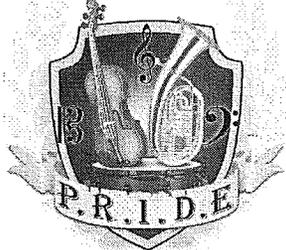


PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL



# *PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Procedural Handbook/Syllabus 2017-2018*

Dear Instrumental Music Student and Parent:

Welcome to the Parkdale High School Instrumental Music Program! PHS Instrumental Music has a legacy of excellence that we take a tremendous amount of PRIDE in. There are many ways in which the student musician will be able to find and refine their musical voice in the program, and although it will be very challenging work, it will be equally rewarding.

When you signed up for the instrumental music program, you made a *commitment*— a commitment to yourself as a musician and commitment to the other members of your ensemble. We are counting on your full participation for the entire year. This commitment is necessary in order for our overall improvement and for our planning for the year. Please take your commitment seriously.

### **Parents:**

Please review the Grading Rubric, and review, sign, and return the Program Policies and Parent Acknowledgement pages. Also sign and return the Publicity Release and emergency medical treatment forms.

### **Students:**

Please return all three signed pages to me during your next class.

We are excited to have you with us! I look forward to working with each of you to continue our tradition of musical excellence here at Parkdale High School. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me in the music office: (301) 513-5700 x85034 or even better, on email at [parkdalebands@gmail.com](mailto:parkdalebands@gmail.com).

Musically,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Everett A. Martin, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Everett A. Martin, Jr.

Director of Instrumental Music



# Parkdale High School

## Instrumental Music

### Ensemble Summary

#### **Basic Band:**

The basic band course is designed to give the student musician a strong fundamental foundation in performance on a wind instrument. Each student will be given very detailed daily instruction on sound production, articulation, tone, tuning, and playing in tune. The goal of the course is to prepare the student for participation in one of our major performing band ensembles, the Concert Band. Membership is extended to all students who wish to play a wind instrument.

#### **Concert (Intermediate) Band:**

The intermediate band course is designed to build upon the fundamental elements of creating music through the wind instruments, as introduced in the basic band course, or in elementary or middle school band. Literature will include intermediate key signatures and rhythms, simple, duple and triple meters, and mostly traditional tonalities. This ensemble emphasizes a high standard of musical technique, and will require appropriate practice time at home. The course is *performance-based*, so much of what we do will be geared toward preparing for our next concert or performance. Please note the importance of performances in the grading rubric on the following pages. We strongly encourage members of this ensemble to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season sometime in late October or early November. Students who play non-marching band instruments can select a secondary instrument or contribute by becoming a band manager. Occasionally, a student in the concert band may qualify to participate in the Symphony Orchestra, although this is uncommon.

#### **Symphonic (Advanced) Band:**

The advanced band course is designed to build upon techniques taught during the intermediate band course, or an advanced middle school band. Literature will include advanced key signatures and rhythms, simple, compound/mixed meters, and complex tonalities. This ensemble emphasizes a very high standard of musical technique, and will require appropriate practice time at home. The course is *performance-based*, so much of what we do will be geared toward preparing for our next concert or performance. Please note the importance of performances in the grading rubric on the following pages. The director must approve membership in this ensemble before registration. We strongly encourage members of this ensemble to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season sometime in late October or early November. Students who play non-marching band instruments can select a secondary instrument or contribute by becoming a band manager. Many members of the Symphonic Band will also perform with the Parkdale Symphony Orchestra.

#### **Intermediate String Orchestra:**

The Intermediate Orchestra course is designed to build upon fundamental elements of creating music through the traditional orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, violoncello, and double bass. Students will be given instruction on tuning, intonation, scales, and varied bowing techniques. Literature will include intermediate key signatures and rhythms, simple and compound meters, and mostly traditional tonalities. This ensemble emphasizes a high standard of musical technique, and will require appropriate practice time at home. The class is

*performance-based*, so much of what we do will be geared toward preparing for our next concert or performance. Please note the importance of performances in the grading rubric on the following pages. The most skilled members of the String Orchestra will also perform with the Parkdale Symphony Orchestra.

