

# **Penn's Grove Instrumental Music Department**

## **Band Syllabus**

# **2024-2025**

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*For regular updates and referencing, please visit the  
Penn's Grove Band Website:*

**<https://www.oxfordasd.org/Page/2117>**

**Penn's Grove Middle School  
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Oxford, PA 19363  
610-932-6615**

## **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

Penn's Grove Music Department provides students with the opportunity to be a positively contributing member of performing ensembles. Through the study and performance of music, students gain valuable life experience that leads to academic, social, emotional, and artistic growth. Students who wish to enroll in these programs need to be prepared to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and accountability at all times. These qualities support high-level thinking and learning at individual and group levels, as well as an accelerated and enriching standards-based curricular experience for all students.

The music department and all its programs are school sponsored. They support and come under the jurisdiction of the Oxford Area School District's Mission Statement, board policy, and all school rules, regardless of when or where rehearsals, activities, meetings, and performances take place.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Band and Lessons**

Band class takes place during assigned class periods. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band meets from 12:53 – 1:33 on D, E and F days. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band meets from 9:18 – 9:58 on D, E and F days.

### **Band Procedure:**

#### **Students**

- **Report to Band Room immediately following previous class**
- **Set up instrument and necessary materials (reeds, oil valves, etc.)**
- **Sit quietly and wait for instruction**
- **Warm-ups**
- **Music Rehearsal**
- **Announcements**
- **Pack up instrument and materials as directed by Band Director (2 minutes prior to end of period)**
- **Dismissed from Band Room**

## **LESSONS:**

As do many school districts, Penn's Grove Instrumental Music also operates on a "pull-out" lesson system. This is a continuation of small group lessons like Nottingham and Hopewell. Students are placed in small lesson groups according to their instrument, grade, and music learning needs. Lessons meet once a cycle on a rotating schedule and are part of a student's Band grade. Student lessons are rotated over the course of **four** lesson times: 8:36, 10:00, 12:11 and 1:35. Students only miss 2 periods of the same class within a marking period. \*If a student's lesson takes place during their lunch period, they may either bring their lunch and eat at the lesson before playing their instrument, attend part of the lesson before or after their designated lunch, or attend a make-up lesson time instead.\* Students **MUST** check in with their regular classroom teacher **BEFORE** they attend a lesson. If a student should have a test or performance assessment during their class, they should NOT attend their lesson during that time. This would qualify as an EXCUSED absence. Should students miss their lesson for ANY reason, Ms. Hassler must be notified to ensure accountability and grading. If a student has a test or is not allowed to attend a lesson because of their regular teacher's requirement they will not be penalized and it

will not affect their grade. Again, should this occur, the students **MUST** make Ms. Hassler aware of the reason they missed a lesson. Students are also excused from a lesson if they are absent from school. Remember, it is ***the student's responsibility*** to let me know the reason for missing a lesson. Make-up lessons are offered in the event that a student misses their lesson. Make-up lessons are built into the lesson schedule also on rotation. Students may only attend a Make-up lesson if they have missed a previous lesson or know in advanced they will have to miss their assigned lesson time during that cycle. Extra credit assignments are also available either in the Band room or online via my website for partial credit.

At the start of the new school year, lessons will begin starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle. A cycle is the rotation of days "A-F." For example, the school year starts off with "A" day. This will begin cycle 1. After "F" day, a new "A" day will occur, starting cycle 2. When reading the lesson schedule, first check the cycle number at the top of the page, and then the letter day on the left side. If your lesson group letter occurs during any block on that day, you will have a lesson. Band lessons are also posted daily through the morning announcements as a convenient reminder. The lesson schedule and group assignments are posted in the Band Room and in the Music Hallway. A copy of the lesson schedule can also be downloaded and printed online from the Penn's Grove Band website.

### **BAND ROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

- Check in with regular classroom teacher before attending a lesson
- NO GUM or PHONES allowed during Band rehearsal or lessons
- Remember to bring all necessary materials: music, reeds, valve oil, sticks, pencil, etc.
- Listen attentively while the director is speaking
- Contribute positively and musically to the best of your ability
- Keep area clean – keep all materials stored in assigned cubbies when not in use

### **INSTRUMENT PROCEDURES:**

When you come into school, you are to drop off your instrument in the Band hallway or in the Band room before homeroom. Please pick your instrument up before you leave at the end of the day. You may choose to leave your instrument at school during the week in your assigned cubby.

