



Parkdale High School

Instrumental Music

Procedural Handbook/Syllabus

“Virtual” Edition

2020-2021

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 to yourself as a musician and commitment to the other members of the 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.

As we return to this school year, things will look a lot different. There will be much more of an individual and small-group development focus this year, but we still hope to learn a lot more about our instruments and ourselves through this new experience.

We are excited to have you with us! I look forward to working with each of you to continue the tradition of musical excellence here at Parkdale High School. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at parkdalebands@gmail.com.

Musically,

Everett A. Martin, Jr.
Director of Instrumental Music

Parkdale High School

Instrumental Music

Distance Learning

We will not be playing in large ensembles until it is safe to do so. Our emphasis this year will be on individual and small-group musical development. This will include singing (!), scales, technical studies from your method book, solo and small group literature, as well as full ensemble literature. We will also have listening time, guest clinicians, and other fun virtual activities!

The following overview is for your information for when schools reopen normally.

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 encourage members of this ensemble to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season, usually sometime in late October/late October. 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 encourage members of this ensemble to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season, usually sometime in late October/late October. Students who play non-marching band instruments (double reeds, etc.) 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, usually sometime in late October/early November. Students who play fall sports for Parkdale may be excused from this requirement by submitting a Marching Band Conflict Form. Students will still be expected to fully participate in each class.

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 and at parades, and marching band competitions. 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, moving 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 two alto, two tenor, and one baritone sax, four

trumpets, four trombones, 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 Quartet:

The PHS String Quartet consists of some of the highest performing students in the string orchestra. The Quartet will play literature from all musical periods from the Renaissance to the present. This ensemble also plays for several performances 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's primary purpose is to perform at graduation in May, but is also able to perform a very exciting variety of advanced literature if we wish to do so.

Opportunities for Performance

This year, our performances will be virtual. We would like to showcase what we've learned this fall in December, and the PG County virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival, if held, won't be compulsory for our intermediate and advanced students, but there will likely be an opportunity for students to virtually perform at a planned showcase activity in March.

Class Instructional Materials:

In addition to having access to a fully functional instrument (personal, rented, or school-owned) and their required supplies, students are also responsible for having the following method (text) books and a subscription to the Smart Music software.

Basic Band

- *Essential Elements for Band*, Book 1

Intermediate Band

- *Essential Elements for Band*, Book 2

Advanced Band

- *Essential Technique for Band*, Book 3

Intermediate Orchestra

1. *String Basics*, Book 2 or
2. *String Basics*, Book 3

All Instruments:

1. ½" binder with plastic sheet protectors (recommended, not required)
2. Pencil

3. Music stand (heavy music books will require a heavyweight stand, but most students will be good with a standard “wire” stand)
4. Portable tuner/metronome – Korg TM-60 is recommended, with a “pickup/clip-on” microphone (check online!). Students can also download tuner and metronome apps for use on their phone, but that option may be problematic when using the phone for recording or other purposes.
5. A quiet place to practice (if at all possible!)

Individual Instruments

- Flute – a moisture swab and cleaning rod
- Clarinet
 - In order of preference: Grand Concert Select (must order online), Mitchell Lurie, or Vandoren reeds (**NOT** the orange box Ricos. There’s a reason why they’re the cheapest reeds in the store!) Except for beginners (2.5) many will be playing on strength 3 or greater reeds.
 - cork grease
 - Moisture swab VERY important
 - Reed case (optional)
- Saxophone
 - In order of preference: Grand Concert Select (must order from Internet), Hemke, or Vandoren reeds (**NOT** the orange box Ricos. There’s a reason why they’re the cheapest reeds in the store!) Except for beginners (2.5) many will be playing on strength 3 or greater reeds.
 - Cork grease
 - Moisture swab
 - Neck strap
 - Reed case (optional)
- Oboe
 - Medium or medium hard reeds. Recommended brands: Fox Artist, Leshner Artist, or Emerald
 - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
 - Moisture swab
- Bassoon
 - Medium reeds (at least 2)
 - Recommended: Dunkel, Selmer Soloist, or Leshner
 - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
 - Moisture swab
- Trumpet, Euphonium (baritone), and Tuba
 - valve oil
 - tuning slide grease or plain Vaseline
 - a practice mute
- F Horns – rotary oil
- Trombones
 - slide cream/grease (“Trombotine” or “Slide-O-Mix” preferred)
 - miniature spray water bottle (from Target or Walmart)
 - a practice mute
- Percussion
 - SD-1 or 5B for beginners, 5A or 7A for intermediate

- Snare drum practice pad and bell kit (for home).
- Violin/Viola
 - Rosin
 - Shoulder rest (either cut sponge or “clamp” model – MANDATORY)
 - polish cloth
 - Chin rest tool
 - Peg compound and peg drops
- Cello
 - Cello rosin
 - Rock Stop – chair strap or Viva Cello are recommended
 - Polish cloth
 - Peg compound and peg drops
- Bass
 - Bass rosin
 - Rock Stop
 - Polish cloth

For your information, the closest music stores in our area are listed below (please call to check availability before visiting!):

- ◆ Gailes’ Violin Shop (College Park): 301-474-4300
- ◆ Music & Arts (Bowie): 301-262-5950
- ◆ Chuck Levin’s Washington Music Center (Wheaton): 301-946-8808
- ◆ Music & Arts (Greenbelt): 301-686-0406
- ◆ Hot Licks Guitar Shop (Waldorf): 301-645-3561
- ◆ Internet suppliers are generally cheaper, but take some time to order:
 - Shar Music (Strings) <https://www.sharmusic.com/>
 - Southwest Strings <https://www.swstrings.com/>
 - The Woodwind and Brasswind <http://www.wbw.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
 Gailes Violin Shop (violin, viola, cello), C. Park: 301-474-4300
 Baltimore Brass (Catonsville): 410-744-1723
 Bob’s House of Basses (Double basses only): 301-805-9407
 Chuck Levin’s Washington Music Center: 301-946-8808
 Lee Lachman (woodwind repair), College Park: 301-345-3389

Instrumental Fees

Since we are distance learning, the only costs for this year will be renting an instrument from a local shop, and for the necessary book and supplies for your instrument.

Student Leadership Council

The council consists of our student leaders, and will operate under the supervision of the director to help us get through this trying time!

Distance Learning Expectations

We expect each student to:

- Be dressed in distance learning appropriate attire
- Arrive on time and be fully prepared for each class.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Leave cameras on for the entire class.
- Do not be distracted by non class-related materials

Office Hours

My virtual office hours are Monday - Friday from 11-11:30. Just let me know when you'd like to get help!

Grading Rubric

The student's grade in instrumental music during distance learning will be determined by the following systemic rubric:

Classwork	40%
Class participation	
Independent Practice (formerly Homework)	30%
Daily Practice at home	
Written assignments, as required	
Assessment	30%
Playing tests/quizzes	

Classwork:

Being prepared and cooperatively participating in class.

This involves being present, on time, prepared, and engaged for each class period. Students will still be playing during class, but asynchronously (not together).

Independent Practice:

Daily home practice.

Practice time will be given during most classes to work on technique and literature that we discuss during class, but as usual, additional practice time will be needed outside of class.

Assessment:

Playing tests and quizzes.

Assessments will include periodic performance tests and quizzes on scales, method book material, and/or assigned literature.