**Percussion:**

Percussion students will refine performance on all the battery and melodic percussion instruments. Specific emphasis will be placed on mallet percussion, such as xylophone, vibraphone, and orchestra bells. Proficient and advanced members of this class will comprise the Percussion Ensemble, which will meet after school this year. Percussion students will test into either the Basic, Concert, or Symphonic Bands and/or Symphony Orchestra. The successful percussion student must possess a strong desire to learn all aspects of the percussive idiom of creating music. Percussionists are encouraged to participate in the Panthers Marching Band drumline until the end of football season, which ends in late October or early November.

**Marching Panthers:**

The Panthers Marching Band is an exciting ensemble that requires a high degree of musical, physical, and mental training. It will be the most visible of the ensembles that are offered at Parkdale, and will be featured at most home football games, parades, marching band competitions, and pep rallies. The music performed by this group will consist of marches, traditional band literature, and lots of music from some of the hottest artists on the radio. Membership with the Marching Panthers requires an especially high degree of dedication, so members who are not committed to the highest standard will not be able to participate. Band managers will assist the band by taking care of logistics (taking attendance, hydration, managing the conductor's podium, placing yard markers, handling uniform issues, etc.) under the direction of the director or his designee.

**Panthers Jazz Ensemble:**

The Panthers Jazz Ensemble will play traditional and contemporary jazz literature in the big band style. This ensemble normally consists of alto (2), tenor (2), and baritone saxes, trumpets (4 or 5), trombones (4), drum set, piano, bass, and guitar. The director may make substitutions if a nonstandard instrument meets the performance requirements for the ensemble. Membership is open to all members of the instrumental music program who display a high degree of proficiency on their instrument.

**Parkdale String Quintet:**

The PHS String Quintet consists of some of the highest performing students in the string orchestra. The Quintet will play literature from all musical periods from the Renaissance to the present. This ensemble also performs outside of the publicized concert schedule.

**Symphony Orchestra:**

The symphony orchestra consists of the strongest players in the string orchestra plus many members of the advanced wind and percussion sections of the band. This ensemble will perform a very exciting variety of advanced literature.

**Other:**

There will be many other opportunities for small group performance, including Clarinet Choir, Brass Ensemble, Chamber (Advanced) Strings, Saxophone Choir, and Percussion Ensemble. Other small group ensembles will include duets, trios, and quartets. All musicians in the program are encouraged to find friends they enjoy playing with (especially in similar instrument families) and find literature that they can play together. This leads to a higher level of musical independence for the individual, and a much more musically proficient ensemble. See the director for help in selecting appropriate literature.

## Opportunities for Performance

Intermediate and advanced music students are required to participate in one or two PGCPSS-sponsored music events offered by the Prince George's County instrumental music department:

1. **Advanced** instrumental students are required to prepare and audition for the PG County High School Honors Orchestra or Band on Tuesday, October 3.
2. **Intermediate and advanced** students are required to prepare and perform at the PG County Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 3. This event allows students to showcase their individual and small-group musical talents, while getting valuable feedback from respected educators from our area. Some literature will be available in the music room, but students are encouraged to investigate other music from the MD Music Educators' approved music lists, which are stored in our music room and at the MD Music Educator's website: <http://www.mmea-maryland.org/> (Choose "Music Lists"). Music must be chosen by early December.

In addition to the aforementioned playing opportunities, there will be field trips to enhance instrumental students' musical growth, as well as having clinics by collegiate and/or professional musicians, and respected educators and conductors in the area.

## Class Instructional Materials (method books):

Unlike other classes in school, participation in the instrumental music program requires a financial investment. In addition to having access to a fully functional instrument (personal or school-owned), students are also responsible for having the following method (text) books:

**Basic Band**

- *Essential Elements*, Book 1

**Concert Band**

- *Essential Elements*, Book 2

**Symphonic Band**

- *Essential Technique*, Book 3
- **Optional Technique Book: *Foundations for Superior Performance***

**Intermediate Orchestra**

- *String Basics*, Book 2 and/or 3

**Percussion**

- *Alfred's Drum Method*, Complete Edition (order online)

### All Instruments:

1. ½” binder with plastic sheet protectors
2. Pencil
3. Wire music stand for home practice
4. Portable tuner/metronome – A tuner like the Korg TM-50 is a great tuner/metronome, and a “pickup” or clip-on microphone is also very useful for rehearsal. Cheap ones are available online. Students can also download free tuner and metronome apps for use on their smartphone. The best app I’ve seen (by far) is called Tonal Energy (or TE Tuner). It is well worth the \$2-4 investment, and students are trained on using the app in class.

