

# PCS Band Information

## Hello!

Hello and thank you for your interest in the band program this school year. We had many successes last year- sharing what we've learned in an open rehearsal, performing in a concert, participating in Band-A-Thon, and tackling challenging music while having fun. The following information should help you plan ahead for this band season.

## Concert Dates

We will have one open rehearsal in November. We perform in one concert each school year, in May. More information will come as we get closer to the dates. Some 2nd year band students may be nominated for the District II Elementary Music Festival and may be invited to play. The dates of the concerts are TBA.

## Responsibility

Responsibility is often stressed in band class. Students are expected to come prepared to class by bringing required materials (remember MIPP- Music, Instrument, Pencil Planner) and practicing the music assigned in the weekly homework. They are also expected to be on time- have their instrument set up by the scheduled starting time of rehearsal or lessons. **Student responsibility is tracked and is reflected in their grades on their report card.** You can encourage your child to demonstrate responsibility by checking his/her planner, having a “band day” checklist at home to make sure they don't forget any materials, checking the PCS music website, and encouraging practice at home.

## **Band Handbook**

Please go over the band handbook with your child and fill out the contract on the back page. This contract is **\*\*DUE WEDNESDAY 9/12/18.\*\*** If you are unsure if you already turned one in this past Spring, please contact me.

## **Time Commitment**

**1st Year Band-** will be pulled out during the school day for the following lessons:

- Weekly- one 20 minute instrument specific lesson  
- one 40 minutes whole band lesson

**2nd Year Band-** will be pulled out during the school day for the following lessons:

- Weekly- one 40 minute sectional  
- one 40 minutes whole band lesson

## **Band Homework**

Homework is assigned every week at lessons. Students are expected to write their homework in their planner and have their homework prepared by their lesson the following week. You can also check the PCS Music website for the weekly homework.

## **WIN (What I Need) Time**

The music room is open during recess for students to practice. This is an opportunity for students to work on their homework, get extra help, work with a friend, or even get more challenging music. Students must check in with their classroom teacher before coming to WIN.

## Method Book

***All students MUST purchase a Tradition of Excellence Book 1 (red) for their specific instrument.***

You can find them on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or other music websites. You can also contact Music and Arts (their information is attached). There are also music stores listed in the band handbook that you have received.



## Acquiring an Instrument

There are several ways to get an instrument. You can purchase a used instrument, rent to own through Music and Arts, or borrow one from a family member. Please see the next page for more info. If you plan on purchasing an instrument, I am more than happy to check it out before you buy it. If none of these options are feasible for you, please contact Mrs. McFarland. We want your child to be in band! We have a limited number of school owned instruments that students (who need help) may borrow.

Can't wait for another fantastic year!

Mrs. McFarland

Email: [kmcfarland@rsu16.org](mailto:kmcfarland@rsu16.org)

Phone: 207-998-4915 Ext. 104

PCS Music Website: <http://musicpcs.weebly.com/>

## Selecting an Instrument

Many considerations are to be taken in helping your child select an instrument. For example, the length of child's arms might affect the reach needed to move a trombone slide in and out. A student with braces might find a trumpet mouthpiece that applies pressure to be uncomfortable. A student who has difficulty moving fingers may not choose the clarinet or flute. Percussionists must be excellent at multitasking and have good hand-eye coordination. **Note to students:** Do not choose an instrument just because all your friends are playing that one. Pick the one that sounds the best to you.

**If you plan on purchasing an instrument- PLEASE contact Mrs. McFarland or Mr. Gagnon before purchasing. NOT ALL INSTRUMENTS are created equal. We want to find an instrument that can last your child through high school.**

### Rent to Own (through Music & Arts).

You can begin renting an instrument now by visiting [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com) !! This is an excellent option to get a quality instrument at an affordable price without making a big investment. Students can even switch instruments without additional cost.

### Attic/Family

Ask around! Someone in your family members may have an instrument in a closet or the attic from when they were a band student. In many cases, these instruments may work well. It is highly recommended that you take this instrument to your local repair shop and your instructor for an evaluation. Just like a car that sits in the garage for 20 years, your instrument may need a tune up to get it ready for the road. It may also need a complete overhaul that may not be as affordable as a new purchase or rental.

