

Papillion Middle School

7th & 8th Grade

Band Handbook

2020 – 2021

Papillion Middle School

423 S. Washington St.

Papillion, NE 68046

www.plcschools.org

402-898-0424



Papillion Middle School Band



@papiomsband

Papillion Middle School Instrumental Music Faculty

Zac Konrad – Director of Instrumental Music at Papillion Middle School

zac.konrad@plcschools.org – *note this is a new email address from previous years*

402-898-0424

Philosophy

The philosophy of the PMS Instrumental Music Department is to create an environment where students are able to foster musical skills and self-confidence through participation in a performing ensemble, while also gaining an appreciation for an understanding of music of varied styles and different cultures. Music as a means to self-expression and lifetime fulfillment is emphasized.

Goals and Objectives of the Papillion Middle School Instrumental Music Program

Students will have the opportunity to explore music through the following ways:

- A **Technical Approach** that is concerned with the rudiments and required skills for performing music.
- A **Creative Approach** that encourages exploration of the elements of music including improvisation and composition. Most importantly, students will gain decision-making and problem-solving skills related to musical creation and performance.
- A **Cultural/Historical Approach** that gives students insight into the perspective and significance of a musical work as it relates to specific cultures and life events.
- A **Critical Approach** that allows students to make value judgments regarding a musical work's effectiveness in using the basic elements of music.
- An **Aesthetic Approach** that allows students to evaluate music based on an individual emotional response.

Large Ensembles

CADET BAND – The 7th Grade Band Students are divided into three bands of similar instrumentation which meet during one of the first three periods of the day. Each band performs two concerts during the school year, one in December and one in April as a combined 7th grade band. Students will continue developing those skills introduced in 6th grade band with emphasis placed on both individual musical development and ensemble-playing techniques.

SYMPHONIC BAND – The Symphonic Band is comprised of 8th grade students and is divided into three bands. Each group rehearses daily during each of the last three periods. Students must pass certain playing requirements to maintain membership and perform with this band. Students will be expected to continue developing their skills at a high level through major and minor scales, technique exercises, ear training, and high-quality band literature of an intermediate-to-advanced level. This band performs several public concerts and participates in contests/festivals.

JAZZ BAND – The **Titan Jazz Band** is primarily comprised of 8th grade students who must audition to gain membership in this group. This band rehearses from 7:15 – 8:00 AM two mornings per week. The Titan Jazz Band performs several concerts during the school year including a tour to the district elementary school as well as other school/community events. The **Cadet Jazz Band** is formed later in the school year and is mainly comprised of 7th grade musicians who play an instrument that fits the jazz band instrumentation.

Solos/Small Ensembles/Honor Bands

Band students have the opportunity to prepare solos and participate in small ensembles such as jazz combos, duets, trios, quartets, etc. These activities do require extra time and effort, but students will gain valuable skills through their participation.

- **Seventh Grade:** Students may perform solos and ensembles as an extra credit project during the month of May. Advanced students may be eligible to participate in the Millard Solo & Ensemble Festival in the spring.
- **Eighth Grade:** Students may choose to audition for the NSBA 8th Grade All-State Honor Band held Saturday, January 18th in Kearney, NE (auditions are in October). Eighth grade students may also be selected to participate in the Blair Middle School Honor Band on Saturday, March 28th (through teacher recommendation). Students may also choose to perform solos and ensembles at the Millard Solo & Ensemble Festival in the spring.

Small Group Instruction

~~An important aspect of the Papillion Middle School Band Program is the group sectional lesson. These lessons provide students an opportunity to focus on and improve their individual playing skills in a small group setting. These sessions will occasionally be held before or after school. Parents and students will be notified if and when these are scheduled. Sectionals focus on tone, technique development, and ensemble precision within their respective sections.~~ — ***On hold til' further notice***

Private Lessons

There are a limited number of private lesson spots made available for students, usually before/after school or during a study hall. Interested students can sign up when the available times are posted. Students who are working on auditions and/or solos are required to sign up for a lesson time. Students must be willing to spend time practicing the lesson material each week.

Although we can provide individualized instruction to a certain degree within our band program, private lessons outside of school are highly encouraged. Students who have an above average interest in playing their instruments and are eager to progress at a quicker pace are good candidates for private lessons. It is recommended that you seek a specialist on your child's particular instrument for private lessons. Mr. Konrad can help you find a qualified private lesson instructor.

