

Patrick Marsh Band Newsletter



(7th Band Version)

August, 2011

Greetings! We hope that you are having a great (warm) summer! Welcome back...we have such an exciting year planned! We wanted to get some important information to you. We plan to send this newsletter to you five times a year – Aug, Nov, Feb., March and May. Please read about the great opportunities quickly approaching for your band students.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions!

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Registration, Polo Shirts & School Instrument Fees

Students entering 7th grade band should have already purchased a PMMS Band Polo Shirt last year. However, if you did not or need a new one, please contact Mr. Gleason. The price will remain \$15.00. Concert attire for 7th grade bands is the polo shirt, beige/khaki pants, black socks and shoes. Registration is the time to pay for school rental fees for instruments and ask us questions. A rental fee of \$50 per year will be charged to those who use a school owned wind instrument. All percussion students will be charged \$25 per year for use of the school percussion instruments. The fees for the instrument rental will be included with your other school fees at registration. If you have questions, please contact us. Here are the registration dates and times:

7 th Grade	8:00-10:30 AM	Wednesday, August 17
6 th Grade	12:30-2:30 PM	Wednesday, August 17
Either Grade	4:00-6:00 PM	Wednesday, August 17

What Will I Need In 7th Grade Band?

1. Your band instrument in **good playing condition**. Now is a good time to check it over to make sure it is ready for the school year. Contact Ward Brodt if you need repairs.
2. A **pencil** - keep one in band folder or instrument case.
3. **White Warm-up Book** "Warm-ups and Beyond". This book was used last year. We will use it a TON this year.
4. Blue/Green **Lesson Book** "Student Instrumental Course" Book 1. This was also used last year. Our goal will be to finish this book in 7th grade. Percussionists will use "Alfred Snare Drum Book" and the "Wessels Mallet Book" instead (same as last year).
5. **Band Polo Shirt**, Khaki (beige) Pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes
6. **Clarinet and Saxophone** musicians make sure you have at least 6 good reeds to start the year. If you purchase a new box of reeds consider getting Rico Royal or Vandoren reeds (better quality and sound). You should be using Number 3 reeds (last year was 2 1/2).
7. **Oboe and Bassoon** musicians should have at least 3 good reeds. See us to order more.
8. **Brass players** should have valve oil and slide grease.
9. **Percussionists** should make sure they have all of the necessary mallets and sticks needed for this year. Ask Mr. Gleason for the equipment chart or consult his website for more information. Make sure your sticks/mallets and clearly labeled with your name and keep them in a stick bag locked in a locker!!

ComMission Possible Two.....

As you may know, we have embarked on another commission project. This time we have commissioned composer Brian Balmages to write a piece of music for our school. Mr. Balmages will begin writing the music this Fall and will send us the piece around December! The world premiere performance of this new work will take place by our 7th Grade Band at our Spring Concert on **May 15, 2012** with the composer conducting!!



In order to prepare for this event, the 7th grade band will be researching different styles of music. The students will then research music concepts and stories that might be the central idea to the new music. We will communicate with the composer during the process and then welcome him to Sun Prairie in May. It will be an exciting project and year!

If you would like to make a donation to support this project please consider purchasing a lapel pin (\$2.50 each) or send a check made payable to "PMMS" with the words "ComMission Possible" in the memo line. Thank you!!

Jazz Band



We have two 7th Grade Jazz Ensembles and a 6th Grade Jazz Ensemble this year. All jazz ensembles will begin after November 1st. 7th Grade Jazz Rehearsals will be twice per week in the morning before school and 6th Grade Jazz Rehearsals will be once per week after school. More information and specifics will be shared as we approach the beginning of the Jazz season.

Smart Music Information

Smart Music is a great tool for students to use at home. It allows students to practice with accompaniment, record themselves, use a tuner and a metronome. Multiple lesson books and thousands of solos are included. It is an amazing program and highly recommended! Just go to www.smartmusic.com to get more information about this great tool!

Three Easy Steps to Getting Started with SmartMusic®

1. Purchase SmartMusic online (if you haven't already)

- Go to www.smartmusic.com and click on **Order Now** in the **For Students** section.
- Select **Add to Cart** and follow the on-screen instructions to complete your order. *Indicate you are a student, and pick your school from the list.*
- SmartMusic works best with a SmartMusic microphone, so consider buying one when you order your subscription. (Built-in computer microphones are not supported in SmartMusic.)
- **If you are a new customer:** Select **Create a New Account** and enter your e-mail, password, and other information. *If your teacher has already had you enroll for class at school, log in using that e-mail address and password instead of setting up a new account when ordering.*
- **If you have purchased SmartMusic before:** Log into your account with the e-mail address and password that you used the last time you purchased and activated your subscription in SmartMusic.

