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Welcome to the Parkland Band!

Dear Parents and Students:

I would like to welcome you to the 2009/2010 school year as a member of the Parkland Viking Band. My name is Mr. Nick Atchley and I am the Band Teacher at Parkland and at Valley View schools. This is my eighth year teaching music and my third year in McHenry District 15. I am very excited to be back at Parkland and am looking forward to working with our students and their families.

In this packet you will find information about the band program this year including information about practicing, attendance, grading, concerts, etc. The goal for this handbook is to create tool for communicating all the important items about band this year. **Please return the back page with a parent signature so that I know each student's parent(s) has/have read this band handbook.** The signed form will be due **Thursday, August 27th.**

The goal of the band program is to develop students' musical abilities through performing, studying, and listening to music. Each student will be exposed to a diverse repertoire of music and make connections to music and other subjects. Students will also have opportunities to explore creative aspects of music through improvisation and composition.

I am looking forward to working with the students and families again at Parkland School. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time or check our website for more information about performances, practices, and other events at:

www.d15.org/parkland/band.html

Sincerely,

Mr. Nick Atchley
Band Teacher
Parkland School
Valley View School
Natchley@d15.org
(815) 344 - 7140 ext. 5442

Classroom Rules



Behavior Goals:

To allow all students to learn & participate to the best of their ability; to allow teacher(s) to teach to the best of his/her ability; to allow students & teachers to enjoy working together.

Behavior Expectations or Rules:

- 1. Be on time---seated & ready within 2 minutes after the start of class.**
 - There will be no stopping at your locker between lunch and class. Bring all necessary materials to lunch with you
 - Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats and ready when the warm-up begins
- 2. Be prepared to play and/or write in your music.**
 - Students should have all materials (Instrument, Book, Music, Pencil, Etc.)
- 3. You may use only instruments authorized for you.**
 - *NO ONE should EVER play an instrument that does not belong to them.*
- 4. When the director begins class by standing in front of the band, all talking and playing must stop immediately.**
- 5. Be courteous to the other students in your band by allowing them to participate and learn without distraction.**
- 6. Gum is NEVER allowed in the Parkland Band Room.**

This class may not be recorded (audio or audio-visual) without the written approval of the instructor.

Rewards for Positive Behavior:

1. A more relaxed (& fun) rehearsal or lesson.
2. Earn Study Halls, Game Days or Pizza Parties

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior:

1. Verbal / Visual warning.
2. Student will take home written letter/assignment to be signed by parent.
3. Detention assigned, parent contacted
4. Student sent to office, meeting with principal is made, and parent contacted.

Course Information



Objectives:

The objectives of the Parkland Band Program are to provide a large instrumental ensemble for students to experience all aspects relative to the performance of appropriate levels of band literature. Students will perform new, as well as standard repertoire of an artistic and educational nature.

Illinois State Board of Education Learning Standards

- **Goal 25 – Know the language of the arts.** In middle school, students can analyze how the components are organized in an art work, and can compare and contrast the elements of two or more art works.
- **Goal 26 – Through creating and performing, understand how works of art are produced.** Middle school students can explain how the choice of tools, materials, and technologies are used to create specific effects. They can use these tools to imaginatively solve problems in dance, drama, music, or visual art.
- **Goal 27 – Understand the role of the arts in civilizations past and present.** In middle school, students can describe how artists contribute to the world of work, and they know the many ways the arts contribute to everyday life. They know that the arts are an historical record and can describe how selected artists and art works influence or reflect their times.

Exit Level Objectives:

Upon completion of the yearly course, students will be able to demonstrate a broader understanding of repertoire, performance experience, and how to work to improve his or her musical skills.

Disability Statement:

If a student has a disability that might interfere with that student's ability to function in this class, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to notify the teacher at the beginning of the school year.

Academic Honesty Statement:

No student should expect to receive a passing grade on any test or assignment that reflects dishonesty or academic irregularity. Cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment as well as other disciplinary action.

Ensembles



The Parkland Band Program has several different ensembles for students to participate. Here is a description of each group:

6th Grade Band:

6A Band -

The 6th Grade Band at Parkland is made of students with a wide background of musical experience. Many students will have already played for a year in the 5th Grade Band at their elementary school. These students will spend the first part of the year in the 6A (Advanced) Band. While the 6A Band students will be helping their counterparts in the 6B (Beginning Band) gain experience, the 6A Band will be working on music and material to challenge them at their present level. All students in the 6th Grade will be playing at the same level by the end of the year.

