

**Powell Middle School
Band Program
Handbook
2019-2020**



**Middle School Director:
Donnie Hero**

How to Contact Mr. Hero? E-mail is usually the best way or reply to a remind message.

Donald.hero@knoxschools.org

Office hours are from 8:30-9:30 most
days.

EXPECT SUCCESS

Band meets every day during related arts, and students will not miss academic subjects by participating in band. Also, band does not require time outside of the school day except for two concerts during the year, which will last about an hour.

During the middle school years, discovery of self and where you “belong” is a major factor, and we hope that band will help you with this time of discovery. Band offers not only a chance to explore musical abilities but provides the opportunity to develop self-discipline, leadership, cooperation, and interaction in a group setting. Students do not need to know anything about music to be successful in the band program.

POWELL MIDDLE BAND PROGRAM GOALS

1. To have a love of music and love doing it by expecting success every day.
2. To grow personally and musically and work to do the right thing in all areas of life.
3. To have a great musical performance experience.
4. To mentor one another so all will succeed.
5. To develop leaders within the band program.

“THE FIVE BAND RULES”

- 1. When the director steps on the podium, everything stops.**
- 2. Keep food, drink, gum, and/or candy out of the band room.**
- 3. If it doesn’t belong to you, don’t touch it.**
- 4. Refrain from horseplay!**
- 5. Treat everyone and everything with the utmost respect.**

General Band Expectations

When the director steps on the podium, everything stops.

1. Please be **on time** for all band activities **by being in your chair, quiet, and ready to begin rehearsal at the designated time.** After 3 unexcused tardies, a write-up will be given. When director steps on podium, rehearsal begins. Anyone not in seat will be asked to sign tardy book. After 3 unexcused tardies, a write-up will be given. Attendance will be taken 2 minutes after the bell. You have 5 minute passing period.
2. Be prepared for class and rehearsal with all music in your folder and instrument at your seat. **You must have a pencil with you at all rehearsals!** Points will be taken from participation grade for not having instrument, music, books, or pencil.
3. **Stay in your seat** during rehearsal unless the director has given you permission to be up. If you need to use the bathroom, make a phone call, or get a drink of water, do so before class rehearsal begins. Brass players should take care of oiling valves and slides BEFORE class.
4. Sit with good posture. Please refrain from leaning or rocking in chairs or on stands. Never sit on stacked chairs.

Keep food, drink, gum, and/or candy out of the band room.

Students caught with gum, candy, etc. in the band room will sign the “gum/food/drink” notebook. On the third signature, a referral will be given and must be signed by parent and returned. For the protection of instruments, water bottles should never be in the main band room and never opened in the instrument storage room. All other types of liquids must be kept in the hallway outside of band room.

If it doesn't belong to you, don't touch it.

1. We are proud of the band room and we ask that you please take care of it. Please stay away from the teacher's area in the front of the room, which includes the podium. Band office and music workroom are off limits without permission.
2. Name tags **must** be on the outside of all cases. No exceptions.
3. Never play someone else's instrument or allow them to play your instrument.

Refrain from horseplay!

Students are never to be found running around or “hanging out” in the instrument storage room at any time, which includes before and after school. Because of the high cost of instruments, non-band members are not allowed in the band room without permission.

Treat everyone and everything with the utmost respect.

1. Please throw all trash in the garbage cans provided. Make sure area is clean around your seat when you leave. Paper towels and tissues should **never** be taken to your seat. This includes cleaning your cubbie.
2. **Leave your books and all belongings in your cubbies.** Only your music folder and pencil is allowed at your seat. Flutes and clarinets **only** are allowed to have their cases under their seats. Please put cases back into the cubby during class time and not leave them on the floor.
3. Nothing should be left in the band storage cubbies except your instrument and music folder when band class is over. All music should be in the student's folder and never loose in the cubby. Additional items found in cubbies will go to the school's lost and found. Cases **MUST** be latched close.

TRIP ELIGIBILITY

The Director and the School Administration reserve the right to refuse a student to participate on a trip for other actions not listed below at their discretion.