NOTE: You only need one subscription for each computer, so if your family has more than one musician in school, you're all set.

2. Install SmartMusic

You can install SmartMusic from a disc or by downloading it.

- **New customers** - You'll receive an installation disc with your order (remove the CD from your basket only if you are downloading).
- **Returning customers** - The SmartMusic application will prompt you when an update is released.

Installing from the disc: Follow the directions on the disc system requirements card.


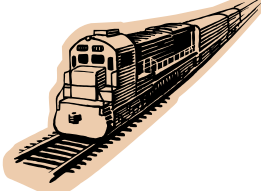



Installing from the Download: Download SmartMusic from the right-hand side of the home screen at www.smartmusic.com, and follow the instructions on-screen.

3. Activate your Subscription

- After you have completed the installation, the SmartMusic application will launch and you will see a **Welcome** screen. *You must be online to activate a SmartMusic subscription.*
- Click the **Activate** button.
- Enter the e-mail address and password you created when you ordered SmartMusic, and click **Login**.



Patrick Marsh Middle School Band Lesson Rubric

				
	“Full Steam Ahead!”	“You’re On Track”	“Still At The Station”	“Derailment... Fix It!”
<u>Timeliness</u>	Student has his/her instrument and music ready on or before their lesson time. 5 points		Student is late to lesson, but makes the majority of the lesson time. 3 points	Lesson is missed or forgotten, teacher had to get student (will not happen regularly!) or student comes to lesson with only a few minutes left. Student needs to remember lesson time.. Unexcused lessons can be made up for a D if done before the next scheduled lesson. 2 points
<u>Materials</u>	Student has his/her: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instrument ▪ Music (lesson book, scale sheet, band music, solo/ensemble, other...) 5 points	Student has instrument but is missing one required item. 4 points	Student has instrument but is missing more than one required item. 3 points	Student did not have their instrument. Student needs to make the lesson up and remember their instrument. (“no instrument” lessons can be made up for a D if done before the next scheduled lesson.) 2 points
<u>Assignment Completion & Preparation</u>	Student completed the assignment fully to a high degree of mastery. Excellent effort. Student practiced enough to complete assignment. 10 points	Assignment completed with some errors. Good effort. More careful practice needed to clean up mistakes. 7 points	Assignment is partially completed. Inconsistent effort. More careful practice needed to fix the mistakes and/or to complete the assignment. 5 points	Assignment not complete or student did not do correct assignment. Little or no effort displayed. Student needs to do the assignment again and put forth more effort. 1 point

Scoring:

20A **19 A** **18 A-** **17 B**
16 B- **15 C** **14 C-** **13 D** **12 D-**



Private Lesson Teachers

Flute	Victoria Rockman Sarah Hornbeck Morgann Elyce Davis	825-3982 or 467-2634 or soho_134@yahoo.com 814-934-6080 or morgann.e.davis@gmail.com
Oboe	Laura Kling Jessica Phillips Kathleen Sanford Laura Medisky	442-6807 608-873-9251 920-420-5518 608-239-9885
Bassoon	Amanda King Theresa Koenig	280-8899 248-568-7235 or tmkoenig@gmail.com
Clarinet	Kellen Dorner Doug Terhune	215-3444 837-2272
Saxophone	Kellen Dorner Doug Terhune Dan Walloch	215-3444 837-2272 576-3266
Trumpet	Jeffrey Wohlbach	852-6040
French Horn	Mike Szczys Sarah Gillispie	358-9823 318-820-1548
Trombone, Baritone	Jamie Kember	385-7727
Tuba		ask director for more info.
Percussion	Cindy Terhune	772-6638

Below are other resources for private instruction. Please ask if you have questions.

Ward-Brodt 661-8600

Prairie Music Academy 834-9550

UW School of Music Institute 263-1900

7th Band Class Information

Grading Policy

Grades are based on the following three areas:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Lesson Performance | 40% |
| 2. In Class Work /Assessments/ Projects/ Concerts | 30% |
| 3. Practice | 30% |



Lessons 40%

1. Students will be scheduled for lessons during the first week of classes. Lessons will meet on the same day throughout the year. **Lessons will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 6.**
2. Each lesson grade will be determined based on the following: Timeliness, Materials, Assignment Completion. (See "Band Lesson Rubric")
3. Students are responsible for lesson attendance. Your lesson teacher will not come and get you from class.
4. If you miss a lesson you need to make up the lesson before your next scheduled lesson for reduced credit.
5. Students who are absent on their scheduled lesson day may make up that lesson for full credit at a mutually convenient time (before or after school) within one week of the date of the missed lesson.
6. Students who have prearranged absences (vacations, etc.) will be allowed to make up their lesson before or after their planned absence. Please see your lesson teacher to schedule these lessons.
7. Students who are absent on a planned fieldtrip need not make up their lesson. If a student desires to make up the lesson, they make contact the lesson teacher.
8. Students who are interested are encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments. Please contact one of us if you have any questions about finding a private music teacher.

