



St. Paul Lutheran School
Music Department
Handbook
2019-2020

701 Washington St. Grafton, WI 53024

(262) 377-4659

Please read, sign, and return the participation contract by Sept. 15.

updated August 2019

Music Philosophy

Music is a gift from God—a gift that he commands and exhorts to use to praise him and to teach and encourage each other. “...Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:19-20) Music holds the power to connect the intellect with the emotions, often stirring within the human heart the spirit of the words being sung, helping the believer to worship God in spirit and in truth. It is this mind-spirit connection that makes song a powerful teaching tool, educating and encouraging the believer to be faithful to God.

Students will praise and glorify God and teach and encourage each other by developing and practicing musical skills and expression. Critical listening and analysis of various genres of musical expression will help students to appreciate or evaluate the varied cultures, ideas, and worldviews that are so uniquely communicated in music. Appreciation for music will open doors to understanding where others come from and will offer new styles, theories, and skills that may aid them in their own musical creations and expressions as they strive to serve God with the gift of music.

Goals

1. Students will use music to glorify God in their personal and worship life
2. Students will identify the elements and principles of music.
3. Students will recall vocabulary specific to varied forms of music.
4. Students will identify the increasing roles of technology in music and utilize technology to enhance their own creations.
5. Students will practice music reading, writing, theory and playing skills necessary for excelling in various musical pursuits.
6. Students will interpret works in their historical and cultural contexts.
7. Students will develop critical responses to specific musical works.
8. Students will provide and analyze aesthetic responses to musical works.
9. Students will enhance the effectiveness of their musical ministry by applying and practicing good performance principles and techniques.

Music Program Offerings

Curricular

Grades K-4: General Music for all students

Grades 5-8: General Music for students not in band

Optional, but included in their GPA

Grade 5: Beginning Band Rehearsal Tuesdays & Thursdays during the school day

Grades 6-8: Concert Band Rehearsal Tuesdays & Thursdays during the school day

Extracurricular

Grades 1-2: Children's Choir After school rehearsal once each week on Tuesday
(Kindergarteners have the option to join for about the last 6 weeks of the year)

Grades 3-4: PraisePower Rehearsal during recess once each week on Monday

Grades 5-8: JuBellate (Handbells) – Monday recess rehearsal

JiVE (Junior High Vocal Ensemble) –Wednesday recess rehearsal

Grades 6-8: Chapel Singers (Song leaders in chapel- Gr. 6-8 only) – Monday rehearsal

Jazz Band (Director's permission needed) – Thursday recess rehearsal

WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festivals* – rehearsals as necessary

*optional for individuals involved in Band or JiVE

Parental Responsibilities

Parents/guardians strongly influence their child's attitude toward and participation in music. Therefore, I/we will:

- Attend as many scheduled worship services and concerts as possible. Your support is important to your child as well as to all involved in the program.
- Strive to maintain the music/instruments my child is using in excellent working condition
- Encourage my child to give their own best while supporting others in a generous, caring way to do their best as well.
- Be prompt when picking up your child after practice or service or notify us if you are going to be late for some reason. Our directors are responsible for your children, so please help us by communicating schedule changes.
- Pray for the program & directors to bring out each child's best God-given musical gifts
- Reinforce academics as well as the music.
- Please inform directors (in advance, if possible) of missed rehearsals or services, illness, injuries, or personal concerns.
- Volunteer to help at concerts & fundraisers. Our music and equipment are supplemented from these activities. Thanks for the teamwork!
- Discuss any concerns with a director in an appropriate place and time (within 24 hours after the situation, if possible). The director will be very happy to sit down and talk with you. Please conduct it in privacy and not in the middle of the hallway or in passing after rehearsal, concert, or worship.

Code of Ethics and Conduct for Student Musicians

- Respect yourself, fellow musicians, directors, parents, and faculty.
- Mental preparation is just as important as talent. When you enter the rehearsal, you should have prepared mentally and practiced individually.
- Extracurricular music is a privilege, not a right. Treat it with thankfulness
- Academics must come first.
- Musicians need to support each other and other groups in the program. We are all part of the body of Christ and need to act as such.
- First and foremost you represent GOD. You then represent St. Paul, your group, your family, and then yourselves.
- Group shirts are your responsibility – There is a replacement cost for lost or stolen uniforms.
- Eligibility rules stipulated in the Music Handbook are to be followed. Exceptions must be approved by the music directors and the principal.
- Middle school musicians *in extracurricular groups* must also sign a copy of acknowledgment that the Music Handbook was read and will be followed.
- Players must be present for rehearsals, scheduled services, & concerts. Directors must be notified in advance of an absence. Remember that other students are counting on you to make the whole group sound their best!

Transportation

It is the responsibility of the group members to make arrangements for and/or provide their own transportation to all musical events.