- No suspensions from school during current school year
- No more than 3 visits to RLC, silent lunch due to an office referral, or after-school detention for discipline
- No more than 3 entries in the discipline log in band class
- Must maintain an B average in band class for each grading period and must have an A in band class at time of the trip. Must maintain B over all average of all classes
- For spring trips, must have passed all classes first semester.
- Must attend all concerts and festivals (unless an excused absence).

If you find yourself struggling in a class, please discuss this with me immediately so that we can work something out so you don't lose trip eligibility.

Grading

Each grading period will be graded slightly differently due to varying activities. Your grade depends on class participation, being prepared, concert attendance, worksheets, quizzes, pass-offs, and playing tests. The grade earned is a direct result of the work done at home and in class.

Not having your instrument, music, or a pencil at the beginning of rehearsal is considered "unprepared" and will affect your grade. Instrument in shop will not affect your grade, **but a note from a parent stating this is needed.** Also, if you can't play your instrument due to an illness or injury, **a note must be given to teacher from parent or doctor.** All make-up work is **your responsibility. Rehearsal Detective paper due each day you don't play. If this is a constant issue parents will be called and all points lost.**

You **must** be in attendance at all performances. You are responsible for knowing about **all** band rehearsals, performances, and other activities. Calendar dates can be found on Charms as they come available and in back of this handbook. **Mark these dates in your calendar!** Concerts are worth 500 points (2.5 test grades). Unexcused concert absences may also result in students not being allowed to attend field trips during that school year.

Excused absences: (Must be cleared by Mr. Hero with a parent note)

- ❖ Verifiable personal illness
- ❖ Death in the family
- ❖ Recognized religious holidays
- ❖ Verifiable family emergency

Unexcused absences:

- ❖ Failure to remember a concert date or activity.
- ❖ **Failure to bring a parent note for an “excused absence” (see above).**

Concert attendance is important. A concert is the culminating experience of our daily rehearsals. In a sense, concerts are like final exams on material we have been studying in class. In another sense, concerts are **more important** than final exams because each student is responsible to every other student as a member of the group. Every student’s performance is directly related to the performance of every other student.

Of course, there are rare instances of legitimate unavoidable conflicts. In those cases, the director must be notified in writing **prior** to the performance for the final grade not to be affected. An alternate assignment will be given and must be completed within one week of concert. In cases of severe illness or emergency, notification should be made as soon as possible. These guidelines allow the director to make arrangements for a meaningful performance with absent students taken into account.

Grade Composition

Weekly participation grades: 75% of grade (daily participation, being prepared, etc.)

Test scores: 25% of grade (written and playing, pass-offs, concerts count as 2.5 test grades)

Each student is given 100 points weekly. No instrument will cost 10 points. Not having all of your music (concert and books), pencil, being off task, not taking care of instrument/belongings will cost 5 points. **A “B” AVERAGE MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR FIELD TRIPS AND NO REFUND WILL BE ISSUED IF THE BAND WILL LOSE MONEY.** Remember, participation is the biggest “chunk” of your grade.

Please note that it is almost impossible to not receive an “A” in band class. As long as a student is trying, prepared for class with instrument, music, and pencil, stays on task, and attends concerts, they will have a good grade.

Practicing

The band room will be opened before and after school for students to practice on certain days. If your child gets to school early, this is a great time to get practicing in! No student is allowed in the band room before school unless they are in a seat practicing their music. Students caught “hanging out” in the band room or instrument storage room before school will have morning privileges taken away. Practice schedule will be written on the board weekly. Students should practice at least 20 minutes a day.

EEL is a web-based program that allows students to send Mr. Hero recordings (AKA pass offs) /assignments through the program and students can complete the assignments at home. Students can submit a recording of their performance and Mr. Hero can listen and give comments. All of the tests and pass-offs that we do can be done on EEL. Class time will be provided for the students that are not able to get EEL.

Pass-offs are how we will decide chair placement in band. The person with the most pass offs will be first chair and so on. When there is a tie we will have challenges to break the tie. There will be cut offs a few weeks before concerts so music can be prepared for performance/competition. There is also a belt reward system that rewards the students that reach certain levels of the pass off system.

