



**2011-2012 PAOLA 7/8th Grade
BAND HANDBOOK**

DIRECTOR

MR. NICK PROCTOR

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Student Name

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2011-2012 Paola Band Schedule

(Dates subject to change)

- ◆ September 23: 7th/8th Band-O-Rama @PHS (6:45pm)
- ◆ October 6: 6th/7th/8th Fall Band Concert (7:45pm)
- ◆ October 11: 7th/8th Football Fan Appreciation Performance (4:00pm)
- ◆ December 5: 6th/7th/8th Pep Band (3:30pm)
- ◆ December 15: 6th/7th/8th Winter Band Concert (7:45pm)
- ◆ February 2: 6th/7th/8th Pep Band (3:30)
- ◆ February 21: 6th/7th/8th Band Recital (4:15pm)
- ◆ March 6: 7th/8th League Band@ Spring Hill(7:00pm)
- ◆ May 3: District-Wide Band Concert (7:00pm)
- ◆ May 22: 6th/7th Eighth-Grade Promotion (7:00pm)



A note to parents:

It's been such a short summer! I hope you all enjoyed your break. I'm looking forward to working with all of you this upcoming year.

I think we can all agree that we live in an age that is extremely fast paced. We have fast food, fast internet, fast cars, instant entertainment, etc. We live in a society that often demands instant gratification (mp3, iPod, movies on demand, XBOX 360, Nintendo Wii, PS3, etc.) I believe that one of the great aspects of music education is the development of the ability to achieve both short and long term goals. Another is to develop social skills, self discipline, self esteem, and a general feeling of well being. All of which comes about through patience, persistence, and the willingness to overcome failures through hard work.

Today, many people are ready to give up at the first obstacle they come across, or simply accept mediocrity because it is the easiest thing to do. I believe students develop their work ethics at a young age, and if patience, persistence, manners, and self discipline are not part of a daily routine, then the chances of success later in life are minimized. THIS IS WHY BAND IS SUCH A GREAT ACTIVITY! Students in band learn such things as overcoming obstacles, working together as a team, self value, and the importance of hard work.

As your band director, I will do as much as I can to help foster these values. As a parent, you can make a difference by supporting the efforts of the school staff, not only as far as music is concerned, but in all other academic areas as well. As a student, some examples of how you can help both yourself and the band as a whole include:

1. *Making a real effort to learn and improve daily*
2. *Cooperating with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program.*
3. *Following all classroom rules, school regulations, and travel instructions issued for trips*
4. *Having the proper respect for those in authority*
5. *Being honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general*
6. *Reading and playing music with insight and expression*

I believe all parents want their children to be successful. I can assure you my goal as a band director is to help each student be the best that he or she can be.

To a great year!

Nicholas O. Proctor

TEACHER/STUDENT/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation in an active music program requires certain commitments from three individuals: **the student, the parent, and the teacher.** In order to be successful, all three individuals must make equal efforts to fulfill their obligations. A few of these responsibilities are listed below:

Teacher

The teacher is responsible for regular, well-organized lessons. He or she is expected to be musically knowledgeable and to offer expert instruction.

Student

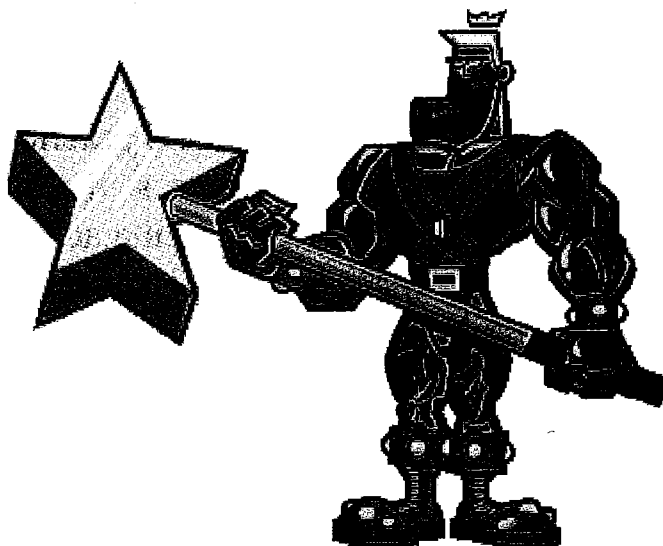
Each student has an obligation to practice on a regular basis and to prepare assignments to the best of his or her ability. The student also has an obligation to attend all rehearsals, and to notify the director in case of unavoidable absence. Band students are required to care for their instruments in the manner prescribed by their teacher.