### **MATERIALS:**

All reed players should start the year with a minimum of 3 reeds and cork grease in your case. Vandoren or Rico Royal reeds are preferable brands that last the longest and produce the best sound. Students should be performing on size 3 reeds.

Brass players need to have the appropriate oil (slide or valve), and percussionists must have a pair of sticks and a practice pad or snare drum at home. Percussionists will NOT need to bring their drum kits to school. There are school instruments that will be used. A good pair of sticks to get for home practice would be Vic Firth's SD1 General.

Please come to every lesson and rehearsal prepared. You must have a pencil, your iPad, your music, Band folder, and instrument. If you come unprepared without materials, this will affect your grade.

\*Please note that all equipment (music, instrument, etc) **MUST** be put away at the end of lessons and rehearsals. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Band share the same space. It is very important to keep the instruments, equipment, and music in their designated locations to promote organization and safety.

## **CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES**

Concerts support the students performing for their peers and the community. These are essential components to the music program and showcase the students' efforts and progress. Additional dates and information will be made available as the year progresses. **ALL students enrolled are required to attend dress rehearsals and concerts.** The groups rehearse as a team and perform as a team. **Please mark these dates on your calendar and reserve the date.**

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR...**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Rehearsal @ High School - Report time: 6-8pm **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Night w/ High School Band – Report time: TBD **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Rehearsal/Performance w/ the Dallas Brass– Report time: TBD **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Oxford Halloween Parade (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band) – Report time: TBD **Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Penn's Grove Winter Concert – Report time: 6:30pm Concert @ 7 **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Penn's Grove Spring Concert – Report time: 6:30pm Concert @ 7 **Thursday, May 8, 2025**

Music Dept. Field Trip to Hershey – Report time: TBD **Friday, May 16, 2025**

Oxford Memorial Day Walk (8<sup>th</sup> Band) – Report time: TBD **Monday, May 26, 2025**

**\*\*\*Please note these dates to avoid absences. These are REQUIRED performances.**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

All performing groups will be attending the “Music in the Parks Adjudication Festival” at Hershey Park on Friday, May 16, 2025 this Spring. This provides students the opportunity to share their efforts and artistry with other schools, receive meaningful feedback from music experts, and to enjoy some well-deserved reward time in the park. There will be a cost to attend this field trip. The cost for the trip is usually approximately \$130.

The music groups will perform for judges in the morning and then enjoy Hershey Park in the afternoon. An all-you-can-eat catered picnic area is part of the package. The day will conclude with an awards assembly in the Hershey Arena. Students may bring money for snacks and/or souvenirs. Students are responsible for safely and responsibly managing personal monies. All students are encouraged to attend and there will be fundraisers throughout the year to help reduce the cost of the trip.

## **PERFORMANCE/FIELD TRIP GRADE REQUIREMENT**

The groups' performances reflect on the school, community, and the students involved. Students in these groups are dedicated and put forth much effort to prepare for performances. It is for this reason that students who do not have an A, B, or C in the performing group/s they are enrolled at the time of the performance/field

trip will not be permitted to participate. If a student does not have a C or better, he or she has not completed the necessary requirements to perform at an average C-level with the students who have sufficiently prepared for the event. Positive behavior is also a requirement to attend the trip. Penn's Grove operates under the P.R.I.D.E. behavior expectations. **Students who receive more than 1 referral prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period may not be able to attend at the director's discretion.**

### **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

**Students enrolled in each musical group will be required to wear specific concert attire or uniforms.** This supports a professional and positive appearance when representing the district and the group. Concert attire consists of a maroon polo shirt and black pants or skirt.

**\*\*STUDENTS MUST WEAR THE APPROPRIATE ATTIRE IN ORDER TO PERFORM\*\***

### **ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

Academic performance and behavior in other classes and areas of school will influence a student's eligibility to participate in the music program. The directors are happy to help, so please do not hesitate to ask before a problem arises.

We like to develop a strong community atmosphere for the students in the music program. To be successful, a Band must function as one. Students are to demonstrate high levels of P.R.I.D.E. to promote camaraderie and maintain a positive atmosphere. If a student cannot control his or her behavior, consequences will result. If negative behavior continues, it may result in a dismissal from a performance or from the Band program.

### **TAYLOR'S MUSIC STORE**

Although you may always purchase from the store of your choice, we do have a representative from Taylor's Music Store that makes deliveries to our school. The representative from Taylor's comes on Tuesdays.

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIRS:**

When a student's instrument needs repair, you may have it sent to Taylor's Music Store. Taylor's will call with a quote for any repair over \$50.00 for your permission before proceeding.