### Individual Instruments

- Violin/Viola
  - Rosin
  - Shoulder rest - a plastic, contoured model or the cheaper shaped-sponge model. (REQUIRED)
  - Polish cloth
  - Peg compound (the “crayon” kind)
- Cello
  - Cello rosin
  - Rock stop – Viva Cello is nice, chair straps also work very well
  - Polish cloth
  - Peg Compound (the “crayon” kind)
- Bass
  - Bass rosin (Pop’s or Samuel Kolstein are recommended)
  - Rock Stop
  - Polish cloth
- Flute – a moisture swab and cleaning rod
- Clarinet/Bass Clarinet
  - Reeds, in order of preference: Grand Concert Select (order online), Mitchell Lurie, or Vandoren reeds (**NOT** orange box Rico reeds. There’s a reason why they’re the cheapest reeds in the store!) Except for beginners (2.5) most players will be playing on 3 or 3.5 strength reeds.
  - cork grease
  - Moisture swab
  - Reed case (optional)
- Saxophone
  - In order of preference: Grand Concert Select (order online), Hemke, or Vandoren reeds (**NOT** orange box Rico reeds. There’s a reason why they’re the cheapest reeds in the store!) Except for beginners (2.5), most players should be playing on 3 or 3.5 strength reeds.
  - Cork grease
  - Moisture swab
  - Neck strap
  - Reed case (optional)

- Oboe
  - Medium or Medium Hard reeds (at least 2): Handmade is preferred, but recommended mass produced models include Fox Artist, Leshner Artist, or Emerald
  - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
  - Moisture swab
- Bassoon
  - Medium reeds (at least 2): Handmade preferred, but recommended mass produced models include Dunkel, Selmer Soloist, or Leshner
  - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
  - Moisture swab
- Trumpet, Euphonium (Baritone): valve oil and tuning slide grease
- F Horn: rotary oil and tuning slide grease
- Trombone
  - slide cream/grease (“Trombotine” or “Slide-O-Mix” preferred)
  - miniature spray water bottle (from Target or Walmart)
- Tuba: Valve oil for piston valves, rotary oil for rotary valves
- Percussion
  - SD-1 or 5B for beginners, 5A or 7A for intermediate
  - Snare drum practice pad and bell kit (for home).

The closest music stores in our area are listed below (please call to check availability before visiting):

- ✦ Music & Arts (Greenbelt): 301-474-1474
- ✦ Gales’ Violin Shop (College Park): 301-474-4300
- ✦ Music & Arts (Bowie): 301-262-5950
- ✦ Central Electronics and Music Warehouse (Capitol Heights): 301-336-8589
- ✦ Chuck Levin’s Washington Music Center (Wheaton): 301-946-8808
- ✦ Internet suppliers are generally cheaper than local, but take some time to order:
  - Shar Music (Strings) <http://www.sharmusic.com>
  - Southwest Strings <http://www.swstrings.com>
  - The Woodwind and Brasswind <http://www.wwbw.com>
  - Musician’s Friend <http://musiciansfriend.com>
  - Interstate Music <http://www.interstatemusic.com>
  - Brook Mays <http://www.brookmays.com/>

Recommended repair shops: ATEC Music, Clinton: 301-877-8600

Gales Violin Shop (violin, viola, cello), C. Park: 301-474-4300

Baltimore Brass (Catonsville): 410-744-1723

Bob’s House of Bases: 301-805-9407

Chuck Levin’s Washington Music: 301-946-8808

Lee Lachman (woodwinds), College Park: 301-345-3389

## Instrumental Fees

Since we aren't funded by the school, there are fees involved with the participation in the instrumental music program because of the high cost of purchasing new instructional materials (literature), instruments, uniforms, supplies, and maintenance. The fees are itemized below, with the items used by each ensemble following. If a student has already paid for their uniform items, they are only responsible for the operational fee, which is \$50, or \$25 if only using a personal instrument.