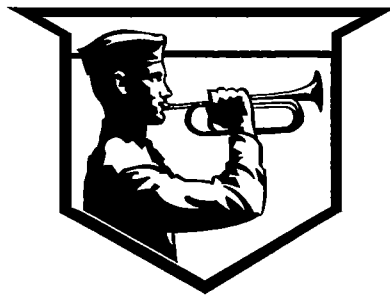
Parent

Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in the progress of their child. By helping to establish a regular practice routine, and by taking time to listen to the child's home practice, the parent can do much to encourage the steady progress of their youngster. Of course, parents are encouraged to support the activities of the Paola Middle School Band to ensure an active music program at all levels. Parents of band students should make every attempt to provide a quality instrument in good repair for their student to use. Instruments in poor condition or of poor quality are a serious detriment to a young musician's development and may cause a loss of interest.

DA RULES!

- 1. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.**
- 2. Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the music program.**
- 3. Have the proper respect for those in authority.**
- 4. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and life in general.**
- 5. Read and play music with insight and expression**
- 6. No gum, candy, or drinks allowed in the band room.**






GRADING/THE RANK SYSTEM


Grades will be based off the following:


1. **Daily Participation Points** (1 point per day)
 - Students will earn this point for bringing their instrument, music, and a pencil to class.
2. **Concerts** (20 points per concert)
 - As this is a performance-based class, students are expected to attend all concerts in appropriate dress. Please see the calendar for dates of concerts as well as the concert dress section of this handbook for more details.
3. **Music Turn-in** (5 points)
 - Students are to keep all music in a folder. We will collect music after each concert. Music needs to be returned in the same condition as it was initially handed out.
4. **Benchmark Tests** (5-10 points per test)
 - Students will be expected to pass a certain number of benchmark tests in each semester. While there are certain dates that benchmark tests will be given, students may choose to take these tests at their own pace. If a student does not pass the benchmark test the first time, he or she may attempt the test again until they pass.
 - We will be working towards rank (such as in the military) as we advance through the year. Beginning band students begin the year as an E-1 Private. As students complete a certain number of benchmark tests, they move up in rank. Students should move up in rank every quarter. A highly motivated student may move up in rank early if they complete the required number of benchmark tests ahead of schedule.
 - See **BENCHMARK TEST SCHEDULE** on the next page for the benchmark tests required this year.




BENCHMARK TEST SCHEDULE

- **1st Quarter**  **Staff Sergeant (E-6)**
 1. Assembly and care/naming the parts of an instrument (p. 2-3)
 2. Vocabulary Terms
 - Staff/Measure/Bar Line/Ledgerline/Treble Clef/
Bass Clef/Time Signature/Breath Mark/
Quarter Note/Quarter Rest/Repeat Sign/Tie
 3. Rhythm Lines 1-20 (p. 42)
 4. Playing Tests
 - Line 4
 - Line 13
 - Line 19
 - Line 22
 - Line 28
 - Line 38
 5. Scales
 - Line 159 (Concert Bb Major)
 - Line 167 (Concert F Major)

- **2nd Quarter**  **Sergeant First Class (E-7)**
 1. Note Names
 2. Vocabulary Terms
 - Duet/Harmony/Solo/Soli/Tutti/Phrase/Round/
Composition/Articulation/Slur/One-Measure Repeat/
Trio/Introduction/Theme/Rehearsal Number/1st and 2nd
Endings/Fermata/improvisation/accidental/flat/pick-
up/Interval/Half-Step/Theme and Variation/Dot/
Dynamics/Piano/Forte/Tempo/Andante/Moderato
Allegro/mp/mf/Accent
 3. Rhythm Lines 21-40 (p. 42)
 4. Playing Tests
 - Line 48
 - Line 49
 - Line 55
 - Line 65
 - Line 68
 - Line 74
 5. Scales
 - Line 171 (Concert Ab Major)
 - Line 175 (Concert C Major)

