

PERKINS-TRYON SCHOOLS

Instrumental Music Department

P
T
Band

Middle School Student Handbook

2020-2021

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Perkins-Tryon Bands
KG Robinson
Director of Bands
Avery Nichols
Assistant Director of Bands

August 20, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student:

We would like to offer all new and returning members a hearty welcome! We trust that you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the upcoming school year.

The following handbook covers many policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the Perkins-Tryon Band Program. Please take the time to read this material, as the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. Please sign the acknowledgment form and have your student return it no later than Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at school.

Best Regards,

KG Robinson
Director of Bands

Avery Nichols
Assistant Director of Bands

Jerry Burnett
Middle School Principal

Foreword

This handbook is intended to serve as a general guide in the operation of the Perkins-Tryon Band Program. This general guide should not be construed as inflexible. When dealing with individuals, each separate circumstance must be dealt with in accordance with school and band policy. Therefore, the director will deal with problems based upon the circumstances of the moment.

The purpose of this handbook is to help you understand the policies and goals of the Perkins-Tryon Band Program. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

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Philosophy

Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The core of the instrumental program is the concert band. From this ensemble, groups such as the marching band, jazz ensemble, pep band, and various chamber groups are derived. The Perkins-Tryon Band Program stresses the advancement of the students' abilities to function in both the large group and small ensemble setting. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and cultures.

The Perkins-Tryon Band Program is a vital and important part of the total school life. It represents a colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of our school. The band's appearance at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as community and civic functions, adds a great deal of color and life to the Perkins community.

Through camaraderie and personal dedication, the Perkins-Tryon Band will strive for excellence in every field.

Organizations

Beginning Band

This ensemble is comprised of students in the 6th grade with no prior band experience. This band will perform at concerts and contests. All beginners must provide their own beginning band instrument and band method books. All students should equip themselves with the best quality instrument they can afford. Poor quality instruments often lead to frustration and ultimately, dropout. For more information about quality instruments, please contact the director and/or plan to attend the instrument rental meeting.

Middle School Band

This band is made up of students in grades 7-8 who have successfully completed the requirements of the beginning band. This band will perform at events such as parades, contests, and concerts.

Middle School Jazz Band

This band is made up of students in grades 7-8 who have successfully completed the requirements of the beginning band and are currently enrolled in Middle School Band. These students will master basic jazz techniques and delve into jazz history. This band will perform at events such as contest and concerts.

Solos and Ensembles

Each band student is given the opportunity to play a solo and/or an ensemble piece at contests. Rehearsals for these opportunities are all outside the school schedule. Students are encouraged to participate; however, they must understand the obligations of after school practices, providing their own transportation, and their commitment of attendance to their accompanist and director. Entry fees and accompanist fees are paid by the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) and cannot be refunded under any circumstance.

Honor Bands

Students may opt to audition for participation in an honor band. Students audition along with students of other area schools and if selected, participate in a two-day clinic that is concluded with a concert. Audition and participation fees are paid by the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) and cannot be refunded under any circumstance.

General Information

Auditions

Auditions for chair placement are held throughout the year on dates determined by the director. Specific requirements will be announced prior to each audition.

Equipment Needs

Each student must bring to class everyday: a sharpened pencil, their instrument in good working condition, assigned music, and a good attitude. Other equipment requirements may be added at the request of the director.

Supplies

Reeds, oil, and other supplies need to be ordered online at:

<http://edmondmusicinc.com/c-121-perkins-tryon.aspx>.

Supplies can be shipped to you or delivered directly to the school when our store representative visits once a week. **ALL STUDENTS WILL PURCHASE A BLACK ½" 3 RING BINDER FROM THE BAND OFFICE.**

Student-owned Instruments

Repair and maintenance of student-owned instruments is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s). As a service to our students, Edmond Music sends a representative weekly to our school. Instruments in need of repair may be sent with the representative to the music store. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted by a representative with an estimate of the cost of repair before any work is completed.

School-owned Instruments

Students could be given the opportunity to play and use larger, more expensive school-owned instruments. Any student playing a school-owned instrument will need to purchase their own personal mouthpiece and any supplies necessary for that instrument. **Students will be charged a maintenance fee to help cover part of the cost of year-end maintenance** (see school instrument section). Students must maintain these instruments as their own. If repairs are needed, it is the student's responsibility to take or send the instrument to Edmond Music in a timely fashion.

