**Palm Springs Middle School**

**Band Handbook**



**2019-2020**

Mr. Steven Raimundez, Band Director

Mr. Leonard Torres, Principal

**Palm Springs Middle School Band**

Welcome and congratulations for choosing to be a part of the Palm Springs Middle School Band. In making this decision, you have become a very important part of our school’s music department and our school community. The Palm Springs Music Program is well known for its tradition of musical excellence, and this year we will continue that tradition. We hope this experience will help you grow, not only as a musician, but also as a person. The purpose of this manual is to inform students and parents of the responsibilities of students, and the policies of the Band program.

**Course Descriptions**

**Beginning Band-** Open to all students who desire to learn to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. No previous playing experience is required. Students will receive instruction in the basics of music theory and performance on their chosen instrument. **PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**

**Concert Band-** Teacher recommendation required. Open to students who have **successfully** completed at least one year of beginning band. This group will develop more advanced techniques and perform symphonic literature. **PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**

**Symphonic Band-** Teacher recommendation required. This is our advanced group that will focus on symphonic band literature. Students in this group have demonstrated, and are expected to maintain, a high level of competency on their instrument. **After school rehearsals will be required. PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**

**Jazz Band-** Teacher recommendation and **participation in Symphonic Band** required. Students in this group have demonstrated, and are expected to maintain, a high level of competency on their instrument. Students will focus on the jazz genre. This group will represent Palm Springs Middle School at many events. **After school rehearsals will be required. PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**

**Drum Line-** Teacher recommendation and participation in Concert Band required. This is an extra-curricular group that will meet after school. This group will represent Palm Springs Middle School at many events, including sporting events and parades. **After school rehearsals will be required. PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**

**Course Objective**

To help students gain a proficiency on their instrument and gain musical knowledge.

1. To develop and foster pride in our performance organization(s) and our school.
2. To give students an opportunity to perform.
3. To give students a chance to provide service to our school and community.
4. To provide a complete cross-curricular experience in learning.

**Required Materials**

1. Instrument including necessary supplies (including cleaning supplies, reeds, valve oil, etc.).
2. A music folder with sheet protectors, notebook paper and staff paper. (You can find free staff paper online at [www.blanksheetmusic.net/](http://www.blanksheetmusic.net/) )
3. Pencils

**Instruments and Supplies**

Palm Springs has a limited number of instruments available for student check-out. In addition, most of the instruments are old and not in top shape. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students rent or purchase their own instrument. I will be giving students information of various vendors in the area. The priority for school instruments will be given to returning advanced students. (Jazz and Concert Band) Beginning students will be assigned instruments based on their interests (they will be asked to list their 3 preferences) and the needs of the ensemble. However, the only way to guarantee that your child gets the instrument they want is by renting one outside of school. Students and parents are responsible for maintaining school instruments in the condition in which they were assigned. **Parents will be held financially responsible for any damage or loss of school instruments**.

If you rent an instrument from a music store, the necessary supplies should come with the instrument. If you use a school instrument, the instrument and the mouthpiece will be provided to each student. Some consumable supplies may be required. See the list below for supplies needed by instrument.

Flutes: nothing else.

Clarinets/Saxophones: 3 or more reeds (I recommend buying a box) strength 2 ½ for Beginning Band; 3 ½ for Concert/Jazz Band. Swab and cork grease.

Trumpets/Baritone (Euphonium)/Tuba: valve oil. An old rag or towel.

Trombone: Slide oil. An old rag or towel.

French Horn: rotary valve oil. An old rag or towel.

Percussion: a pair of size 5B drumsticks and a practice pad. (you can use a thick computer mouse pad)

DO NOT LEAVE INSTRUMENTS ON THE BAND ROOM FLOOR OR IN ANY OTHER LOCATION WHERE THEY ARE NOT SECURE! Musical instruments are a popular target for thieves and vandals, therefore YOU must make it difficult for them to get yours. Instruments that are stolen or damaged due to student negligence will be the financial responsibility of the student and their parent/guardian.

**Uniforms**

Band is teamwork, so looking like a team will help us to perform as one. Uniforms are required for every performance and students will not be allowed to perform if they are not in uniform. Please follow the guidelines given below for uniforms.

Beginning, Concert and Symphonic Band

White, long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt with a collar. (tucked in)

Black dress pants (no skinny jeans, skirts or tights)

Black Socks

Black Dress Shoes (no open toed shoes)

Jazz Band

Black, long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt with a collar. (tucked in)

Black dress pants

Black dress socks

Black dress shoes (no athletic shoes)

Bow ties and cummerbunds will be provided for Symphonic and Jazz Bands.