6B Band-

The 6B (Beginning) Band will be made of students who have no experience playing an instrument or have changed their instrument since 5th Grade. Since students will have band every day with students who already play, they will learn their instruments at a very quick pace. By the end of the year, if students have done the work required of them, these students will be playing at the same level of the 2nd year band students.

7th/8th Grade Band:

The 7th/8th Grade Band meets separately each day but will perform together for their concerts. Students will have more opportunities to play in outside activities as a part of the 7th/8th Band (i.e. high school events, solo/ensemble, district auditions, etc.).

Jazz Band:

The Parkland Jazz Bands are audition selected ensembles and rehearses either on Monday (Blue Band) or Wednesday (White Band) EACH WEEK. Students who are members of the Jazz Band will participate in many concerts, contests, school, and community events. Because of this level of performance, students are expected to be at each and every rehearsal/event to be a part of this ensemble. Any sports conflicts should be cleared with Mr. Atchley at least 4 weeks ahead of time. Students in the Jazz Band will receive credit for extra class credit for each rehearsal/activity that they participate in. Students will be allowed 1 excused absence per quarter with a parent note. Unexcused absences or multiple “excused” absences will result in a parent phone call and possible dismissal from the ensemble. Students in the Jazz Bands are also expected to follow the Band Rules as they do in class or may face dismissal from the ensemble. Any student’s participation in the Jazz Bands is entirely at the discretion of Mr. Atchley.

Grading Information



Grading Policy:

The Parkland Band classes follow the schools' grading policy:

99-100	A+	80-82	C+
95-98	A	76-79	C
93-94	A-	70-75	C-
90-92	B+	67-69	D+
86-89	B	63-66	D
83-85	B-	60-62	D-

Daily Grade:

Students will receive a total of 20 points each week earned by arriving to class on time, having their instrument, having their materials (folder, music, and working pencil), and positively participating in class that day. The same will apply to lesson periods and will be worth 4 points per lesson.

Performance Assessments:

These are assessments of assigned exercises of music performed alone by each student during lesson time or during full band. These tests are necessary to measure each student's individual progress and to make sure that they are mastering all of the concepts that we have been working on in class. Students will have at least one week to prepare. Some tests will be given using the SmartMusic computer program.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY:

Students are expected to attend all performances. A large portion of your grade results from your performance attendance and participation. If you have a conflict with a concert, please let Mr. Atchley know as soon as possible! Since each student plays an important role in the band, performances need to be planned to best use all students in the band. Unlike a traditional classroom, each absent student will affect the work that ALL of our students have done for the performance.

Continued on next page...

Grading Information (*Continued*)



Other Graded Activities

Students will earn credit toward their grade by doing a variety of different types of activities including:

- Self Evaluations
- Jazz Band
- IMEA Auditions
- Solo/Ensemble Festival
- SmartMusic Assignments
- Jazz Night
- Field Trip Grades
- High School Football Game Trip
- Band Officers
- Attending Concerts with a written review
- Album Review
- Classical or Jazz Album Review
- Music events at McHenry High School
- Extra Student Performances
- Pep Band Performances
- Compositions
- Worksheets
- Various Signed Forms (Handbook Agreement)
- McHenry High School Pep Band
- ***PRACTICE LOGS!!***

Practice Logs:

Students will be graded based on the quality of the assignment performance; however practice logs of various amounts will be assigned throughout the year. Students will receive points based on the amount of minutes turned in on an assigned practice log.

One extra credit point will be awarded for every 10 minutes over the assigned amount

Attendance Policy



Attendance is directly related to the success of the musician AND the band. The only legitimate excuse for missing band is to have an excused absence for that day.

Full Band:

Students (including all 6th, 7th, and 8th grades) in *band only* will meet every day during the assigned band class period. Students who are in *both band AND chorus* will have classes on a rotating basis in which they will go to band one day and go to chorus the next. Students will be informed when each rotation will take place.