### **PRACTICING:**

Please make time throughout the year for home practicing! Repetition is how you learn to be proficient and comfortable on your instrument. Especially if you are in Jazz Band, home practicing is essential to our success! This ensemble performs more difficult music, and it is your responsibility to prepare the music at the best of your ability.

### **COURSE CONTENT & GRADING:**

**BAND IS A GRADED CLASS.** The Band course is comprised of group lessons, full band rehearsal, performance-based tests, performances, reflections, and music literacy. The purpose of the Penn's Grove Band is to give each instrumental student a place in which he/she can musically mature, perform as a part of a large

ensemble, and develop their current skills while learning higher-level concepts. The Oxford Area School District Instrumental Music Faculty follows the National Standards for Music Education.

**Grading will occur in the following areas:**

- **70% - Performance Assessments – Tests, quizzes and skilled-based performance measures**
  - **Playing Tests**
    - **Students will be tested one-on-one on a current piece of music or skill.**
  - **Written Assessments**
    - **Students will be assessed on their basic music knowledge such as rhythm, pitch, rudiments, dynamics, etc.**
  - **Professionalism Assessment**
    - **Students will be assessed on their professional behavior and participation during Band class.**
- **30% - Formative Assessments – Class work, in-class assignments, class participation, preparation, and other in-class measures**
  - **Attendance, Participation and Behavior**
    - **Students are expected to attend and participate in each rehearsal and group lesson**
  - **Preparation**
    - **Students must come prepared to Band class and lessons with their instrument, music, ipad, pencil, and any other accessories required for their instrument (sticks, reeds, valve oil, etc.)**

**Band Class and Lesson grading:**

Each band class and lessons are graded on a scale of 5 points. You will receive points as follows:

- 1 point – for attendance
- 1 point – preparation (reeds, valve oil, music, folder, have practiced...etc)
- 1 point – for instrument/sticks
- 1 point – for positive behavior (positively contributing to rehearsal, listening for directions)
- 1 point – for participation (playing at the appropriate time, giving best effort)

In order to receive points you must have attended the lesson or band class. Each point is earned according to the above requirements. For example, if you come to band class, you have your instrument, you come prepared, you had good behavior, but you didn't play, you would receive a 4/5 that day.

Preparation may be additionally assessed at the end of every marking period.

**PLAYING TESTS:**

Playing tests will be graded on a scale of up to 20 points using the following elements:

**Rhythm/Note and Rest Values, Pitch (Note Accuracy)/Technique, Articulations/Dynamics/(Sticking for percussion), Tone Quality/Phrasing, and Preparation.**

**ATTENDANCE/DISMISSAL POLICY:**

**Trips:** If you are missing more than 3 lessons without making them up you will not be permitted to attend our annual Music in the Parks Hershey trip. It would be disrespectful to the students putting in the effort to come to lessons to let you go if you are missing that much time. I understand that issues may arise, but you need to resolve any situations with me.

If you are not in school for the day of an evening performance, you will not be allowed to perform. This is a school policy.

**PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS:**

Unless you play a large or specialty instrument (Percussion, Tuba, Baritone, Baritone Saxophone, or Bass Clarinet) you must bring your own personal instrument to school for lessons and band class. I do not have enough instruments at school for you to use on a daily basis. The instruments I have at school are for specialty instruments and emergencies. Please remember that when your personal instrument is at school it is still your responsibility. If you leave it at school overnight it will be safely locked in your cubby in the band room, however you are still responsible for its care.

It is also your responsibility to purchase your own reeds, mouthpieces, or other accessories necessary to play your instrument. Again, I have extras ONLY for emergencies.

If you break an instrument or piece of equipment that is Penn's Grove property through misusing the instrument/equipment or playing it incorrectly on purpose, you will be responsible for paying the damages or replacement costs. This policy is also stated on the school instrument contract.

**OPEN-DOOR POLICY:**

My door is always open if you have questions or concerns. Once the lesson schedule is distributed, you may have trouble understanding it at first. DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE! Come and see me whenever you have a Band problem and we'll work it out at that time. If you need extra help, please ask! My goal is for you to be successful. ☺

**JAZZ BAND:**

Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble and there is no guarantee of admittance. A Jazz Band requires a specific instrumentation and only a certain number of spots are available. Audition music and a sign-up sheet will be outside of Ms. Hassler's office by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school. Jazz Band will meet at 7:10am before school on Tuesdays. We will rehearse on Tuesdays AND Thursdays as we get closer to our concert dates. Jazz Band sectionals will also occur after school on a rotating schedule until 3:30pm