Practice

All students are expected to spend some time outside of class practicing their instrument. **Individual practice is the single most important factor in gaining skills on a musical instrument.**

Practice Hints – While all musicians enjoy playing music they can already play well, remember to devote adequate practice time to material that is challenging to ***you***. If you always sound great when you're practicing, you're not practicing the right things!

Location of Practice – Students are encouraged to practice at home; however, practice rooms are available at school from 7:30am to 3:45pm. All instruments are to be taken home each weekend and as often as possible during the school week. It is recommended that a specific time and place be scheduled each day to help set a routine for daily practice. Choose a quiet place that is free from distractions and use a proper chair and music stand.

Switching Instruments – If a student decides to switch instruments, private lessons with a qualified instructor will be necessary in order to maintain pace with their peers.

Instruments

Personal Instruments at School – Students can store their personal instruments on shelves in the band room during the school day. Storing an instrument in your locker is ***not*** recommended. All instruments must have a proper name tag with the student's first and last name. A limited number of nametags will be available at the beginning of the school year for those who need them. Instruments should always go home on the weekends, holidays, and as often as possible during the school week in order for the student to practice.

School Instruments – The school, on a loan basis, furnishes the larger and more expensive instruments in the band. Students may transfer from another instrument or start on a school instrument depending on the student's capabilities, the availability of an instrument, and the need for a certain instrument to fill out the proper instrumentation in the band. ***Instrument changes will always be done at the director's discretion. In the event of a change, private lessons will be necessary.*** Students are expected to keep these instruments clean and show extreme care when handling them. Students using a school wind instrument will need to fill out an ***Instrument Care Contract and will be responsible for any damages/loss.***

Broken Instruments – When an instrument is not working properly, students should first show it to a band director to determine if it's a minor repair that can be handled at school. If the instrument must go to the shop, and the student will be without it for a period of time, he/she should bring a dated repair tag or signed note from a parent explaining the situation.

Purchasing Instruments – With the appearance of many "bargain brand" instruments on the market and the growing popularity of online shopping, knowing which instrument to choose can be confusing. While some of the lesser-known brands are perfectly fine for students, some of the others can be of very poor quality, making them difficult to play and repair. Knowing the difference isn't easy unless you are a musical instrument expert. This is especially true if you're only able to look at a picture online or in a catalog. The staff at Papillion Middle School will be happy to advise you when you are considering a musical instrument.

Uniforms

~~The performance uniform for all band members is: **khaki or tan "Dockers-style" pants, dark shoes, and the band shirt.** The band shirt orders will be done during the first weeks of school for \$12 each. — ***On hold til' further notice***~~

Summer Band

All Papillion Middle School band students are offered a summer band session at some point over the summer, free of charge. While this session is optional, all students are encouraged to attend. More detailed information will come out in the early spring. This did not happen the summer of 2020 due to Covid-19.

Grading

The grade for each quarter will be based on performance in the following areas:

Summative (70%):

- Major & minor scales and drum rudiment tests
- Band music tests
- Technique exercise tests
- Concert Attendance (2nd & 4th quarters)

Formative (30%):

- Daily participation (having instrument/equipment; staying on task)
- Music theory/vocabulary worksheets
- Writing assignments (IE: Concert/performance review)

Concert Attendance

The following information is all under the assumption concerts will happen this year. To preserve the integrity of the band as a performing ensemble, a firm concert attendance policy is necessary. Band members are required and expected to be at each scheduled performance for their respective band. Because band is a performance-based class, missing performances can jeopardize a student's grade and/or membership in the band. If missing a performance is unavoidable, students/parents are asked to give notice, in writing, to the band director at least two weeks prior. ***Exceptions will be made for illness and family emergency.*** Please mark your family calendar with the performance dates when they are passed out. On the rare occasion when a student must miss a performance and has given proper advance notice, they will be given the opportunity to make up the grade credit through a written research project. These cases will be handled on an individual basis.

Disruptive Action

A student causing any type of disruption during a band rehearsal, lesson, or other band activity will have a conference with the band director to discuss elimination of the problem. In the case of a second offense, an administrator and/or parents will be notified to help find a solution to the problem. If a third offense occurs, the student may lose the privilege of member in the band.