Lessons:

Students will have small group lessons once every week. These lessons will rotate on a 4 week basis so that students will not miss the same class for a BAND lesson *more than once* every 4 weeks. Each student will be assigned to a group and receive a copy of their schedule within the first 2 weeks of school. It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to remember their lesson time and day. Students who are unexcused and miss their lesson will not receive their daily credit for that day.

CONCERT/PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY:

A concert is a culmination of everything we have learned up until that point. We perform to celebrate the musical learning that has taken place and to share it with others. Excused absences result only from a family emergency, religious holiday, illness, or another situation approved by the principal. Any unexcused absence will result in a zero for the concert attendance grade. **If you have a conflict with a concert, please let Mr. Atchley know as soon as possible!**

Commitment as a Band Student:

Band is a year-long commitment! As a band member, you are depended on by your fellow students to commit to band for the entire school year. **Students will not be able to drop from band until the conclusion of the school year.**

Practicing



*Remember, practicing is the **MOST IMPORTANT** part of learning an instrument!!*

What to know about learning an instrument:

Students at all levels, from beginners to professional soloist, all need to spend the time in the necessary practice. Practice not only enables music students to maintain the skills they already possess, but allows students to grow as musicians in order to play at a higher level.

Practice Expectations:

Students at Parkland are expected to practice all assigned materials. A good practice goal is 100 minutes per week spaced out over 5 days with 20 minute sessions.

Ways you can help your student practice:

- Subscribe to the SmartMusic program on your home computer!
- Sit down with your child and help them make a daily practice schedule. I feel that the most effective way is to practice 5 days per week, 20 minutes per session.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit environment for practicing.
- Each student will need a chair, music stand (folding or stationary), and a pencil.
- Encourage your child to follow a warm up routine before starting the main goals of the practice session.
- Students should work on music that is harder for them or is more important to work on first before playing the music they already know.
- Encourage your child to practice their music and then perform it for you. Your support is very important to them.
- Parents can be a child's hardest audience to play for. If your child can play for you, it is more likely that they can play for ANYONE!

Instrument Care/Supplies



Instrument Care:

It is very important that instruments are always in good working conditions. Students should take care, regularly clean and maintain their instrument. If for some reason the instrument needs to be repaired it is crucial that it be taken to the dealer from where it was purchased OR ask Mr. Atchley for help in repair resources. It is purely your responsibility to make sure the instrument is repaired in a timely manner, and if it is possible that the student has a loaner instrument to play until the instrument is repaired. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AN INSTRUMENT YOURSELF.**

Basic Supplies:

Listed below are instrument brands recommended on the basis of quality, reliability, and service ability. **BUYERS BEWARE!** Brands other than those approved by the director should be avoided, as the quality and reliability may be questionable. Generally, discount and warehouse club stores' instruments are not of good quality and can present numerous problems in various areas. In addition, most music stores refuse to repair these instruments. Also, used instruments, particularly woodwinds, may need to be taken to a shop for repair and adjustments. Please keep this in mind and plan ahead to have these instruments ready for the first day of band class with instruments.

Disclaimer Alert: The Parkland Music Staff DOES NOT ENDORSE any particular brand; the brands listed below are simply suggestions based on our experience. The accessories listed are the bare necessities. Please do not omit any of them.

INSTRUMENT	RECOMMENDED BRANDS	REQUIRED ACCESSORIES
Flute	Armstrong, Artley, Blessing, Emerson, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Yamaha	Cotton handkerchief Cleaning rod
Clarinet	Armstrong, Artley, Buffet, Conn, Selmer, Vito/ Leblanc, Yamaha	Suggested Mouthpiece: Vandoren 5RV (lyre), B45, M13; Hawkins 'B'; Clark Fobes 'Debut'. Suggested Ligature: Rovner. Suggested Reeds: Mitchell Lurie, Rico Royal (3 or 3 1/2) or Vandoren (2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2) At least 5 reeds at all times Cork grease Cleaning swab ReedGard or other Reed Case (for reed storage) Marching Lyre
Saxophone	Blessing, Bundy, Conn, Jupiter, Keilwerth, Selmer, Vito/LeBlanc,	Suggested (Alto) Mouthpiece: Selmer S-80 C*, Rousseau Classic R4 or New Classic