Music/Method Books

All band members will need to have a one inch black binder that will be used in class everyday. ***Under no circumstances should music ever be found in your cubby that is not secured in your folder.***

All 6th grade students should purchase the “Essential Elements ” Book 1 which is black and gold in color and Alfred’s Essentials of Music Theory Complete book.

All 7th grade students should purchase the “Essential Elements” Book 2 (which is black and gold in color) and “Habit of a Successful Middle School Musician” (Yellow in color. You will also need the same theory book we used last year (or next small book)

All 8th grade students should purchase “Superior Bands in 16 weeks”(white book) by Quincy Hilliard and “Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (yellow book)

If for any reason you are not able to secure a book speak to Mr. Hero promptly. Images of the books are attached at the end of the handbook.

Concert Attire

Please note the concert attire! If you are unable to afford an item, please give me two weeks notice to find it for you. Not having appropriate dress is not an excuse to miss a performance. Students not wearing proper attire will not perform and will receive a 0.

THIS IS NEW FOR THIS YEAR.

All groups will need black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and boys black belt. All students will purchase a polo band shirt that is in the process of being designed. Students will wear this for all performances this year so the group is more uniform. Still NO BLACK JEANS, NO SWEAT PANTS, AND NO BLACK STRETCH PANTS.

Band Fees

The Powell Middle School Band fee is \$30 and is designated for the purchase of sheet music, materials, sectionals teachers, registration fees and band equipment. Fees are suggested, but not required to participate in band.

This fee in no way covers all the needs of the Powell Middle School Band. Fundraisers will help to offset the cost of the band program.

Please let me know well in advance if you ever have a financial need as it relates to band class. I will always work with you. This includes money for field trips or certain band attire. Such communication will be kept as confidential as possible. If a student can't afford part of the uniform, please inform the director so arrangements can be made.

Checks are to be made out to PMS and are to be put in locked box. Please make sure child's name is on all correspondence and checks. Turn all money in before school (do not wait until class time).

School Owned Instruments

Due to the high cost of instrument repairs and maintenance, all students who play a school-owned instrument are requested to donate at least \$25.00 - \$50.00. Please make checks payable to the Powell Middle School Band. This donation will go toward the cleaning and repair of all Powell Middle School owned instruments. This by no means covers the total cost of a typical cleaning or repair. The average cost for having a single school owned instrument cleaned is between \$75 and \$125. Maintenance and repairs cost from \$25 and up. School owned instruments are available to 7th and 8th grade students who play tuba, baritone, bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet, etc. A select group of 6th graders will be put on school-owned instruments late in first semester. Students are asked to purchase a mouthpiece for their school-owned instrument. FRENCH HORN PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE MOUTHPIECE.

REEDS (sold for cash only-NO CHECKS)

All clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon players should have 2 or 3 good playing reeds in their cases at all times. Reeds are available in the band room or from the music store. Students without reeds will not get participation points for the day.. Mr. Hero will go over types of reeds that each class should be using.

Percussion Needs

practice pad, 2 snare drum sticks, some type of stick bag, hard rubber bell mallets, tympani mallets, 2 yarn mallets

Kits are available for purchase with mallets, sticks, and bag which will meet percussionist needs through high school at a lower cost than buying individually.

How do I get an Instrument?

Fortunately, we live in an area that makes it easy and affordable for you to participate in band. We encourage new band students to rent instruments in case your child changes their mind about which instrument to play. Below are sources that offer services to our school. These are the **RECOMMENDED** sources for good instruments. Having a good quality instrument is key to your child's success in band. If in doubt, please ask a band director for help. I would not purchase an instrument without consulting a band director unless you do so from one of the sources below. There are some really bad quality instruments on the internet that will not allow your child to be successful and could be a waste of money. In addition to an instrument, students will also need a method books. They have been listed previously under the music section in the handbook. These may also be purchased at any of the music stores below, online at Amazon, and sometimes McKay's will have used ones.

RUSH'S
2107 Chapman Highway
573-4138

LUNSFORD'S
3606 Western Ave.
523-7332

*A parent night will be offered at Lunsford's for parents to stop by if they would like to ask the band director any questions or to obtain instruments. Also, Rush's music store will be at the 6th grade open house for parents to obtain instruments. Check calendar for date.

