

Pacific Trails Middle School

Music Program

Director- Julian "Chris" Johnson

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Class: Orchestra

Course Overview: This year at Pacific Trails Middle School, Orchestra will be open to beginners with no prerequisites, and will consist of students from beginners to advanced levels with mixed grade levels. We'll be covering basic fundamentals such as bowing techniques, note and rhythm reading, instrument position and performance techniques. For the experienced players, we will continue advanced performance techniques and musicality through the use of method books, appropriate orchestral pieces, and other selected etudes. The orchestra will be participating in multiple public performances, including a music festival in March. Public performances are mandatory. Conflicts in schedules should be worked out 2 weeks before a performance to allow time to have specific parts covered by other students.

Uniforms are required for each public concert and consist of black dress pants, black shoes, and a white polo shirt with our school's music logo on it. The polo shirts are \$25. Please write checks payable to "*PTMS Music Foundation.*"

If this is your son or daughter's first year in Orchestra, they are **required to purchase** a book entitled "*All for Strings: Comprehensive String Method book 1*" by Robert Frost and Gerald Anderson. Please purchase the book for your son or daughter's specific instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass.) The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$5.95 or at your local music stores (Bertrand's Music, Nick Rail Music, etc.) Prices and availability may vary. If your son or daughter has not selected an instrument yet, please wait until the instrument is selected before you buy the book. If they are a beginner, private lessons through a professional or a local music store would also be highly beneficial for their advancement but are not required.

Students are **required to have their own instruments** for orchestra class. Violas, cellos, and basses are available to borrow through the school based on availability. Instruments may be rented through your local music stores (Bertrand's Music, Nick Rail Music, etc.)

Please check out our **PTMS Music website** at (<http://ptmsmusicfoundation.weebly.com/>) for a calendar of events, forms, and more information. If you'd like to be involved with our PTMS Music Foundation, please send me an email and come to our monthly meetings to help support our music program. Students can also log onto **Google Classroom** for copies of their music, recordings, and other forms.

Grading:

Participation (40%) Students will be required to participate daily. They must have their instrument in good working condition. They must be in their seat, ready to perform on time. They must attend all concerts.

Performance Tests (20%) Students will be given a selection of music in advance, to be performed in class. It will be graded on a rubric based on note accuracy, rhythm, tone, and phrasing.

Practice Sheets (20%) Students are required to practice outside of class for 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Students will log their practice time and turn in practice sheets every week, signed by their parent or guardian.

Tests and Quizzes (20%) Students will also be given written tests and quizzes based on prior lectures and class work.

Class Rules:

Respect each other- *Don't tease, don't call out other's mistakes, don't touch other's property, don't talk when there is instruction or performance, help each other, be positive.*

Respect your school- *Pick up trash, put things where they go, no eating or drinking, no gum or candy, be presentable out in public at concerts and other events.*

Use electronic devices responsibly- *No texting or playing games. Use your devices for instrument tuning, recording, photographing diagrams or written music. Do not photograph people. Silence your phones. Do not have your devices out on your music stands during instruction.*

Please log onto our PTMS Music Foundation Website to sign this form digitally. Thank you.

<http://ptmsmusicfoundation.weebly.com/>