



Prescott South Middle School Band

2019-20

1859 South Jefferson Avenue, Cookeville, TN 38501

Brian Webster - Director

PrescottBand.com
twitter.com/PSMS_Band
[facebook.com/PrescottMiddleBand](https://www.facebook.com/PrescottMiddleBand)

PRESCOTT SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

BRIAN WEBSTER · DIRECTOR · BRIAN.WEBSTER@PCSSTN.COM
1859 S. JEFFERSON AVE · COOKEVILLE, TN 38506
PRESCOTTBAND.COM · (931) 292-2738



July 26th, 2019,

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Prescott South Middle School Band! My name is Brian Webster and I am the director of the PSMS Band!

The primary goal of the Prescott South Middle School Band is to provide a well-rounded music education to every child. This means teaching the fundamentals of music, instrument technique, music theory, and music history with the end result of providing great concerts and to prepare our students for the Cookeville High School Band. Another goal of the PSMS Band is to educate the whole child. Responsibility, discipline, citizenship, and developing character are important and developed in the PSMS Band.

The 2019/20 Band Handbook contains information concerning almost every aspect of the organization. It is crucial that all parents and students read and refer to this resource. As a member of the Prescott band program, you are expected to follow all rules and procedures in this handbook. Adhering to this handbook will help make the PSMS band program run smoothly and will aid in achieving our goals.

Please read this handbook, complete and sign the handbook contract, and return it to the band room by Tuesday, August 6th, 2019. This is your first grade in band!

Communication is critical to our success as a band program. Please sign up to get regular emails (with tons of information regarding concerts, fundraising, trips, etc...) by visiting PrescottBand.com Fill out the Newsletter Sign-up form (it is located at the bottom of the homepage). The most frequent communication you will get will be through email so make sure you sign up! I also recommend visiting PrescottBand.com regularly to get additional updates (you can even sign up to get text updates using *Remind*). Lastly, if you use social media please follow and like the Prescott Band be visiting us at Twitter **@PSMS_Band** and on Facebook **@PrescottMiddleBand**. We are very excited that you have chosen to be a part of this great organization!

Welcome to the Prescott South Middle School Band!

Sincerely,

Brian Webster

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Band Membership Requirements

To be a member of the Prescott band program, students must be enrolled in the band class for the entire year and participate in **all classes, after-school rehearsals, and events**. Students must also adhere to the rules and policies stated in the handbook.

Attendance

The success of the Prescott band relies on everyone's participation and hard work. Because of this, there are some attendance policies that must be followed.

Policies

- **Attendance at all concerts and after school rehearsals is required.**
- There are no unexcused absences at performances.
- All excuses, other than emergencies, must be submitted in writing to the director as soon as possible.
- Performances are scheduled months in advance. The yearly calendar can be viewed at PrescottBand.com. Transportation/scheduling issues (work schedules, doctor's appointments, etc...) should be dealt with promptly. Notify the director as soon as issues arise. Any scheduling changes will be communicated as soon as possible.

Excused Absences

Absences at performances are unacceptable and are only excused for emergencies and other extreme circumstances. All excuses are subject to review by the director and may be rejected if deemed unsuitable. Excused absences include sickness, family emergency, other school sponsored events (with approval), etc... *All non-emergency excuses must be submitted in writing to the director prior to the event and must be approved.* In the event of an absence from a performance a student may be asked to perform their concert music individually for a grade (live or recorded) or given an appropriate written assignment.

Band Rules

1. Follow all school rules
2. Be respectful
3. **No cell phones in the band room without permission**
4. Only play your instrument
5. No gum, food, or drinks

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Consequences

Failure to follow band rules will result in the following consequences:

- Each offense results in a reduction in the respective part of the student's daily grade
- Upon the 3rd offense, the student will have a meeting with the director to discuss appropriate consequence and parent contact.
- The 4th offense will result in a meeting with administration.
- The 5th offense may result in removal from the program.

Failure to follow school rules will result in consequences set forth by the school.

Rehearsal Guidelines

1. Be on time – Always arrive early. You need time to get your instrument, assemble it, warm-up, and have a seat.
2. **Always have a pencil** – to mark your music and for assignments
3. Be prepared – have music prepared and have materials daily
4. Never give up – don't get frustrated! Music takes persistence! Music is worth the hard work!

Description of Ensembles

6th grade band – This is the PSMS beginning band. We learn the fundamentals of performing our instruments: from assembly to making our first sound!

7th grade band – In this group we continue to develop basic skills, technique, and musicianship but also start to learn more advanced musical concepts and theory. Students in this group have the opportunity to audition from honor groups and to perform in extra curricular ensembles.

8th grade band – This group is for students who have developed the necessary techniques needed to perform more advanced literature. In this class, students continue their growth of basic musicianship and technique but also start to work on skills needed at the high school level.

Pep Band – The pep band is an ensemble that performs for events such as football games, pep rallies, parades, and more. The purpose of this group is to represent PSMS actively in the community and to support our athletic department. This group will perform at all home football games and will march in the Christmas Parade (tentatively). This group is made up of students in 7th and 8th grade.

***Jazz Band** – The Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble that will primarily meet after school. This group focuses on developing the skills necessary to play big band and small ensemble styles of jazz. The size of the Jazz Band is limited and requires an audition to join.

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***Chamber Ensembles** – Chamber Ensembles are small groups of students that perform chamber music (duets, trios, quartets, etc...). These groups give students the opportunity to perform in a small setting which helps students develop individual skills.

***Percussion Ensemble** – Percussion Ensemble is a percussion only group that focuses on percussion technique and chamber music.

***Honor Band** – Honor band is an extracurricular group that meets after school. Membership is by audition/invitation. This group's goal is to perform high quality concert band music. This group will perform at concerts and possibly Concert Performance Assessment

* These ensembles are extracurricular and are dependent on student interest, time, and playing ability.

Materials

Each band student is expected to have the following materials:

6th Grade Band

Instrument

Instrument Accessories (Dependent on instrument)

Uniform (See below)

Essential Elements Book 1 (for your instrument)

Alfred Drum Method Book 1 (for percussion only)

Pencil

Folder (to organize and keep up with music and assignments)

5 Plastic page protectors

Metronome/tuner (recommended, but not required-search for Tonal Energy Tuner on the app store)

7th Grade Band

All 6th grade materials **and**

Essential Elements Book 2 (for your instrument)

Flip Folder (with 10 pages) *and* Lyre (specific to your instrument!) *optional*

See additional uniform requirements

8th Grade Band

All 6th and 7th grade materials

See additional uniform requirements

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Uniform

The PSMS Band not only strives to sound great, but to look great, too. Because of this goal we request students to wear a uniform during performances and other special events. This uniform consists of:

Band Polo Shirt (purchased through the school for \$20.00, see attached order form)

White Dress Shirt (7 and 8th grade only: for Concert Performance Assessment and formal concerts)

Black Pants

Black Belt

Black Dress Shoes

Black Socks

Absolutely no jeans of any sort

Midstate Band

The regional band organization (MTSBOA) has a yearly honor band called the Midstate Band. This ensemble is audition only and is composed of the best musicians from Middle Tennessee. This ensemble plays high quality band music and is an amazing experience for young musicians. The PSMS Band STRONGLY encourages participation in this event and hopes to have a strong turnout this year.

Private Lessons

Individual instruction is the key to success in music performance. At PSMS we STRONGLY encourage students to take private lessons. We bring in professional players and teachers from around Middle Tennessee to give quality private lessons. These lessons mostly take place after school and have a small additional cost. It is an investment that pays off. Students enrolled in private lessons are better prepared to make honor bands such as Midstate and are more successful on their instrument. More information regarding lessons will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Solo and Ensemble

All students are expected to learn solo or ensemble music throughout the course of the 2nd semester. It is our expectation that 7th and 8th grade students will perform their selections at the MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble Assessment held at Cookeville High School. Dates, times, and registration regarding this event will be sent home later in the school year.

Grading

40% Daily Grade

20% Objectives

40% Performances and Assessments

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Grading Continued

Band is a hands-on learning activity. Daily classroom work and rehearsals are the vehicles through which learning takes place. It is for this reason that the PSMS Band is absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Satisfactory classroom participation, playing and written assignments, and preparedness (having all materials-reeds, music, instrument, pencil, books, accessories, etc...) make up 40% of a student's grade. Students will receive a daily grade that reflects participation, preparedness (having materials and having music prepared, *aka practice*), and behavior. Students will also have occasional written and performance based assignments.

Band is unique in that it is assessed in multiple ways. 40% of a student's grade comes from traditional written assessments and musical performances (assessments). Musical performances cannot be duplicated and are considered major assessments. **Attendance at ALL performances is mandatory.** Only in extreme circumstances will students be allowed to make up performances grades. This will be done through appropriate assignments such as performing/recording concert music individually or completing a written assignment.

Lastly, success on an instrument is directly related to practice at home. To encourage consistent practice and for students to get feedback on their individual performance, students will be expected to perform a variety of exercises or skills known as requirements. Students must perform the exercises without error, in person for the director to receive credit. Each student is expected to perform a minimum number of objectives per grading period. Details about requirements will be passed out at the beginning of the school year.

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Handbook Contract and Information Form

Student Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher/Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Instrument: _____ Brand: _____ Serial #: _____

Would you like to be contacted via text message about important band information? Y N

Would you like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities within the PSMS Band? Y N

Does your child require medication at school (epi-pen, prescription medicine, etc...)? Y N

By signing this contract I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will comply with the rules and policies in the Prescott South Middle School Band.

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

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School Owned Instrument Contract

(Only to be completed by students using a school owned instrument)

Student Name _____ Parent Name _____

Home Room Teacher _____ Grade _____ Instrument _____

Instrument Brand _____ Serial Number _____

Instrument Condition _____

Case Condition _____

I understand that I am responsible for this school owned instrument. I also understand that I will be held financially accountable in the event that this instrument is lost or damaged (other than normal wear and maintenance) while it is in my or my child's possession. **A rental of \$50 for wind instruments includes usage of the instrument for the school year and maintenance.** It does not include any instrument accessories, such as reeds, mouthpieces, books, etc...It also does not include any repairs that are required because of negligence or improper care. Payment can be made with cash or check made payable to PSMS Band. Payment can also be made in full or in installments. Contact Mr. Webster if you have any questions or concerns.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

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**Orders are final and non-refundable. Please have your child try on a shirt before placing your order.*