**Basic Band:** \$60 or \$35 if using a personal instrument. Includes PHSIM t-shirt.

**Concert Band:** \$80 or \$55 if only using personal instrument. Includes tie/cummerbund set and PHSIM t-shirt.

**Symphonic Band and Orchestra:** \$125 or \$100 if using a personal instrument. Includes gown or tuxedo and the PHSIM t-shirt.

PHS Instrumental Music T-shirt	10
Tie and Cummerbund Set (Concert Band)	20
Gown or Tuxedo (Symphonic Band and Orchestra)	65
Operations Fee (Instrument loan, program expenses, etc.)	50 or 25 if not using a school instrument

Families who are not in a position to pay the fees outright should assist in raising funds by participating with our fundraising activities. Sizing forms will be distributed in October.

**Fees will be due on Monday, October 16 - cash and money orders only, please!**

## Student Leadership Council (SLC)

The SLC will operate under the supervision of the director, but are trained to operate independently, when necessary. Student officers will work with the director in several capacities:

1. Lead by setting the example of how student musicians should function within the musical program and in the school and community at large (showing P.R.I.D.E.) Areas of focus also include academics, musicianship, and work ethic.
2. Be a liaison between the students and director for events, activities, or concerns the students may have.
3. Student officers will be elected by the students, but will continue to serve only if they remain in good standing with the director.
4. The drum major and concert master are positions appointed by the director.

Student leadership positions are listed below:

### **President**

The presidents are the student leaders of the Student Leadership Council. They are the primary communication liaison between the students and the director. The president will preside over meetings with the band or orchestra. The presidents will ensure that the projects/tasks of the student officers are being completed efficiently.

### **Vice-President**

The vice-president is the second in command of the Student Leadership Council. He/she will be the secondary communication liaison between students and the director. Vice Presidents are tasked with the immediate oversight of the various committees and activities regarding the music program. The vice president will assist the president in his/her duties, whenever possible.

### **Secretary**

The secretary will keep accurate records (minutes) of SLC meetings, and provide that information to the director, as needed. He/she will assist the president and vice-president by providing details for task completion.

### **Librarians**

The librarians will be in charge of distributing and copying music, as applicable for their ensemble. They will be in charge of the database of the music library. Each librarian will organize a library committee with members in each performance class in order to maintain musical order for the program's sheet music, and to assist with data entry.

### **Equipment Manager**

The equipment manager will facilitate the efficient movement of equipment, as needed by the program. The equipment committee will be responsible for the general order of the room before and after rehearsals and performances. The equipment manager will organize an equipment committee with members in each performance class, and is supervised by the Equipment Supervisor (parent).

### **Drum Major**

The drum major, when selected, is the second in command for the Marching Panthers. He/she is the field commander, whose function is to carry out the orders of the day, solely as indicated by the director. The drum major should be a strong musician and an able leader. He/she will be required to assist with conducting rehearsals at the discretion of the director.

### **Concert Master**

The concert master is the second in command for the orchestra. He/she is responsible for ensuring the ensemble is tuned and in order. The CM may be called upon to rehearse the orchestra at the discretion of the director.

### **Other leadership positions: Principals and Section Leaders**

The principal players in each orchestra section and section leaders for each band section are usually the strongest musician-leader for their instrument. These positions are appointed by the director.

# Grading Rubric

The student's grade in instrumental music will be determined by the following county-mandated rubric:

**Classwork/Performances** **60%**

Class participation  
Performances  
Solo & Ensemble Festival Participation  
High School Honor Band Audition  
After-school Sectionals/Rehearsals

**Homework** **10%**

Daily Practice at home  
Written assignments (as required)

**Assessment** **30%**

Playing tests/quizzes

**Classwork/Performances:**

*Being prepared, cooperatively participating in class, sectional rehearsals, and performing on concerts.*

This involves being present, on time, prepared, and engaged for each class period. Performances are relative to the ensembles a student is involved in. This portion of the grade is *extremely* important due to the performance orientation of the class, and our dependence on each other to have the proper ensemble blend and balance. Advancing players are exposed to more playing opportunities, and they are required to participate in the PG County Solo & Ensemble Festival, as well as the PG High School Honors groups auditions (these groups only accept the most outstanding students on each instrument from around the county). As always, students should attend all scheduled after-school sectional rehearsals unless a note is supplied one week in advance. Semester schedules will be posted in the music room, and sent home electronically and via hardcopy. Sections meet on a rotational basis, so no one section should meet more than every month or so, after Marching Band ends. The more ensembles a student is involved in, the more rehearsal (and practice) time will be required!