Instrument Storage

Open shelving is provided in the Middle School band room for instrument storage during the day. Each student is encouraged to take his/her instrument home every night. Without practice, musical growth is hindered. Aside from individual improvements, security of instruments left overnight in school buildings cannot be guaranteed. Perkins-Tryon Schools assumes no responsibility for any instrument left in a school facility. **INSTRUMENT SHELVES ARE FOR INSTRUMENTS ONLY. DO NOT PLACE OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS ON THE SHELVES.**

Attendance Policy

Rehearsals

Beginning and Middle School Bands

All rehearsals are conducted during the band period of the school day. However, extenuating circumstances may sometimes make it necessary for extra rehearsals to be scheduled. These rehearsals are considered essential to superior performance, and every student is required to attend.

Solos and Ensembles

If a student signs up to perform a solo or in an ensemble for contest, extra rehearsals outside of class are an absolute necessity. Soloists must either taking private lessons or must schedule regular rehearsal time with a director and accompanist. Students who sign up to perform in an ensemble will be required to have scheduled rehearsals at least once a week with all ensemble members present and a director. Failure to be adequately prepared may result in the solo or ensemble not being allowed to perform.

Performances

Performances are a culmination of classroom activities and are thus treated as tests to demonstrate skills, build self-confidence, and demonstrate self-discipline. Performances cannot be made up; therefore, attendance is required.

Band is a group activity that demands dependability of all members. Each student relies on his/her fellow band members to do their part in presenting a performance that has taken many hours to prepare. Failure by one student to do his/her part weakens the total performance of the other students. Therefore, each student jeopardizes membership if they miss performances.

Work is not considered an excused absence. In case of severe illness or a death in the family, please contact the director as soon as possible. Any deviations from this policy must be arranged through the director. Failure to contact the director prior to the performance could result in an unexcused absence, potentially lowering a student's grade.

Tardy Policy

All Bands

All students must be in their seat ready to begin at a designated start time to be determined by the director. If a student is not in his/her seat ready to begin at the designated start time, the student will be counted as tardy, and school policies will be followed.

Performance Code of Conduct

When an organization of the Perkins-Tryon Band Program is performing, all school policies and regulations are in effect. A fine musical organization is always noted for its superior musical performance.

Academic Eligibility

See Perkins-Tryon Schools Handbook.

Ineligible students may not participate in any OSSAA event (district contest, solo/ensemble contest, or honor bands). Any fees paid by the students for these events are non-refundable. **However, ineligible students are expected to participate in non-competitive events such as local concerts and local parades.**

Social Media

Band members are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as to the organization they represent. They should be aware that in or out of uniform they are representatives of the band and the school they attend and should act accordingly.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band members' websites/social media accounts are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any social media content appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Band members are responsible for their personal websites and social media postings as well as for postings on other students' websites/social media accounts. The area of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the directors and principal.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

See the Perkins-Tryon Student Handbook. All school policies will be in effect.

Use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, any form of vaping, or any other controlled substance is prohibited during all band trips and functions. Failure to comply with this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the band program.

Performance Uniform and Dress Code

Beginning Band

- Boys: nice dress pants and nice dress shirts or polo (no jeans)
- Girls: dresses; skirts, or dress pants with a nice shirt
- Nice dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

Middle School Band

- Long-sleeved SOLID BLACK dress shirt
- SOLID BLACK dress pants
- Long SOLID BLACK dress socks/hose
- SOLID BLACK dress shoes

Middle School Band - Parade

- P-T Middle School Band t-shirt (to be worn tucked into pants)
- Blue jeans (no holes)
- Tennis shoes

Middle School Jazz Band – Concerts

- Black dress pants
- Long-sleeved black dress shirt
- Long black socks/hose
- Black dress shoes (absolutely no other colors on the shoes)

School Instrument Policy and Maintenance Fees

Brass and Woodwind Students

There is a rental fee for all students who borrow/use a school owned instrument throughout the summer and/or school year. **The fee for the 2020-2021 school year is \$50 for wind instruments.** This yearly, one-time fee will help off-set the total maintenance expense of equipment throughout the year, while still providing a great financial savings to our families by not having to purchase the instrument.

While this fee will provide some relief on our repair and maintenance budget, the band program will still be covering the majority of the equipment expenses. *Please note that damage incurred due to irresponsibility or that was preventable on the part of the student, will be charged back to the student at the full repair price (in addition to the rental fee). If the instrument is lost or stolen, the student will be charged the **full replacement price** of the instrument (in addition to the rental fee).* Students are expected to take care of school instruments the same as if they owned them.

Percussion Students

Percussion students in the 7th and 8th grades will be required to purchase a stick/mallet bag through the band office. This will be a one-time purchase; however, if any item(s) becomes lost and/or broken, that item(s) will need to be replaced.

Beginning and Middle School Bands Grading Policy

Weighting

Rehearsals	20%
Performances and Playing Tests	60%
Practice Reports	20%

Rehearsal Criteria (weekly grade)

- Instrument and appropriate supplies
- Method book and any other music in binder
- Pencil
- Attentive and exhibiting good conduct

Performance Criteria (grade for each performance)

- Student on time for performance warm-up
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and contributing to a good performance
- Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency
- ALL performances are **REQUIRED**.
- Students not academically eligible to participate in a contest performance must complete an alternative assignment to receive credit for that performance. This assignment will be due within one week of the missed contest.
- In the case of a missed performance due to a family emergency or extreme illness, the director **MUST** be notified immediately.

Playing Test Criteria (grade for each test)

- Playing tests will be administered one of three ways: playing in class, playing privately for a director, or by submitting a recording.
- Tone quality
- Rhythmic accuracy
- Note accuracy
- Style/Articulation
- Musicality

Practice Reports (weekly grade)

- Students will be expected to practice 150 minutes per week
- Practice Reports, signed by the parents, will be submitted on the last day of every school week
- Late Practice Reports will only be accepted for half credit on the following school day.
- Every student has the opportunity to earn extra credit every week with extra practice

Middle School Jazz Band Grading Policy

Weighting

Rehearsals	30%
Performances	20%
Skills (improvisation)	20%
Fundamentals (scales)	20%
Theory (worksheets)	10%

Rehearsal Criteria (weekly grade)

- Instrument and appropriate supplies
- Method book and any other music in binder
- Pencil
- Attentive and exhibiting good conduct

Performance Criteria (grade for each performance)

- Student on time for performance warm-up
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and contributing to a good performance
- Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency
- ALL performances are **REQUIRED**.
- Students not academically eligible to participate in a contest performance must complete an alternative assignment to receive credit for that performance. This assignment will be due within one week of the missed contest.
- In the case of a missed performance due to a family emergency or extreme illness, the director **MUST** be notified immediately. The students will complete an alternative assignment to receive credit for that performance. This assignment will be due within one week of the missed performance.

Skills Criteria (grade for each test)

- Skills playing tests will assess the student's progress in improvisation.
- Tone, style, pulse, notes, and creativity will be measured.

Fundamentals Criteria (grade for each test)

- Students will be tested on jazz scales throughout the year.
- Note accuracy, tempo, articulation, and tone will be measured.

Theory Criteria (grade for each worksheet)

- Worksheets will be assigned as homework and will focus on jazz history and jazz theory.
- **Worksheets not turned in on the following school day will not be accepted.**

Discipline Policy

In order to maintain an orderly educational environment, the following discipline policy will be implemented:

Rules

1. Be Respectful
 - a. No talking while rehearsal is in progress.
 - b. Raise your hand and be recognized by the director before speaking.
 - c. No profanity.
 - d. Be kind to everyone.
 - e. No food or drink in the band room.
2. Be Prepared
 - a. Have all materials needed for rehearsal (instrument, music, pencil, valve oil, reeds, etc.).
 - b. Prepare individual parts to the best of your ability.
3. Be Punctual
 - a. Be on time for rehearsal (in your seat or on the field and ready to begin when rehearsal starts).
 - b. Be on time for all performances.

Consequences

The directors will utilize in class consequences while dealing with students that may cause disruptions. These consequences will include:

1. Verbal warning
2. Student conference
3. Student removed from rehearsal
4. Parent/teacher conference (by phone or in person)

If problems persist, the directors will follow the discipline policies set forth in each of the Perkins-Tryon Schools' Student Handbooks. Severe disruptions, even after following school disciplinary policies, may result in the student being dismissed from the band.

Transportation Policy

See the Perkins-Tryon Student Handbook. All school policies will be in effect.

Bus Rules

1. Screaming, loud talking, singing, and other disruptive sounds will not be tolerated.
2. You are expected to sit facing forward for the duration of the trip. Please do not stick your hands or head out of the window.
3. Portable audio devices will be allowed only with headphones.
4. Drum sticks and mallets should be packed with the equipment and not carried onto the bus.
5. Food and drink are not allowed on the bus unless the director has approved it.
6. The emergency exit of a bus is for emergencies only.

SmartMusic

Smart Music is a computer program designed to assist students in practicing and improving on their instrument. SmartMusic.com states:

Music students learn more quickly and have more fun in the group context, but that's only possible a few hours a week at school. In order to learn and participate effectively, they need to practice musical skills at home. SmartMusic recreates the group setting by providing the context, or accompaniment, as if they were in the larger group.