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	Yamaha, Yanagisawa	NC4, Vandoren V5 A15; Clark Fobes 'Debut'. Suggested Ligature: Rovner Suggested Reeds: LaVoz (2 1/2), Rico Royal (3 or 3 1/2) or Vandoren (2 1/2 or 3) At least 5 reeds at all times Cork grease Cleaning swab ReedGard or other Reed Case (for reed storage) Marching Lyre
Trumpet/Cornet	Bach, Besson, Blessing, Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha	Suggested Mouthpiece: Blessing 5C or 3C Cleaning/Maintenance Kit Suggested Mutes: Straight Mute: Tom Crown Cup Mute: Stone Lined Marching Lyre Al Cass Valve Oil
Horn		Suggested Mouthpiece: Holton Farkas MDC Cleaning/Maintenance Kit Marching Lyre
Trombone	Bach, Besson,, Conn, King, Selmer, Yamaha	Suggested Mouthpiece: Blessing 6 1/2 AL Cleaning/Maintenance Kit Marching Lyre Suggested Mutes: Straight Mute: Tom Crown Cup Mute: Stone Lined "Super Slick" & water bottle Cotton handkerchief
Euphonium	Bach, Besson,, Conn, King, Selmer, Yamaha	Suggested Mouthpiece: Blessing 6 1/2 AL Cleaning/Maintenance Kit Marching Lyre Al Cass Valve Oil
Tuba		Al Cass Valve Oil Suggested Mouthpiece: Blessing 18 or 24W Cleaning/Maintenance Kit
Percussion	Snare/Bell Kits: Ludwig, Yamaha, Pearl Sticks/Mallets/Bag: Liberty, Vic Firth, Innovative Percussion, Mike Balter	For Class: Stick bag with snare sticks, timpani mallets, bell/xylophone mallets, and marimba mallets. Practice Pad For Home: Snare drum, drum stand, practice pad, bell kit, and wire music stand

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Instrument Care/Supplies (Continued)



***In addition to the above list of accessories required for each individual instrument, ALL students will need the following:**

- **Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (Yellow), 6th Grade**
- **Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (Red), 7th Grade**
- **Accent on Achievement Book 3, 8th Grade**
- **Wire music stand for at home practice**
- **Metronome**
- **Tuner**
- **Pencil**

Tuner/Metronome Information:

All students will need a small portable tuner/metronome. The cost of this item is approximately thirty dollars (\$30.00) and it is worth every cent. We have found three types around this price range: the Boss TU 80, the Korg TM-40, and the Sabine MT9000.

SmartMusic



The Parkland Band Program will be using SmartMusic[®] to help students practice and perfect their music this year. The following information is given to explain what SmartMusic is and why it is such an important tool for our band and your child's musical development.

What is SmartMusic?

SmartMusic is a software-based computer program that helps students practice and submits their school music assignments. Students can practice exercises, solos, and beginning band and string methods, as well as the music that they are performing with their school band, orchestra, or choir. SmartMusic records and even grades student progress from home or school practice room computers and includes a metronome, tuner, and digital recorder.

How does SmartMusic benefit your family?

Individual practice is often boring as the music has been taken out of its intended group context. SmartMusic makes practicing fun. With SmartMusic, students practice with professional accompaniment. This makes practice time more engaging and productive, and helps develop better listening skills and a more mature understanding of the music. Students also practice longer and more effectively as a result of the built-in assessment features. SmartMusic enables students to record their assignments for self-evaluation and submit these recordings as part of their assignment. Most assignments offer assessment, where green and red notes indicate what students have performed correctly and where improvement is needed. In this digital age, students are accustomed to receiving immediate feedback, and they respond by setting their goals higher.

A SmartMusic subscription also provides your student immediate access to the world's largest accompaniment library, allowing them to explore areas of interest and set their own development objectives.

What is needed to use SmartMusic?

SmartMusic works on your PC or Mac and requires an Internet connection to activate your subscription and receive and send assignments on-line. System requirements and support contacts are listed at www.smartmusic.com/support.

Continued on next page...

SmartMusic (*Continued*)



What does this cost?

You can purchase a full-year subscription through our school's account for only \$30 per year. Microphones cost \$19.95 and are highly recommended as they are required for recordings and assessments. Mac computers also require a USB microphone adaptor.

How do I get started?

