



# *Parkdale High School*

## *Instrumental Music*

### *Procedural Handbook/Syllabus*

#### *“Welcome Back” Edition*

#### *2021-2022*

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.

As we return to this school year, things will look different than normal. There will be many precautions to ensure our safety, as possible, in addition to our gradual return to making the music that so many of us love.

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](mailto:parkdalebands@gmail.com).

Musically,

Everett A. Martin, Jr.  
Director of Instrumental Music

# Parkdale High School

## *Instrumental Music*

### **Return to In-Person Playing**

A large part of our return to live playing will be both personal and (for band) instrumental PPE (personal protective equipment). We will resume playing when we have both in place. Orchestra students do not need instrumental PPE, but do need to wear their masks. When the band resumes playing, we will use our instrumental PPE (bell covers) and special personal band PPE, as provided by PGCPS. For brass players, all condensation dumping will be done into a nearby trash receptacle. We will be limited to our performance time in class due to air circulation, but will engage in other activities to support our musical endeavors while we aren't playing.

The band classes have been combined this year, so we will do what we can to make sure all students get the opportunity to play and support each other as much as possible during our time together! The following summary is for your information as we begin our return to “normal” music making.

### **Ensemble Summary**

#### **Basic Band:**

This class has a performance based curriculum which requires participation in performances which occur outside of school hours. Designed for students who have not developed the necessary skills for placement in the intermediate or advanced bands, enrollment in this class is subject to the approval of the instrumental teacher in order to ensure appropriate placement.

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 especially 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.

Members of this ensemble are encouraged to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season, usually sometime in mid/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.

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

The advanced band course is designed to build upon techniques taught during the intermediate band course, or an advanced (grade III) 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.

Members of this ensemble are encouraged to participate in the Panthers Marching Band until the end of football season, usually sometime in mid/late October. Students who play non-marching band instruments (double reeds, etc.) can select a secondary instrument or contribute by becoming a band manager. Most 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 (unpitched) and keyboard (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. Percussion students must provide their own sticks, and 1) have their own mallets to play with in class (preferred), or 2) sanitize a pair of PGPCS-owned mallets for their use before playing in each class. This is a requirement for your participation this year.

### **Marching Panthers:**

The Panthers Marching Band is an exciting ensemble that requires a high degree of musical, physical, and mental training. It is the most visible of the ensembles that are offered at Parkdale, and is usually 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 our most accomplished 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 so inclined.

## Opportunities for Performance

This year, our performances will be based upon our health directives, as directed by the Board of Education and the Maryland Department of Health. Tentative performances may include: Winter Concert, Solo & Ensemble Festival, PGCPS band/orchestra festival, and spring concert. All of this is tentative, as we need to be sure students are able to participate safely!

## 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. PGCPS Instrumental Music will again be paying for student subscriptions to the Smart Music software!

**Basic Band**

- *Measures of Success*, Book 1

**Intermediate/Advanced Band**

- *Measures of Success*, Book 2

## Intermediate Orchestra

1. *New Directions for Strings*, Book 1 or 2, or Essential Technique Book 3.

### All Instruments:

1. Personal and instrumental PPE
2. ½” binder with plastic sheet protectors (recommended, not required)
3. Pencil
4. Music stand (heavy music books will require a heavyweight stand, but most students will be good with a standard “wire” stand)
5. 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.
6. 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), most students will be playing on strength 3 or greater reeds.
  - cork grease
  - Moisture swab and its subsequent use each day is required
  - 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), most students 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, Leshler Artist, or Emerald
  - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
  - Moisture swab and its subsequent use each day is required
- Bassoon
  - Medium reeds (at least 2)
  - Recommended: Dunkel, Selmer Soloist, or Leshler
  - Empty 35mm film canister or old pill bottle
  - Moisture swab and its subsequent use each day is required
- Trumpet, Euphonium (baritone), and Tuba
  - valve oil
  - tuning slide grease or plain Vaseline
  - a practice mute (optional)

- 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 (optional)
- 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 sponge or “clamp” model – Required)
  - polish cloth
  - peg drops and/or peg compound
  - Chin rest tool (optional)
- Cello
  - Cello rosin
  - Rock Stop – chair strap or Viva Cello are recommended
  - Polish cloth
  - Peg compound and/or 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 (Greenbelt): 301-686-0406
- Music & Arts (Bowie): 301-262-5950
- Chuck Levin’s Washington Music Center (Wheaton): 301-946-8808
- Online 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

The only costs for this year will be renting an instrument from a local shop, if you choose to do so, and for the required book and supplies for your instrument. Families may need to purchase concert uniforms if we are able to have a normal concert season this spring.

## 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!

## Grading Rubric

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

**Classwork** **40%**

*Being prepared and cooperatively participating in class.*

This involves being present, on time, prepared, and engaged for each class period. This category also includes our usual performances, as outlined previously.

**Independent Practice (Homework/Home Practice)** **30%**

*Daily home practice.*

Additional practice time will be needed outside of class, especially this year, as our in-class playing time will be limited.

**Assessment** **30%**

*Playing tests and quizzes.*

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

Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_