Scheduling

The directors will work together in scheduling practices, worship & concert times. A printed schedule will be given to each participant. Changes in the schedule are inevitable. Every effort will be made to inform you of changes as early as possible. *The online Church & School Calendar available on the website from every teacher's page is the most current information.*

Solo/Ensemble Festivals through WSMA (Wisconsin School Music Association)

Students are encouraged, but not required to participate in the WSMA solo/ensemble festival in the last half of February. This is a chance for individuals to focus on their own skills and how to work with a small group. Student success requires a commitment of extra time for practice individually and also with a teacher. To encourage excellence and narrow their focus, the teachers strongly recommend that students register for only 1 or 2 festival entries. If you have concerns, please discuss with the appropriate music teacher before preparing the festival music. If priority needs to be established for special time requests on festival day, priority will be according to band students involved in 1)other school events 2)years of band participation 3)other outside activities.

Participation Requirements

- Participation must promote Christ-like fellowship and musicianship at all times.
- Being part of a group means reliably giving your best for others in the group, the director, yourself and the Lord.
- *Once you join, you are committing yourself until Christmas break or the end of the school year. (You may have a trial run for 1-2 rehearsals before joining.)*
- Musical groups may include St. Paul students and homeschool students who meet guidelines in accordance with the St. Paul Christian Day School Board Policy.
- Any student that is not in attendance at school related activities by noon due to an unexcused absence may not participate in any school sponsored event during that day or evening. (They are still eligible to participate in weekend activities.)

Examples of unexcused absences: returning from a family vacation, sickness.

Examples of excused absences: funeral, doctor appointments

- Any student who does not participate in music/band/choir for any reason during the day may not participate in music/concert activities that evening.
- Missing Rehearsals/Services/Concerts affect everyone involved so they are discouraged.
 - 1) Absences by the student for rehearsal/service/concert due to the following have NO penalty.
 - **Parents are asked to contact the director (or Music Director) about ALL absences.
 - unexcused school absence after noon (see above)
 - doctor appointment
 - family emergency
 - 2) Other absences of rehearsals/services/concerts (including those missed without any contact from the parents) will result in the steps below.
 - 1st Absence - conference with the student & contact the parents
 - 2nd Absence - conference with student, parents & director
 - 3rd Absence - conference with student, parents, director, & principalRemoval from the musical group may be an option.

- The student must maintain academic and behavior eligibility as outlined in the St. Paul Music Handbook. (see below)
- Exceptions to any of these guidelines may be made at the discretion of the music directors and/or principal.

Academic Eligibility For Extracurricular Music Activities in Gr. 5-8 only (i.e. JiVE, JuBellate, Chapel Singers, Jazz Band, & WSMA entries)

- Eligibility will be checked every two weeks. Students will receive a two week warning before losing eligibility status. A warning is constituted by a D+ or lower in a class.
- Final grading period grades will carry over to the beginning of the following school year.
- A minimum of 2.0 grade point average must be maintained for those who wish to participate in St. Paul extracurricular music activities.
- Anyone wishing to participate in two or more musical activities at once must maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA in order to participate in the activity.
- An “F” in any subject will render a student ineligible for two weeks when status is reviewed by the teacher, music director, and principal.
- A student who is determined to have an incomplete in any subject at the end of the trimester will be ineligible until the work is complete and has been recorded by the teacher.
- If a student is issued an after-school detention, he/she will forfeit his/her next scheduled musical performance, event, or practice upon receiving the written notice.
- An in-school suspension will result in the said person being suspended from extracurricular activities for one week when status will be reviewed by the teacher(s), music director, and principal.
- An out-of-school suspension will result in the said person being suspended from extracurricular activities for three weeks when status will be reviewed by the teacher(s), the music director, and the principal. Four requirements must be met at this time. The student should:
 - Maintain a 2.0 GPA or better
 - Have no failing grades in any subject
 - Have taken all tests and turned in all assignments
 - Not have spent any time in behavioral detention during that three-week period.
- A second out-of-school suspension the student will forfeit his/her eligibility for the rest of the school year.
- School musicals, plays, & Christmas services are considered activities that **all students are expected to be a part of and not optional**. Therefore, all are eligible to participate. Exceptions will be made by the principal and music director.

THANK YOU to all of the parents, grandparents, and friends who for partnering with the music department. Together we are helping our students create wonderful musical experiences with their God-given talents.

2019-2020 St. Paul Music Handbook

Participation Contract for _____

ALL student names (Printed)

I have read and agree to strive for the expectations set forth in this handbook. I will focus on academics first and then music. I will support the music program by showing up to practice & perform my best while encouraging those around me to do the same. We do this to honor God in thought, words & actions every day.

Student Signature (ONLY if in Gr. 5-8)

Date

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I have read the music department handbook and agree to the expectations, code of conduct, and academic requirements for my child(ren). I will support my child and the directors of the music program by bringing my child(ren) to practice & performances, encouraging them to strive for their best, volunteering with concert duties, and communicating with the director. I will also respect and encourage teamwork among all participants, directors, and audience members to build one another up in the body of Christ.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



Soli Deo Gloria!

"...Address(ing) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eph. 5:19-20