PORTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

95 High Street, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Phone: (860) 342-1720 Fax: (860) 342-4108

Portland Middle School Band Programs-2017-2018 Academic Year

Sarah Ketterer, Band Director – sketterer@portland.ct.us

Music Department Website: [www.pssmusic.weebly.com](http://www.pssmusic.weebly.com)

**Middle School Bands - Grades 7 and 8**

Course Description, Policies, Procedures, and Requirements

**Core Values and Beliefs:**

-Demonstrate growth and proficiency in critical thinking and creative problem solving

-Utilize technology to obtain, process, and evaluate information

-Communicate expressively through oral, written, visual, artistic, and technical modes of expression

-Work cooperatively with others, recognize individual differences, and respect the rights of others

-Demonstrate responsibility in self-discipline, self-reliance, time management, and personal behavior

-Demonstrate an understanding of the value of leadership and service to the school and community

-Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and political factors necessary for active citizenship

**Course Description:**

Students will learn proper instrumental technique, as well as develop skills in ensemble work, sight-reading, performance, team building, and leadership. This is a performance-based class.  Participation in dress rehearsals, lessons and concerts outside of regular class hours is required.

**Attendance, Scheduling and Conflicts**

~ All PSS Music ensembles and courses are academic classes; Therefore, events, performances and rehearsals always retain scheduling priority over activities (school or outside) and athletics.

~ Calendar of events is included in the syllabus. Students are expected to contact their director as soon as possible to discuss conflicts.

~ Absences from or lateness to events fall into one of the following categories:

~ Excused with Prior Notification – Requires notice from parent a MINIMUM of TWO WEEKS

prior to performance. An alternate assignment for full credit will be given

~ Excused without Prior Notification: Extreme medical issues and family emergencies.

Parental note required upon return in case of family emergency. An alternate assignment will be provided for full credit.

~ Unexcused with Prior Notification – Occurrences that are not excused by the director, but

to which the director has been given ample notice (Three weeks). A more in-depth alternate assignment will be provided

~ Unexcused without Prior Notification – Student will receive a “0” for Concert Attendance.

**Materials Needed:**

-**Black folder with inside pockets** – provided (8th Grade only)

-**Black Binder** (7th Grade – reuse from BIS)

-**Pencil** – you must have a pencil that stays with your folder

-**Concert Dress**:

All Band Students:  \*Black PMS polo shirt, **black slacks**, black socks, black dress shoes.

-**Smartmusic** (optional)- Student subscriptions are $40/yr. Download at <http://www.smartmusic.com/>

**Grading Procedures:**

Each student will be graded in the following areas:

* **Concert Attendance (CA) 30%:** Arrive on time with correct concert dress ready to perform!
* **Rehearsal Technique (RT) 30%:** includes following instructions and rehearsal procedures, being “on task”, taking notes, marking music, maintaining a positive attitude, working hard, arriving on time. *It is your responsibility to request new music should yours be misplaced!*
* **Lessons (L) 15%:** includes attendance, playing correct rhythms and pitches of concert repertoire. Attend all scheduled lessons, or make up lessons in the case of tests/projects/presentations. These must be communicated to Ms. Ketterer BEFORE the missed lesson in order for full credit to be granted. *It is important to attend YOUR SCHEDULED lesson as they are set up in a manner to reduce the amount of time an academic class is missed*.
* **Sight-Reading (SR) 15%:** playing correct pitches and rhythms of a new song or musical exercise, etc…Smart music will be used for SR assessment throughout the year.
* **Theory (TH) 10%:** Written theory assignments/sub work.

**Classroom Rules:**

Students are responsible for the PMS student handbook rules at all times, as well as:

1. Come to class ON TIME and ready to play.
2. NO FOOD OR DRINK allowed in the band room!!!
3. Please do not enter the band office without my permission.
4. Please respect the music room and its contents.
5. Please respect each other. Teasing, bullying, and other acts of meanness will not be tolerated, and will be reported to administration when appropriate.
6. Raise your hand if you want to be heard! Otherwise, there is NO TALKING. Especially in larger ensembles, this will help us stay on task.
7. PUT YOUR FOLDER AND INSTRUMENT AWAY in the correct spot before leaving the room!

**Discipline Procedures (in addition to loss of points/grade reduction at all levels):**

* 1st offense - verbal warning
* 2nd offense - student/teacher conference, parent contact
* 3rd offense - after school detention, parent contact, referral to admin.

**Performance Dates for PMS Band 2017/2018**

***The following dates are REQUIRED:***

**Thurs., Nov. 16th** MS Winter Concert – 7PM

**Wed, Feb. 14th** MS Spring Concert-7PM (snow date 22nd)

**Thurs, April 26th** Band Extravanganza – 7PM

**Sun., May 27th** Memorial Day Parade

***Other music dates:***

**Oct/Nov, TBD** Uconn Field Trip

**Sat, Dec. 2nd**  MS Southern Region Auditions

**Sat.,** **Dec 9th**  MS Southern Region Audition Snow Date

**Sat, Feb TBD “**Hearty Highlander” Booster Breakfast

**Fri, Sat, Mar 2nd – 3rd** MSSouthern Region Festival (Snow date Mar 9th-10th)

**Fri, Sat, Mar 23rd -24th** PHS Musical

**Fri, May 11th**  Jazz Night

**Fri, June1st** MS Music in the Parks Field Trip/Six Flags

**Wed, June 13th**  HS Graduation (Subject to change!)

STUDENT LAST NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FIRST NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return **this page only** to Ms. Ketterer. *Keep the handbook for your reference of expectations and mandatory performance dates!*

**STUDENT:**

I understand that Band is a performance-based class. I also understand that the nature of this course requires me to participate in dress rehearsals and concerts outside of regular class hours. I accept responsibility for arranging my schedule so as not to conflict with any mandatory performance dates. **I have read and marked all concert dates on a calendar**. I further understand that I cannot pass Band without attending all required performances.

I have read and understand the course requirements and grading procedures. I know that my grade will not be based on technique alone, but on the work I do everyday in class.

I know that the only excuse for missing a rehearsal is a doctor’s excused illness or family emergency. Student absences for vacation are considered unauthorized in accordance with the B.O.E. I understand that, if at all possible, it is my responsibility to communicate with Ms. Ketterer about the problem before the rehearsal. It is also my responsibility to obtain the make-up assignment when an absence is excused.

Student Name (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instrument\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions or comments can be directed to Ms. Ketterer at sketterer@portlandct.us