Student will receive instruction on how to care for their instruments. I highly suggest that you're 6th grade child not take their instrument out of case until he or she has been instructed on how to do this. Daily care will help to keep instruments in good shape and prevent unnecessary repairs.

PLEASE DO NOT WASTE MONEY BY
PURCHASING CHEAP INSTRUMENTS ON
INTERNET –ASK-- I WILL BE GLAD TO
ASSIST YOU!

Instrument Upgrades/ reliable brands

As your child enters the 7th or 8th grade band, you are probably ready to invest in your child's band future. If your child is in band after one or two years, he/she will very likely continue band through high school. In order to have a quality band experience, students need to have quality instruments. If you have not purchased an instrument, we would like to recommend the following instruments for your consideration. This is not a complete list, but will give you an idea.

Flute – Jupiter (CEF551), Yamaha (481H, 581H, 685H) (7th and 8th graders should purchase an open-hole if possible)
Clarinet – Buffet (R-13), Selmer (CL300), Yamaha (YCL220)
Saxophone – Buffet (BC8101), Yamaha (YAS6211)
Trumpets – Bach (Strad 37/180), Yamaha (YTR2335), King (601)
Trombones – Yamaha (YSL448G), Bach (42BO), Eastman (ETB432/430), Edwards (7th and 8th graders should purchase a trigger)

Mr. Hero will be glad to assist you with specific models of instruments to meet your child's needs. We will also be glad to look at something you may have found on Ebay or Craig's list to see if the instrument is quality.

MOUTHPIECES

Even on a rental instrument or an older instrument, having the right mouthpiece can make a huge difference. I recommend the following for 7th and 8th graders:

Clarinet: VanDoren M13, VanDoren 5RVLyre
Saxophone: Selmer C
Trumpet: Bach 5C
French Horn: Farkus, Schilke 27/29
Trombone: Bach 6.5AL, Schilke 51
Euphonium: Bach 6.5AL
Tuba: Bach 18

Private Lessons

Private lessons are highly recommended in order to increase advancement of performance skills on a musical instrument. The one-to-one approach allows the student to benefit from the undivided attention of the private teacher, unlike the traditional band class where the teacher is monitoring a class with many more students. We have many very qualified teachers in the area. If interested, please email me. I will be happy to assist you in finding a teacher.

Fundraisers

We will be having two large fundraisers during the year. This money is used to help fund needed supplies in the band room including music, equipment, sectional teachers, instruments, trip fees, professional development opportunities, and special awards. This money is also used to pay for substitutes while the band teacher is on field trips. The 4th annual Rock-A-Thon will be first semester and the Enjoy the City coupon books will be second semester. We may also have other fundraisers as needed and approved for various needs throughout the year. **ALL STUDENTS are expected to participate in fundraisers because every student benefits from the money that is raised.** If parents would rather donate money than have students participate, a donation of \$100 will allow students to participate in all fundraiser activities/celebrations (Rock-a-thon, prize for selling 7 books, etc.) and receive the prizes students are rewarded with for meeting the set criteria. (Students will not receive any prizes higher than what students are requested to meet). I will give examples when we roll out each fundraiser.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an extra curricular class that meets after school. Information will be sent home before the end of August and rehearsals will start in September. Students will be asked to pay a small fee this year to help pay for new music. The jazz band will play at all concerts throughout the year.

Steel Drums

Steel Drums is also an extra curricular class that usually meets in the morning between 8-8:25. Students will be sent home information in August and we will have auditions in the morning and start as soon as possible. There may be more than one group depending on interest. Students will be asked to pay a small fee so we can get the instruments tuned, sheet music, and for trailer rentals to get to performances with the drums. Steel drums will play at all performances throughout the year and will also play a few concerts off campus.

Videos

Videos clips and audio recordings will be used periodically to help students hear music we are working on, show them a great performance, help them understand content and musical history, and to allow them to evaluate their own performance. Movies will also be used to prove a point, help students understand concepts better, and possibly for enrichment. The one that I have used most is Mr. Holland's Opus. If other movies are not county approved and I want to show them in class, I will send home parent permission forms. If a student is not able to participate they will be sent to another room with an alternate assignment.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

All parents need to do the following so we can contact you: (If you are new to band, give me a few days to get you entered into the system.)

www.charmsoffice.com

CLICK ENTER

CLICK PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBER

SCHOOL CODE: POWELLBANDS

PASSWORD: 6-DIGIT SCHOOL ID OR PASSWORD THAT YOU CHANGED

If you can't log in, please email me, and I will reset your password.