In Class Work/Assessments/Projects/Concerts 30%

Each quarter students will have opportunities to show understanding of concepts through written work/projects, performances, and performance assessments. Students will be asked to do reflections and complete other assignments. Students will receive a grade for completing these items.

Practice 30%

New research has shown that "talent" really is myelination (the wrapping of neural circuits increasing signal strength, speed, and accuracy). "If you fire your skill circuits the right way- by trying hard to do things you can barely do, in deep practice - then your skill circuits will respond by getting faster and more fluent." - *The Talent Code* p 45 by Daniel Coyle

Practice is essential in the growth and development of every musician (student, athlete, etc). It takes repetition in order to build skills and knowledge. Consequently, it takes great discipline to practice consistently and routinely. However, the rewards are great for not only the individual, but also the entire group.

The practice grade will be determined by averaging the student's self-assessment of their practice and progress and the teacher's assessment of their practice. Practice is more than just "time" playing the instrument. Good practice means concentration and focus rather than just going through the motions. Consequently, the grade will take into account their success in completing the lesson assignments AND the time the put in. Here is a rough guideline for practice time: A= 5 or 6 days a week (20-30 minutes per day); B = 4 days a week (20-30 minutes per day); C = 3 days a week (20-30 minutes per day); D = 2 days or less a week (20-30 minutes per day)

Class Rules

Band is very popular at Patrick Marsh Middle School. Due to the large number of students in each band, it is very important that students pay close attention to all rules. Students who do not follow these rules will receive appropriate consequences in-line with school policy.

1. **Be RESPECTFUL**
2. **Be RESPONSIBLE**
3. **Be SAFE**

Concert Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at all band performances is expected. (see attached sheet with all concert dates)
2. If you have a reason to miss any performance, please contact your teacher prior to the concert date if possible. All performances below are at Patrick Marsh Middle School unless otherwise noted.

Concert Uniform

We will continue the use of our PMMS Band Polo Shirt for current 7th graders. The shirts are the same as the shirts used last year. Students do not need to purchase a new shirt unless they need a new size, etc. The polo shirt is a quality navy blue Polo with “Patrick Marsh MS Band, Sun Prairie” and a Panther Logo embroidered on the left sleeve. The cost of the shirt is \$15.00. If your student does not have a polo shirt yet please fill out the form on the bottom of this letter and return it to Mr. Gleason with a check payable to “Patrick Marsh Middle School”. The shirts will be adult sizes extra-small through XXL. We would like to have these shirts by our first concert so please return your order and check to Mr. Gleason by **Friday, September 2.** The remainder of the concert uniform is beige/khaki pants, black socks and shoes.

Equipment and Instruments

1. Due to theft in past years, we purchased locks for all of the band lockers. Students will be given a combination for their lock. Students are not allowed to bring their own locks or swap locks. Students are responsible for turning in these locks at the end of the year. Lost locks are \$5.00.
2. For everyone’s safety, please keep instruments off the floor. Please use the cabinets to store instruments in the band room. Lockers with locks have been assigned—keep your instrument locked up!!
3. Put your name on your instrument case AND record your instrument serial number!!
4. Students using school-owned instruments have TOTAL responsibility for their care and may not allow others to play the instrument at any time. Normal wear and tear on school instruments will be paid for by the school. Damage done to the instrument due to abuse or carelessness will be paid for by the student.
5. Students will be provided a band folder containing original band music and a band portfolio. This folder is the student’s responsibility. Any lost music/portfolio will be replaced by the student.

Special Note to Parents:

1. Last year we began using email for communication with parents and found great success with this. Please indicate any and all email addresses you would like us to use on the attached form. Please print clearly so we get it correct.
2. We will be using computer software called “SmartMusic” this year with the band kids. This is a wonderful program that you can download for around \$36 per year. This is not mandatory, but a great tool to consider. See the attached information.
3. The Sun Prairie Middle School Honors Band auditions are approaching. Read the attached form about this great opportunity.
4. Attached is a permission form for the entire year and a list of date for all of the band events. Please take note of these now on your home calendars.

Items to Return –ASAP but no later than FRIDAY, SEPT. 2

- Permission form** –(MUST RETURN)
- Polo Shirt Order Form and Check** (if applicable)
- SPMS Honor Band Audition Form** (if interested)
- Ward Brodt Order Form** (if you need to order new reeds or books, etc.)