

# Pacific Trails Middle School Band

Director- Julian "Chris" Johnson

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## **Class:** Orchestra

**Course Overview:** The PTMS Orchestra is open to beginners with no prerequisites, and will consist of students from beginners to intermediate level. We'll be covering basic fundamentals such as bowing techniques, note and rhythm reading, instrument position and performance techniques. Our Orchestra uses New Directions method books and 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 using their chrome books

## **Class:** Advanced Orchestra

**Course Overview:** The Advanced Orchestra is the most advanced String Orchestra at PTMS. Students may audition into the Advanced Orchestra. Auditions are graded on tone, intonation, bowing, and dynamics. Students perform a variety of literature at the advanced level while focusing on technical and expressive skills in an ensemble setting. Performance opportunities include school concerts and festivals throughout the year. Students in this class typically receive private instruction outside of school and are often accepted in additional ensembles such as the California All-State Honor Orchestra, Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association Honor Orchestra, Mainly Mozart Youth Symphony, and/or San Diego Youth Symphony. Professional instrumental coaches assist students in their instrumental studies. This is an auditioned ensemble.

**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. Some instruments are available to borrow from the school based on 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:**

**Group Rehearsal (30%)** Students will be required to perform on their instrument in class daily. They must have their instrument in good working condition.

**Home Practice (30%)** Students are required to practice outside of class. Students will have weekly SmartMusic assignments found on Google Classroom.

**Performance Tests (20%)** Students will be given performance tests to be worked on and recorded at home and submitted online.

**Written Classwork (20%)** Students will also be given written worksheets, tests and quizzes based on prior lectures.

### **Class Rules:**

#### Respect each other

*Don't tease or call out others' mistakes.*

*Don't touch others' 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.*

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

<https://classroom.google.com>

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

## 2025-26 PTMS Music Calendar

TBA	Padres Band Night
Oct 16	Coffee Concerts- Guitar, Symphonic Band, Adv Orchestra (periods 1,3,5)
Oct 17	Coffee Concerts- Orchestra, Concert Band (periods 2,4)
Nov 3	cbda.org All State Honor Band Audition deadline
Nov 3	coda.org All State Honor Orchestra Audition deadline
Nov 20	scsboa.org All Southern Honor Band & Orchestra Audition deadline
Dec 9	Arts Night Holiday Howl Concerts (Guitar, Concert Band, Orchestra)
TBA	Winter Concert (Symphonic Band, Advanced Orchestra)
Jan 15-18	CBDA/CODA All State Conference & Concerts @ Sacramento
Jan 22-24	NAMM Conference @ Anaheim
Jan 29	Elementary School Concerts @ Ashley Falls, Solana Ranch, Sycamore Ridge
Jan 30-Feb 1	SCSBOA All Southern Conference & Concerts @ Riverside
Feb 3-5	Lunch Concerts (Guitar, Symphonic Band, Adv Orchestra)
Mar 5	Coffee Concerts- Guitar, Symphonic Band, Adv Orchestra (periods 1,3,5)
Mar 6	Coffee Concerts- Orchestra, Concert Band (periods 2,4)
Mar 13	Forum Festival & Disneyland Trip
Mar 2-Apr 27	Monday After School Music Class for 6th graders
Mar 30-Apr 4	Hawaii Trip
TBA	All District Jazz Festival @ Torrey Pines H.S.
TBA	Padres Band Night
May 19	Arts Night Concerts (Guitar, Concert Band, Orchestra)
TBA	Spring Concert (Symphonic Band, Advanced Orchestra)