- **3rd Quarter**  **Master Sergeant (E-8)**
 1. Note Names
 2. Vocabulary Terms
 - Chord/Closing/Multi-Measure Rest/Crescendo/Decrescendo/Natural/Divisi/Unison/Whole Step/Major Scale/Arpeggio/Orchestration/Sharp/Stacatto/Courtesy Accidental/De Capo al Fine
 3. Rhythm Lines 41-60 (p. 43)
 4. Playing Tests
 - Line 77
 - Line 93
 - Line 97
 - Line 99
 - Line 106
 - Line 109
 5. Scales
 - Line 163 (Concert Eb Major)
 - Line 185 (Chromatic)

- **4th Quarter**  **First Sergeant (E-8)**
 1. Note Names
 2. Vocabulary Terms
 - Maestoso/Ritardando/Syncopation/Ternary Form Trio/Chromatic Scale
 3. Rhythm Lines 61-80 (p. 43)
 4. Playing Tests
 - Line 120
 - Line 126
 - Line 127
 - Line 133
 - Line 137
 - Line 140
 5. Scales
 - Line 144 (Natural Minor Scale)
 - Line 146 (Harmonic Minor Scale)

CONCERT DRESS

Our uniform for all concerts as well as pep band games, will be our Paola Band T-Shirts (order forms will be coming home shortly) as well as khaki pants. **Students not wearing the correct “uniform” will not be allowed to participate in concerts or pep band events.** Please let me know if you have any questions regarding uniforms.

SHEET MUSIC

The School provides all music. The director may ask students to purchase music theory books and/or supplementary method books for their particular instrument. Each band member will be issued a music folder to place music in. **Music is not to be kept in instrument cases as doing so damages the music.** Students are responsible for replacing any lost or ruined music.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

Although private lessons are not mandatory, they are strongly encouraged to assist in your child's musical development. Interested parents and students should consult their music director for assistance in locating a good private teacher for their particular instrument. In addition, Mr. Proctor is available to work with student after school. **Please take advantage of this!**

BAND INSTRUMENTS & MAINTENANCE

Smaller instruments such as oboes, flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, tenor saxophones, trumpets, French horns, trombones, & drum mallets are the responsibility of the student. These instruments may be purchased or rented from a music dealer. The School may provide the larger, more expensive instruments.

Students must maintain good playing condition of their instrument. Reeds, valve oil, swabs, etc. are the responsibility of the student. It is encouraged to have an instrument dealer service your instrument once a year --protect your investment

- **Instruments must be clearly marked with the student's name as well as phone number.**
- **Parents should write down the brand name and serial number of the instrument in case the instrument is misplaced or stolen.**
- **Make sure to place your student's instrument on your homeowner's insurance policy.**



INSTRUMENT STORAGE

All students will have access to a storage locker and lock in the band room. Students will be issued a lock at the beginning of the year. **It is highly encouraged that students utilize the storage locker and lock.** Students may bring in their own lock if they prefer; just realize that if a student is absent, I will be unable to unlock the locker for parents who come to pick up their instrument.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

I encourage individual students work as a member of a small ensemble or as a soloist. I believe solo and ensemble playing is one of the single most important aspects contributing to the student's development as a musician. A solo and ensemble festival will be held in February. I encourage students to play solos at any opportunity that you can find.

MY PLEDGE TO YOU

As Director of the Paola Middle School Band, I have presented in this handbook some very high expectations for all musicians in the ensemble. These expectations anticipate the needs we as band members will need to be successful this coming year. My pledge to you is that I will match these expectations placed upon you with a dedication on my part to the band and to your learning.

I am honored to be the director of the Paola Middle School bands along with collaborating with YOU- the musicians of the band; I am honored to be creating music with such dedicated and talented people; I am honored to share in the music making that enriches the culture of our community. Serving as director of the Paola Middle School band is a wonderful honor for which I will return in favor nothing short of my highest dedication to your learning. I eagerly await our coming rehearsals as we begin this new year!

Respectfully yours,

Nicholas O. Proctor
Instrumental Music Director
Paola Middle School

STUDENT AND PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please return by August 26

- **I have read the PMS Band Handbook and understand and will be responsible to the policies outlined therein, including the fact that there are performances and/or rehearsals outside of the regular school day for which attendance is required.**
- **I understand that participation at every performance is required.**

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please list any additional information you feel I need to know:
