Prescott South Middle School Band

2026-2027

1859 South Jefferson Avenue, Cookeville, TN 38501

Brian Webster - Director
Leah Cook - 6th Grade Assistant Director
James Clemons - Percussion Director

PrescottBand.com
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

August 3rd, 2026,

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 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 high school band and beyond. 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 2026-27 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 and complete the handbook contract found at Prescottband.com/handbook

Communication is critical to our success as a band program. I use parent square regularly and this is my primary source of communication - please check it! I will also send out emails based on your email listed in Powerschool - if this email is not correct or if you don't receive an email from me soon please let me know! I also recommend visiting PrescottBand.com regularly to get additional updates. ***PrescottBand.com/calendar*** *lists all of our concerts, rehearsals, football games, etc…for the entire year* (subject to change).* Lastly, if you use social media please follow and like the Prescott Band by visiting us 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.

Computer Science and Band

6th Grade students are required to complete a computer science course. Most students will take this class during their encore or future ready time at some point throughout the year (you should see this in power school). Some students may be unable to take this class AND band - these students can complete this course during band class to meet this requirement. We will give these students time during band class to complete the online module. Students can also work on this at home at their own pace. This course must be completed by the end of the school year.

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.

Any student that misses after school rehearsals, fails to prepare, or has poor behavior may not be allowed to perform. This includes football games, concerts, field trips, etc…alternative assignments will be given as needed.

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Band Rules

1. Follow all school rules
2. Be respectful
3. **No cell phones - including after school activities**
4. Only play <u>your</u> instrument
5. No gum, food, or drinks

Consequences

Behavior and discipline procedures will follow the same guidelines as Prescott South Middle 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.

Photography

Band performances are public, and group pictures and videos are commonly taken and posted on social media and the PSMS band website. Reach out to Mr. Webster if you have questions/concerns about photography.

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)
- 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*

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, see attached order form)

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Black Pants
Black Belt
Black Dress Shoes
Black Socks
(7th/8th Grade only need "concert black" attire - this is a white button down dress shirt and black dress pants or an all black dress. This will not be needed until March)

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.

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Grading

50*% Daily Grades (objectives, in-class activities, etc…)*
50% Performances and Assessments

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 50% 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. 50% of a student's grade comes from traditional written assessments and musical performances (performance 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 performance 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 objectives for 6th grade and playing assessments for 7/8th grade. Students must perform the exercises without error, in person or recorded (more info to come). Any student that does not have access to a device at home is welcome to record playing assessments before school, after school, and during lunch/recess as allowed by their teacher. Playing assessments will be communicated via email and google classroom throughout the year.

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Handbook Contract and Information Form

Optional: This can be filled out digitally by scanning the QR code.

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 - do NOT fill this out if you are renting through a company or own your 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 $100 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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Band Polo Shirt Order Form

This order form is for the purchase of a Prescott South Middle School Band polo shirt. These are athletic polos with the PSMS Band Logo. The cost is $25.00 per shirt. (2XL and 3XL are an additional $2.00)

Each student in the band is requested to purchase one for their uniform. Non-band members may also purchase a shirt.

Please return this form and payment to the band director.

Student Name _____

Student Grade _____

Shirt Size _____Youth Medium _____Youth Large _____Adult S _____Adult M

_____Adult L _____Adult XL _____Adult 2XL (Add $2.00) _____Adult 3XL (Add $2.00)

(Place quantity next to each size needed.)

Total $ Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Prescott South Middle School. Please put your child's name in the "For" section of the check.

**Orders are final and non-refundable.*

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PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION SLIP

Students must have a completed and signed permission slip before they will be permitted to participate in any school-sponsored activity, club, or organization. Students without permission slips will not be allowed to participate. No exceptions will be made.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is requesting to participate in the following extra-curricular school sponsored club, activity, or organization:

_____

_____.

Under Tennessee state law (TCA § 49-6-1031 Section B), your child cannot participate in the above club, activity, or organization without your permission. If you do want them to participate, please complete this form and return it to the club/activity/organization sponsor. If at any point you wish to withdraw permission, please give written notice to the school administration.

I give permission to my child to participate in the above school-sponsored club, activity, organization, and I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the child for whom the application is being made.

_____ _____

Name of Parent/Guardian Date

_____ _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date School

_____

Student's Name

THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CLUB/ACTIVITY/ORGANIZATION YOUR CHILD WILL BE ATTENDING.