

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. 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- New Directions for Strings book 1 & 2, appropriate concert pieces, and other selected etudes. We'll also be using a program called **Smart Music**, which our district has graciously purchased for all music students. With Smart Music, students can access method books and concert pieces to practice at home. Advanced students will also be given the opportunity to audition for honor groups, such as the All State CODA and All Southern Honor Orchestras. The Orchestra will be participating in multiple public performances, including Arts Night school concerts, Elementary school concerts, and a Forums Music Festival and Disneyland trip. Some of our public performances are mandatory, like our Arts Night concerts. 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. The polo shirts are available for purchase at <https://ptmsmusicfoundation.weebly.com/payments-orders--donations.html>. If you are unable to purchase a polo shirt, the PTMS Music Foundation will be available to financially assist you.

Students are **required to have their own instruments** for Orchestra class. Some instruments are available to borrow from the school based off of availability (Violas, Cellos, and Basses.) 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 (50%) 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 recorded through Smart Music. It will be graded on a rubric based on note accuracy, rhythm, tone, and phrasing.

Classwork (30%) Students will complete written and performed assignments on time through Google Classroom.

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- *Don't have your cell phones or tablets out during class. Electronic devices must remain in your backpack at all times.*