Go to personal info and fill in **ALL** student info.

Go to adult and fill in all info.

Go to adult 2 and fill this in for other parent, stepparent, grandparent, or basically anyone that you want to have access to band emails and information. These are also the numbers that will be called in case of an emergency. HIT UPDATE!

Please use this site frequently for calendar updates, itineraries, forms, and pass-offs.

*Important Band Dates

Aug. 8th	6th Grade Open House – I will be in the band room to meet and greet students and parents, and to answer questions.
Aug. 16	Parent Letter Due, suggested fee due, charms update due and other forms
Aug. 13	7th and 8 th Grade Open House. 6-8 p.m. Rush’s music store will be in the Band room from 5:00 – 7:00. This is for 6 th grade parents to come and rent instruments, purchase books, etc. Come around to the back door if front door is locked.
Aug. 19	All students should have their instruments/books by now
Sept. 8	Before and after school optional rehearsals begin. (Steel Drums and Jazz Band)
Sep. 20	Possible 8 th Grade Band Night at PHS. Details soon.
Sep. 27	4th Annual-Rock-A-Thon details coming soon (date could change)
Oct. 4	Jr. Clinic (7 th and 8 th) \$6.00 due and form for those who want to participate
Oct. 29	6 th Grade Beginner Band Concert/ 8 th Grade Band performs as well
Nov. 16	Jr. Clinic Auditions – optional- You must have turned in form and money to audition
Dec. 6-7	Junior Clinic – Congratulations to those who made it
Dec. 10	All Bands Participate in Winter Concert. Times are TBA.
Jan. 10	“Enjoy the City” Coupon Book Sale
Jan 23-24	Knox Co. Honors Band (select students nominated by Mr. Hero)
March 3 or 4	Possible Concert Festival at Maryville College 7 th and 8 th grade times are TBA
March 6	Music in our Schools Month concert for each grade level
March 11-15	Band Enrichment Field trip for 8 th (and possibly 7 th) grade students.
May 7	Spring Concert/ Night of the Arts. Times are TBA. All grade levels will perform.

Other dates may be added as other performing opportunities arise.

***IMPORTANT TEST DATES FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS**

Playing tests are in BOLD on your pass off sheet. These are required by the date and count as a playing test/pass off grade. Etudes out of your book, scales, and music will be expected as part of this grade. Playing tests turned in late will result in a lowered grade.

***Remind 101 text messages**

I will send out reminders from time to time via text. This is for parents and students. This is a no-reply message, and you can opt out at anytime. Please do the following:

Send message to 81010

In the message box please type: (please only message your grade level)

For 8th Grade - @PMS8-19

For 7th Grade- @PMS7-19

For 6th grade - @PMS6-19

Jazz Band- @PMSJB-19

Steel Drums-@PMSSD-19

You should get a reply if done correctly.

Also, please help out by sending in a box of tissues, hand sanitizer, and a roll of paper towels.

***Student**

I certify that I have read, understand and will abide by the policies in the Powell Middle Band handbook found online (hardcopy on request). It is my responsibility to be ready to start class on time, in my assigned seat, with ALL my materials in hand, and this includes not having gum/candy in my mouth or horseplaying in the band room. I realize that the result of not following the rules could result in alternate assignments and/or in-area referrals. I also understand that if I come to any band event inappropriately dressed, I will not be allowed to perform. I have read the field trip guidelines and understand that I must earn the right to be allowed to attend. I also understand that it is my responsibility to uphold a positive attitude and always be dedicated to the ideals of cooperation, dependability, punctuality, responsibility, respect, and self-confidence.

