lessons.

Band Room Instrument Lockers

Pasco Middle School Music students are fortunate to have a unique and spacious facility. It is the students responsibility to help maintain the facilities by picking up after themselves.

Every student will be assigned a designated place in the Band Room to store their band equipment. Some students will be assigned a locker. A Band locker may only be used to store a student's instrument, music, and supplies. Students assigned a locker will also be assigned a lock. **Only** Pasco Middle School Band locks may be placed on lockers. Locks and lockers are issued free of charge.

Using a locker is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to keep their locker locked at all times (except during class). Additionally, students are responsible for their own instrument, equipment, and personal belongings. A student may lose locker privileges if they fail to lock their locker, or fail to keep it clean.

Class Supply List

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 encourage all Beginning Band students to rent an instrument for the first year of playing. Most music stores will rent on a rent-to-own basis. It's best to purchase your equipment and supplies from a music-specific store. Unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and the ability to play, be wary of pawn shops and online retailers. We also recommend that you avoid buying your equipment and supplies from a store that sells both instruments and groceries. The Pasco Middle School Band has a limited supply of instruments available to issue to students. Many of these instrument are large instruments that cannot be rented easily such as tubas, euphoniums, and marching percussion.

Beginning Band:

Instrument and Supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument. Ex. Reeds, Valve Oil)

Percussion: Medium Rubber or Yarn Mallets, SD1 of IP1 Snare Sticks, Destiny Pro Pad, and a stick bag. You will need mallets first.

Notebook/Binder (1-inch, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil

Method Book: Measures of Success Book 1 (each book is instrument specific)

Advanced Band:

Instrument and Supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument. Ex. Reeds, Valve Oil)

Percussion: Medium Rubber or Yarn Mallets, SD1 or IP1 Snare Sticks, Destiny Pro Pad, and a stick bag.

Notebook/Binder (1-inch, white, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil

Method Book: Measures of Success Book 2 (each book is instrument specific)

Flip Folder and Lyre

Band Handbook Form

We encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical experience. 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.

Please return completed form to Mr. Schmidt by August 29, 2018.

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

Date: _____

Class: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____
(Guardian)

Parent/ Guardian information

Address:

Email Address:

_____ @ _____

Phone numbers:

Name: _____ Number: (____) _____ - _____

Name: _____ Number: (____) _____ - _____

Name: _____ Number: (____) _____ - _____