Drumline

PSMS purple dry fit shirt (Mr. Raimundez will order)

White, knee-length, athletic shorts

White sneakers with white socks

**Class Rules**

1. Follow directions the first time.
2. Be on time.
3. No gum, food, candy, or sports drinks are allowed in the band room (bottled water is OK).
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
5. Show respect for teachers, classmates, and guests.
6. Remain seated unless given permission to leave your seat.
7. Instruments are to be touched only by their owners.
8. No pushing, shoving, wrestling, horseplay, or similar behavior is allowed.
9. Never talk or play while the director is speaking.
10. Cell phones, I-pods and other electronic devices cannot be seen or heard during class, unless specified by the director.

(**I see it, I take it away!)**

**Consequences**

Step 1. Warning.

Step 2. Conduct cut /student conference.

Step 3. Teacher detention/ Parent notification/communication; conduct cut.

Step 4. Pack up instrument/alternate assignment.

Step 5. Parent/Teacher conference.

Step 6. Referral to the office/S.C.A.M.

Note: The Director may start at the 4th step for serious behavior problems.

**Classroom Expectations List**

1. Pick up your instrument, get your music, and proceed directly to your seat and begin unpacking. Arrange your music in the order shown on the board. Proceed to warm-up in a professional manner. This means soft long tones first, and then scales or portions of our music at a soft dynamic level.
2. Be in your seat, with music and instrument ready to play three minutes after the tardy bell rings.
3. When the Director steps in front of the band, all noise must stop.
4. For security reasons, non-band students may not enter the band room for any reason unless given permission by the Director (This protects you and your instrument).
5. Respect, and take care of, ALL school instruments/equipment. Leave all instruments/equipment alone that are not checked out to you.

**Tardy policy**

If you are not inside the classroom when the tardy bell rings, you are tardy. If you are tardy to class 3 times, you will be issued a detention.

**Grading Policy**

Quarter Grades

Quarter (9 week) grades will be calculated by averaging grades in the following areas:

Daily Participation 20%

Playing/Written Tests 30%

Home Learning 10%

Performances 40%

Daily Participation

Each day, students will be given points based on their active participation and preparation in band class. If you do not have an instrument or supplies necessary to play the instrument, you will not receive any points for that day. Students who do not have an instrument for 3 consecutive days will receive a detention. 1 unexcused absence in a week will lower your participation grade 2 letter grades. 2 unexcused absences in a week will result in an F.

Grade Scale

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-0 F

Playing/Written Tests

Playing and/or written tests will be given at least every other week based on material learned in class. Students not happy with a test grade may re-test **before or after school, on their own time** before the end of a quarter; after which the grade they originally received is permanent.

Home Learning

Practice time at home is essential for a student to learn how to play an instrument. Students may practice in the band room before or after school while Mr. Raimundez is in. Students should practice **at least** 20 minutes each day. The student will occasionally be given written homework. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to ask what work was assigned.

Performances

All scheduled performances are **mandatory.** A “no show” to a performance will result in a failing grade for that quarter. Students and parents will be notified well in advance of scheduled performances. Excuses such as, “I didn’t have a ride”, or “My child didn’t tell me about the concert until last night” will not be accepted.

In the case of sudden illness or family emergency, please e-mail or call and leave a message explaining the emergency. Student must present a note from a parent the very next class. An alternate assignment will be given to students who are excused from performances.

Students are responsible for learning their parts for a performance, and play them up to standard. If a student can not play their part, they will not participate in the performance, which will result in a failing grade for that quarter.

Students who have an academic or conduct grade of D or F at the time of performance may not participate in the performance.

Performances will be graded by attendance, showing up on time, wearing the proper uniform, preparation (knowing your music) and conduct/behavior during performance.

**MPA-Music Performance Assessment**

The Symphonic and Jazz Bands are required to perform at the Music Performance Assessment sponsored by Miami-Dade Public Schools and Florida Bandmasters Association.

The Jazz Band MPA is scheduled for February 20-22, 2020 (exact date and time TBD) at Coral Reef Senior High School.

The Concert Band MPA (for Symphonic Band) is scheduled for March 11-13, 2020. (exact date and time TBD) at M.A.S. Zelda Glazer.

**Fees**

Music fees will be collected on a date T.B.A. Fees include a $4.00 sheet music fee for everyone, and a $6.00 rental/repair fee for those students using a school instrument. Students who use a school instrument will pay a total of $10.00 . These fees are collected once a year. Fees are non-refundable. If you have any financial hardships that will make it difficult to pay fees, please contact me so we can make other arrangements.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact Mr. Raimundez by calling the band office

at 305-821-2460 ext. 2239, or by e-mail, at sraimundez@dadeschools.net

**Parents and Students**

Please sign, detach, and return this page to the band director indicating that you **understand the contents of this handbook**.

Student’s name (please print) Student’s signature

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Parent/Guardian’s name (please print) Parent/Guardian’s signature

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Relationship to student Parent Contact Information

**(very important!! Please fill out completely!)**

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Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_