

# 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 polo shirt with our school's music logo on it. The polo shirts will be available for purchase through our website soon.

This year, we'll be using a program called **Smart Music**, where students can access materials to practice in class and at home. Smart Music tracks the amount of time that students are practicing, and students can record themselves for graded evaluations. The subscription price for Smart Music is \$8, which can be paid through the PTMS Music Foundation website.

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, practice sheets, calendar and other forms. The class is "PTMS Orchestra" and the code is nmqusi.

**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 recorded in Smart Music. 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 60 minutes a week through the Smart Music app.

**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 or call out other's mistakes.*

*Don't touch other's property.*

*Don't talk during instruction or performance.*

*Help each other.*

*Be positive.*

Respect your school

*Pick up trash.*

*Put things where they go.*

*No eating food, gum or candy in class.*

*You are only allowed to drink water in class.*

*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.*

**Consequences:**

1<sup>st</sup> offense- fill out the *consequence* form

2<sup>nd</sup> offense- fill out the *consequence* form and email it home for parent signature

3<sup>rd</sup> offense- fill out the *consequence* form and email it to parents and the Assistant Principal

**Electronic Device Consequence:**

1<sup>st</sup> offense- Electronic device gets taken away and returned after class

2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Electronic device goes to the Assistant Principal for student pick up after school

3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Electronic device goes to the Assistant Principal for parent pick up after school

Please log onto the PTMS Band Google Classroom site to sign this form digitally. Thank you.

<https://classroom.google.com>

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