Printed Name _____

Student Signed _____

Grade _____

Homeroom teacher _____

Instrument _____

REMEMBER TO PURCHASE A ONE INCH BLACK BINDER

FORM DUE BY AUGUST 16, 2019

***Parent**

I certify that I have read, understand and will abide by the policies in the Powell Middle Band handbook (found online or hardcopy available upon request) as governs my child's involvement in the Band Program. I understand that any unauthorized deviation from these policies by my child will result in disciplinary stated herein. I understand the dress code policy and concert policy. I understand that my child will not be allowed to attend field trips unless he or she earns the right according to trip policy as outlined in the handbook and no refund will be issued if the band loses money. Trip refunds will only be given if the band does not lose money that it has already paid out toward the trip. My child has permission to watch any animated G/PG movie . I will help my child as he/she participates in the arts, guiding him/her to develop into a mature, well-rounded young adult.

_____ I have gone to the Charms Site and updated my child's info. I understand that failure to do so will result in not getting necessary emails.

Print Mother's Name _____

Print Father's Name _____

(Print Carefully) Parent Email address _____

Parent Signature _____

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Home _____

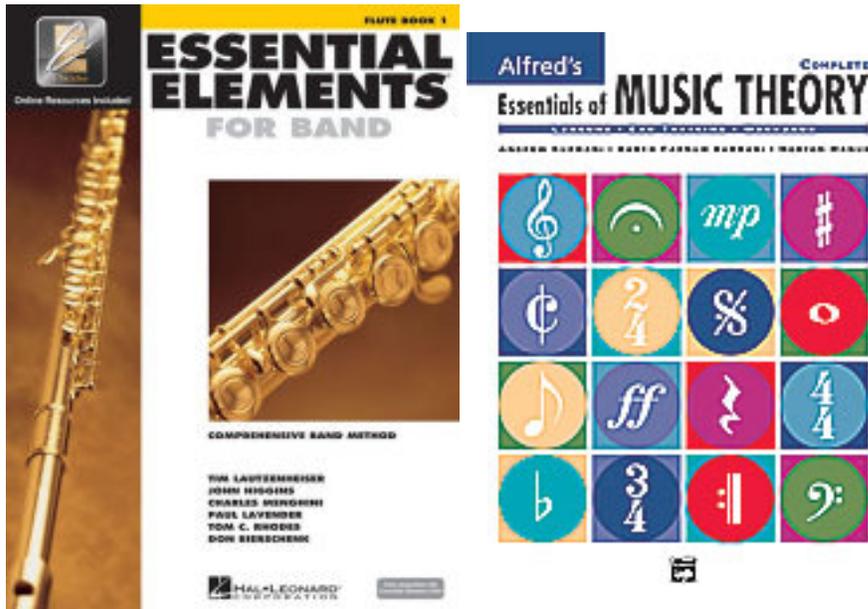
Mother work: _____ Mother Cell _____

Father work: _____ Father Cell _____

IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

Please list any medical conditions, medication taken regularly, or allergies that I should know about:

6th grade books needed-



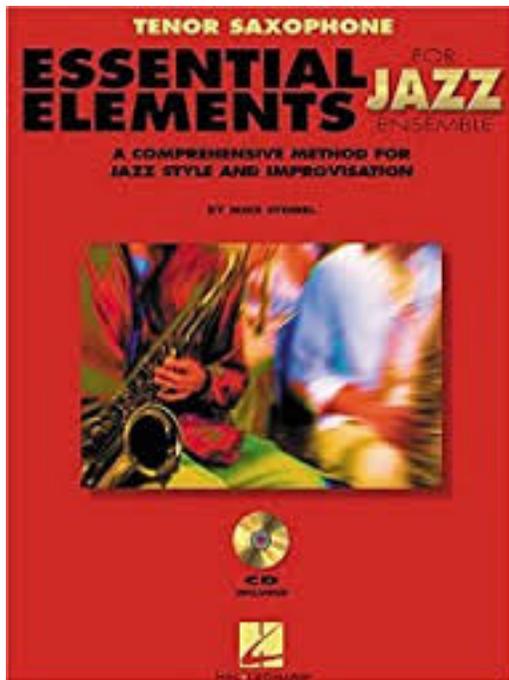
7th grade books needed (should have theory from last year)



8th grade books needed (should have theory from last year)



Jazz Band get this book for your instrument.



jazz band- (if you wish to join)