**Homework:**

*Daily home practice.*

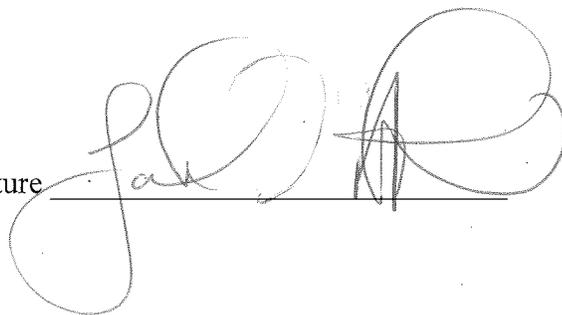
This includes taking instruments home to practice -- at least 120 minutes per week for intermediate students.

**Assessment:**

*Playing tests and quizzes.*

Playing exams are given approximately every four to six weeks. Chair assignments (in the advanced ensembles) will be determined from these playing tests. They include performance of scales, method or technique book material, or literature.

Principal's Signature



PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL



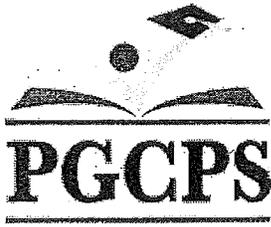
Persistence Responsibility Integrity Discipline Excellence

# *PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Program Policies*

- ✓ **Always be present, on time, and ready to learn.**
- ✓ **Cell phones are to be used for tuning only.**
- ✓ **No food, drink, candy, gum, etc. in class.**
- ✓ **Respect and protect all property.**
- ✓ **Practice at least 120 minutes per week (minimum).**
- ✓ **Leave the classroom only by logging out with the “Big Pass”.**

*I understand that my adherence to the PHS Instrumental Music Policies will be required for my continued success in the Program. My failure to do so will place my success in jeopardy.*

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



*Prince George's County Public Schools*  
14201 SCHOOL LANE UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772

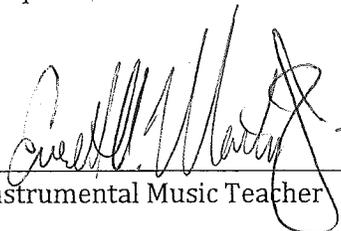
PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITY

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian Name)

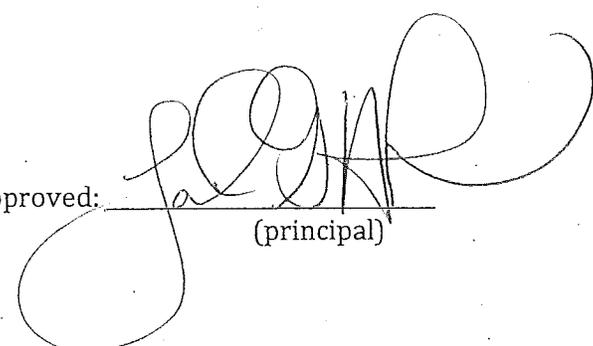
\_\_\_\_\_ has successfully passed the audition for  
(PRINT student's name)  
Instrumental Music, which meets as a regularly scheduled class. Frequently, the class is called upon to perform in public. Therefore, extra rehearsal and performance time will be required of the class during school hours as well as after school hours. The additional time will be relative to the number of performances approved by the Principal. The student will be given reasonable notice in advance of these scheduled activities. In order to fulfill the class requirements, the student must be willing to participate in all of the scheduled rehearsals and performances.

This letter must be returned with both the student's signature and the parent or guardian's signature indicated the acceptance of these requirements for enrollment in the class.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrumental Music Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Approved:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
(principal)