### Newspaper/Yard Sale/Online Classifieds

Another option you might have is in purchasing through various internet auction sites such as Craig's List or E-Bay. If you can, ask the owner to play it for you before purchasing.

### Big Box Retail/Internet Music Stores

Finally, there are many brands, models, and price points to choose from on the internet and in big box retailers and local music stores. Unfortunately many companies take advantage of people looking for an affordable "starter instrument." In these cases you get what you pay for. The \$135 price tag looks good but these products are harder play and will likely break beyond repair within the first year of use. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Please use your best judgement.

## Suggested Quality Brands:

**Flute (C):** Yamaha, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Bundy



**Clarinet (Bb):** Vito, Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy, Buffet



**Alto Saxophone (Eb):** Cannonball, Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy, Jupiter



**Trumpet (Bb):** Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King, Getzen, Bundy, B&S, Holton



**Trombone (Bb Tenor):** Bach, Yamaha, King



**Percussion (Bell Kit/Snare Drum/Practice Pad):** Vic Firth, Pearl, Ludwig, Yamaha, Mapex





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W. Falmouth, ME  
04103

Here are instructions on how to rent an instrument “On Line” and have the instrument delivered to your child’s school Free of Charge. This is the best way to make arrangements for instrument rental.

- 1) Go to [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)
- 2) Click on the heading area that says “Rentals”
- 3) Enter your zip code in the box.
- 4) Select Child’s Grade
- 5) A list of Schools for your zip should come up. Select correct School. You may have to scroll down on blue bar if list is long and you don’t see your School. You can also refine search criteria and increase search radius.
- 6) Select instrument , click continue
- 7) Select Book and supplies
- 8) Accept Terms of Rental and LDW (loss damage waiver) this covers you for repair, damage and theft. Not mandatory but highly recommended.
- 9) Continue with personal information and make payment etc.
- 10) Allow 48 hours (not counting Sunday) for your rental request to get to me.

When checking out it is best to select “Ship to School”. This option is free.

I will bring your instrument to the school at the Parent Night or on my next school visit, usually within a week.

Please sign up for Encore Rewards. You will get a \$10.00 coupon to use at a later date, which is great for anyone playing an instrument, to buy reeds, maintenance supplies etc during the school year. You will also get special deals for years to come.

Thank You,  
Ken Bart  
207-318-7575

## Band Schedule (2018-19)

### Monday:

<b>12:05-12:35</b>	<b>WIN Time</b> <i>Optional Extra Help/Free Practice (during recess)</i>
<b>1:40-2:00</b>	1st Year Clarinet Lessons
<b>2:00-2:20</b>	1st Year Flute Lessons

### Tuesday:

<b>9:40-10:20</b>	2nd Year Woodwinds Lessons
<b>10:25-10:45</b>	1st Year Saxophone Lessons
<b>10:45-11:05</b>	1st Year Trumpet Lessons
<b>12:05-12:35</b>	<b>WIN Time</b> <i>Optional Extra Help/Free Practice (during recess)</i>

### Wednesday:

<b>9:40-10:20</b>	2nd Year Brass Lessons
<b>11:25-12:05</b>	<b>1st Year Band Rehearsal</b>
<b>12:05-12:35</b>	<b>WIN Time</b> <i>Optional Extra Help/Free Practice (during recess)</i>

### Thursday:

<b>10:25-10:45</b>	1st Year Trombone Lessons
<b>10:45-11:05</b>	1st Year Percussion Lessons
<b>11:25-12:05</b>	<b>2nd Year Band Rehearsal</b>
<b>12:05-12:35</b>	<b>WIN Time</b> <i>Optional Extra Help/Free Practice (during recess)</i>

### Friday:

<b>9:40-10:20</b>	2nd Year Percussion Lessons
<b>12:05-12:35</b>	<b>WIN Time</b> <i>Optional Extra Help/Free Practice (during recess)</i>

### Helpful Terms:

<i>1st year-</i>	someone who is beginning their instrument this year
<i>2nd year-</i>	someone who is playing the same instrument for a 2nd year in a row
<i>Woodwinds-</i>	flutes, clarinets and saxophones
<i>Brass-</i>	trombones and trumpets
<i>Percussion-</i>	drums, bell kit, etc