More importantly, SmartMusic gives your child the feedback to learn efficiently and have fun at the same time. As they get involved in more activities, finding those learning solutions to accomplish this is critical to their continued participation. SmartMusic is the innovative practice solution that will keep your child participating while developing music skills and appreciation.

If you purchase Smart Music, students will be able to practice their tests/quizzes and other music as many times as they want, slow down their music, listen to professional recordings and look up fingerings of notes they missed. SmartMusic shows you exactly what you played correctly in green and the note you missed in red.

SmartMusic is purchased as a subscription. The normal subscription rate is approximately \$40/year. We encourage you to go to SmartMusic.com and view the parent resources and demo videos. SmartMusic also requires a microphone for your computer. The SmartMusic microphone is an additional cost, but the microphones used with a USB connection for any gaming system are also compatible. Apple computers or iPads (with microphones) do not require the microphone.

Parental Responsibility

It is profoundly important that the parent(s)/guardian(s) of each band student take on an active roll in their student's band experience. That said, some parent(s)/guardian(s) may be able to be involved more than others. Parent involvement greatly increases a student's chances for success and encourages his/her continued participation. The rewards for parents and families are among the many unexpected benefits of the student's band membership.

Examples of parent(s)/guardian(s) activities:

1. Providing help to the directors as needed throughout the year.
2. Serve as chaperones.
3. Assist with your student's personal practice time.
4. Serve as an accompanist for solos.
5. Most importantly, show support to your student by attending as many performances as possible and encouraging them to continue and improve.

Fundraising and Student Accounts

There are financial obligations involved in band. To help defray these expenses, there are many opportunities for fundraising throughout the year. Money earned through fundraisers tracks with students from the time they are in sixth grade. Students and parents can check the status of their finances through the band office. When a student leaves the band program for any reason (graduation, moving, or quitting), their money will remain with the band program. This money was earned by the student as a member of the band program to help support their participation in band. Any money remaining in student accounts at the end of their time in band will be absorbed into the band's general activity fund to help defray the costs for all students. If a student has a sibling currently enrolled in the band program, any money remaining in the departing student's account will be transferred to their sibling's account.

Communication Opportunities

Website

www.perkinstryonbands.weebly.com

Announcements, general information, forms, etc., will be posted on the band website. Please check this site regularly for any information regarding any part of the band program. Students and parents are responsible for keeping up with any information or announcements made through this site.

Email

It is vital that the directors have an up-to-date email address for each student's parent or guardian. A majority of information regarding band activities is sent home via email. For director contact information, please refer to page 4.

Text Message Reminders

Remind

We encourage all students and parents to sign up for this tool. This allows the directors to send out any announcements via text message to the group. Instructions to sign up for a specific class are listed below:

6th Grade Band Students

Text "@pt6band" to 81010

7th Grade Band Students

Text "@pt7band" to 81010

8th Grade Band Students

Text "@pt8band" to 81010

Middle School Jazz Band Students

Text "@ptmsjazz" to (405) 547-9829

Social Media

Facebook – Follow our Facebook page: Perkins-Tryon Bands

Twitter - Follow the band on Twitter: @PTHSBand

Instagram – Follow the band on Instagram: perkinstryonbands

Perkins-Tryon Band Program AGREEMENT FORM

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) AND STUDENTS:

Please read the Band Handbook thoroughly and sign the form as indicated below. This form must be returned to the director by Wednesday, August 26th.

By signing this agreement, we understand that we must abide by all rules and guidelines in the handbook. This form also serves as permission for the student to participate in any extra events such as solo and ensemble competitions, honor bands, etc. for which we will have to pay an extra fee. We also understand that any fees are deemed NON-REFUNDABLE under any circumstance.

We also understand that this form will serve as an agreement for any school instrument that is checked out to the student. We agree to pay any and all expenses for maintenance and/or damages that may occur during the school year. We understand that the instrument will be checked-out to the student in working order. Failure to turn in the instrument in the same condition will result in us paying for any maintenance that needs to take place. We also understand that any fees are deemed NON-REFUNDABLE under any circumstance.

Parent/Guardian Information

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

GUARDIAN NAME (Please print): _____

GUARDIAN E-Mail Address: _____

GUARDIAN Cell Phone: _____

Student Information

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT NAME (please print): _____

STUDENT E-Mail Address: _____

STUDENT Cell Phone: _____