PAPILLION MIDDLE SCHOOL

PLAYING TEST RUBRIC

7th and 8th Band

	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Tone	Full sound with good air support. (20 points)	Some air support & working toward a full sound. (15 points)	Thinner sound with little air support. (10 points)
Technique	All or nearly all notes are correct Appropriate fingerings are used NO note names or fingerings are written (20 points)	1-2 missed notes Minor fingering inconsistencies A few note reminders are written in (15 points)	Numerous wrong notes Does not know/use appropriate fingerings Note names and fingerings are written in (10 points)
Rhythm	No discernable rhythmic errors (20 points)	Minor rhythmic errors (15 points)	Numerous rhythmic errors (10 points)
Time	Time is steady and even throughout (20 points)	Time has minor fluctuations (15 points)	No noticeable time or tempo is varied throughout (10 points)
Articulation	Marked articulations are correct Excellent tonguing throughout (20 points)	Minor articulation errors Minor tonguing inconsistencies (15 points)	Does not observe marked articulation Incorrect and inconsistent tonguing throughout (10 points)

***Students who put forth no effort or refuse to test will receive 0 points.**

How Parents Can Help

From NAFME: National Association for Music Education

- Help your child setup a special place at home to play their instrument.
- Establish a time each day to play. Some children are at their best in the morning, before school.
- Help him/her establish a routine. This may require some consultation with the teacher. A typical middle schoolers' half-hour practice routine might include:
 - Warmup (1-3 minutes)
 - Play a fun, familiar piece (3-5)
 - Work on a new or difficult piece (10-15 minutes)
 - Work on technical requirements, such as scales or other technique builders (5 minutes)
 - Play something fun to conclude the session
- If possible, be a positive part of your child's playing time. Sit with your child while he/she plays and ask, "Show me what you're learning." Or, consider learning to play the instrument with your child.
- Praise your child for each step forward.
- As a parent, don't make judgments about the musical quality of your child's practicing. Learning an instrument requires lots of squeaks, scratches, and wrong notes.
- Help your child understand that playing only familiar songs will not help him/her improve.
- Help your young musician set practice goals. Keeping a journal, not just a practice chart, helps track the peaks and valleys of learning a new piece or improving fundamental skills.
- Explain to your child that learning happens in stages. Sometimes a student will work on something for a long time with no apparent improvement, and then discover a sudden leap in ability. Other times, learning happens very quickly. The important thing to stress is that consistent practice will yield results.
- Encourage other family members to applaud the child's efforts. Positive attention is a great motivator.
- Remember that there are always peaks and valleys in the learning process. You and your child should expect times of discouragement, accept them, and focus on the positive fact that he/she's learning to make music. Reminder him/her that everything worth doing takes time and effort.
- Provide positive role models. Bring your child to hear amateur or professional musicians perform.
- Take your child to movies that show musicians in a positive light, such as "Music of the Heart."
- When seeking private lessons, find a qualified teacher you can talk to easily. Ask about the teacher's philosophy of education, and ask to talk to some of the teacher's current students or their parents. Make sure your child is comfortable with the teacher.

PMS Band – Required Supplies

Flute

- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning swab (cloth)

Optional:

- Key oil
- Polishing cloth (silver)
- Small screwdriver
- Pad saver

Oboe/Bassoon

- Swab
- Cork grease
- Reed holder or case
- Two playable wood reeds (med or med-soft)

Optional:

- Key oil
- Small screwdriver

Clarinet

- Swab
- Cork grease
- Reed guard
- Four playable reeds: (Rico/Rico Royal/Juno #2.5 or #3, Grand Concert, Mitchel Lurie, Vandoren #3 or #3.5)

Optional:

- Key oil
- Small screwdriver
- Pad saver
- Mouthpiece patch
- Thumb rest cushion

Saxophone

- Swab
- Cork grease
- Reed guard
- Four playable reeds: (Rico/Rico Royal/Juno #2.5 or #3, LaVoz medium, Hemke or Vandoren #3)

Optional:

- Key oil
- Small screwdriver
- Pad saver
- Mouthpiece patch

Trumpet/Euphonium

- Valve oil
- Tuning slide grease
- Flexible cleaning brush (snake)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Straight mute (trpt only)

Optional:

- Polishing cloth

Trombone

- Slide oil or slide cream & water bottle
- Tuning slide grease
- Flexible cleaning brush (snake)
- Mouthpiece brush

Optional:

- Polishing cloth

French Horn

- Rotor & valve oil
- Tuning slide grease
- String for valves
- Small screwdriver
- Mouthpiece brush

Optional:

- Polishing cloth

Percussion

- Drum kit including: snare drum, drum stand, practice pad (Gladstone type), carrying case.
- Two pairs of sticks (hickory or oak #2B or 5A)
- Stick bag
- Yarn mallets
- Plastic mallets

Optional, but recommended:

- Timpani mallets
- Pitch pipe