



Zipporah Mills, Principal

Jackie Allen Joseph, Assistant Principal

P.S. 261 BAND HANDBOOK 2010-2011

Emilie Williams, Band Director

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Introduction

The goal of starting an instrumental program is to provide the students with a foundation for instrumental music, and in turn, help them to continue to study and appreciate music as they get older . This will be done by using the following:

1. **Musical independence:** Students will demonstrate independence as both a learner and as performer (alone and in groups). Students will also be asked to take initiative within their sections to work with other students in learning their music.
2. **Musical sensitivity:** Students will be able to sing and play at appropriate musical tempi, with correct tone quality, phrasing, articulation, and with proper blend and balance in ensemble performances.
3. **Musical Literacy:** Students will be able to perform and read basic tonal patterns in major and minor tonality and demonstrate basic rhythm patterns and time signatures.
4. **Technique:** Students will be able to perform with proper posture, correct breathing and breath control, articulation, arm, hand, and finger placement, and instrument position. They will also be able to perform with the appropriate embouchure.
5. **Attitude:** Students will demonstrate positive attitudes toward music learning in general, along with singing and playing.



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Expectations

Students in both the Beginning and Advanced bands are expected to bring their instrument, folder, music, and a pencil to all rehearsals. Students participating in Band are expected to keep up with their class work and homework, and to have good behavior in school. Children may not be allowed to participate in Band if they are habitually behind in homework, or if their behavior does not conform to school rules.

Students *must* practice outside of our regular rehearsals. Learning an instrument helps children develop discipline and can teach students just how great it is when you work hard towards a goal. It is extremely difficult for children to get better at an instrument without regular, preferably daily, practice! While this may be difficult, please see the section of the Handbook on practicing for suggestions.

Schedule

Band rehearsals take place during 6th period (when students eat lunch and have recess), from 1:15-2:05pm. Students in Band will be excused from class at 1:00pm on the day of their rehearsal. The open sessions are an optional practice time for students. The open sessions will be scheduled for specific sections at a later date.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Open Session 8:00-8:35AM	YES	No	YES	No	YES
1:15-2:05PM	Advanced Band <i>Music Room</i>			Beginning Band <i>Music Room</i>	
Open Session 3:00-3:30PM	No	YES	No	YES	No

Attendance

Students are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. If a student misses 3 rehearsals, he or she will be placed on probation. Any student who misses 5 rehearsals will be excused from Band. Students may make-up missed rehearsals by attending an open session within ONE WEEK of the missed rehearsal.



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Instruments

Students will be assigned an instrument that is owned by the school. I will provide basic repairs, and students will be instructed on how to maintain the instruments. The school will pay for major repairs that are not caused by students. However, if a student breaks or severely damages an instrument, the child's family will be responsible for repairing or replacing the instrument. Band instruments are an expensive investment for our school, and each instrument that is not working means another child is unable to participate in Band.

Supplies & Materials - see www.ps261.org/music for more information

All students will be issued an instrument, Band folder and music.

See the attached sheet or the school website for more specific information

Practice at Home and/or School

As I mentioned earlier, it is very important for students to be practicing regularly. I suggest that Beginning Band students practice at least 4 days per week, for about 10-15 minutes at a time. We will be working with new muscle groups and building fine motor skills. It is normal for practice to be uncomfortable for Beginning Band students, so please don't push them to practice for a long time!

Advanced Band students should be practicing at least 3 days per week, for about 30 minutes at a time. Since many students did not practice over the summer, they should begin practicing at 10 minute intervals, and build from there.

A metronome is a great tool for practice. Metronomes can be purchased at any music store (including Guitar Center at the Atlantic Mall), as well as online.

Learning an instrument is like lifting weights – endurance should be built over time. We're trying to teach kids how to practice by building discipline!

I realize that many families have situations that make it difficult for students to practice at home. The open sessions are designed for students to have additional practice time at school.



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Performance

We will have at least two concerts this year (one per semester), and students will also have the opportunity to perform solo or in small groups throughout the year.

Performance attire: White shirt, dark pants or skirt, and dark shoes.

Waiting List

If, for any reason, your child is unable to stay in Band, please let me know as soon as possible. This year we have a long waiting list of children who would like to participate in Band. Any child who leaves Band will be replaced by a child on the waiting list.

Contact Information

I will be sending out updates throughout the year via email, but I also love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact me with questions/comments at ps261band@gmail.com or 718.330.9275 x. 129

I look forward to a great year with our Band students and families!



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I have read the Band Handbook and agree to follow the Band rules and expectations during the 2010-2011 school year.

Parent Signature _____

Child Signature _____

Child Name	
Parent Name	
Parent Name	
Instrument	
Telephone 1	
Telephone 2	
Email 1	
Email 2	