I will give you an information letter that spells out the easy steps to purchase and activate your SmartMusic subscription. While you must be on-line to activate, receive, or post assignments and to download ensemble and other new titles, no web browser is required, and you can practice "off- line" at any time. If you run into any questions with purchasing, activating, or using SmartMusic, it's nice to know that SmartMusic tech support is free!

If I have more than one music student at home, do I have to purchase more subscriptions?

No. After purchasing a subscription, you must activate that subscription on a single computer. Then everyone in your household can practice and perform with SmartMusic on this computer. Additional subscriptions would be necessary only if your family would like to practice on more than one computer within your home.

Concert Etiquette



Helpful Hints for Performers:

- Always look your best, be dressed in appropriate concert dress.
- Never talk during a concert, always be alert and respectful.
- Count your rests, quietly and do not tap your foot loudly.
- Do not leave to use the restroom at any time; this should be done before the concert call time.
- Do not wave at audience members that you know; politely smile instead.
- Play your best; this is your chance to shine!

Helpful Hints for Audience Members:

- Please be seated before the starting time of the concert.
- If you are bringing small children, please stress the importance of being quiet while the music is being performed.
- If you must leave for any reason, please do so between musical selections. Please re-enter between selections also.
- If you have a small child who will not stop crying or cannot sit still, please take them out of the room quickly and quietly.
- Please do not try to speak to anyone while they are seated and ready to perform.
- Please listen to the music respectfully; try not to talk, whisper, cough, or make other audible noises. That will distract the performers.
- Please do not move around during the performance. Others are trying to listen to the music.
- Please do not call out your child's name.
- Do not applaud between movements of a song.
- Wait to applaud until the conductor's hands go down and you are sure the piece is finished. Please only clap with hands; do not cheer, yell or boo.
- After the concert, let your child know what he or she did well and you appreciate their efforts.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Winter Concert: White Shirt/Blouse, Black pants or long skirt, Black (or dark) shoes and socks

Spring Concert: Students should plan to wear a Parkland Music shirt (available for purchase) with Khaki Pants for each performance. Students wear the nicest (cleanest) shoes they have to match the uniform.

PLEASE NO JEANS, T-SHIRTS, MINI-SKIRTS, SLEEVELESS TOPS OR DIRTY SHOES

Upcoming Events



First Day of Band	Tuesday, August 18
McHenry High School Football Game Rehearsal -7 th and 8 th Grades	Thursday, September 24 5:45 – 7:00 PM McCracken Field
McHenry High School Football Game -7 th and 8 th Grades	Friday, September 25 4:00 – (approximately) 9:00 PM
ILMEA Honor Band Auditions	Saturday, October 3 All Day
McHenry High School Jazz Night (Jazz Band)	Wednesday, October 21 7:00 PM
6 th Grade Winter Concert	Wednesday, December 2 7:00 PM
7 th /8 th Grade Winter Concert	Wednesday, December 9 7:00 PM
IGSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival	February TBA
8 th Grade Concert at MHHS	Thursday, February 18 (Rehearsal will star at approximately 5:30 PM.)
IGSMA Large Group Contest	March 12 or 13
IGSMA Jazz Contest March	March 18
McHenry Celebration of the Arts (<i>Jazz</i>)	March TBA
Fox Valley Honors Band (<i>Selected Members</i>)	April 13 and 15
Spring Festival of Bands	Thursday, April 22 7:00 PM

Continued on next page...

Upcoming Events (*Continued*)



IGSMA State Contest	May TBA
IGSMA State Jazz Contest	May TBA
Music in the Parks (Jazz)	May TBA
Graduation	May TBA

Please be prepared for any other events to add to your calendar.

All events and updates will be posted on the announcement page or in the calendar posted in the band website (See Below).

You can also view them at Parklandbands.blogspot.com.

Student/Parent Agreement



Please return to Mr. Atchley no later than Thursday, August 27th.

I _____ have read and understand the 2009-2010 Parkland Band
Student's Name
Handbook. I am prepared to practice and realize I have a responsibility to myself and to
the entire band. I will strive to put forth my best effort at all times.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

I _____ have read and understand what has been presented in
Parent/Guardian Name
the 2009-2010 Parkland Band Handbook. I have read over this with my child so that they
understand the expectations for the year. I will encourage my child to participate in band
with a good attitude and consistent effort.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

This form is worth 20 points towards each band student's first quarter grade.