

Paterson Music Project

WhartonARTS

2022-23

Student/Parent Handbook



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WELCOME

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Paterson Music Project 2022-23 School Year and our 10th Season!

As we begin this landmark year, it is amazing to look back and see all of the things we have accomplished together. Starting with about 30 students and three Teaching Artists at CCSP, we now have close to 500 students and over 30 Teaching Artists drawing from over 20 schools in Paterson. Over the last 10 years, we have added band instruments (thanks to CCSP and William Paterson University) as well as opened multiple new sites first at School 1, 26 and Norman S. Weir School, now at School 16 (thanks to the Paterson Public Schools) and John P Holland Charter School.

Not only is PMP turning 10 this year, but we also have our first graduating class of seniors! Many of these students started in our program as 2nd graders at CCSP and have achieved incredible success during their time at PMP. These students have attended sleep-away camps, performed numerous concerts at concert halls such as NJPAC and Walt Disney Hall in LA, and traveled nationally and internationally. Several of these students are also in college prep programs that provide them with additional performance opportunities and scholarships. We are so proud of every one of these students and the many more amazing musicians coming up behind them.

We thank all of the families and partners that have given PMP their support over the years. The fact that our program has continued to grow even through a pandemic is a testament to the dedication of our wonderful community. We look forward to many more years of music-making with all of you!

Miss Shanna

Shanna Lin

Director, Paterson Music Project

A Program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts

ABOUT PMP

The Paterson Music Project (PMP) is an El Sistema-inspired program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that empowers children to achieve their full potential through the joyful pursuit of musical excellence. Inspired by the global El Sistema movement, PMP uses music education as a vehicle for social change in its home city of Paterson.

PMP provides intensive, tuition-free musical training to students throughout Paterson after school. Our students study a primary instrument and participate in ensemble practice and instrumental sectionals. They receive 3 to 6 hours of instruction per week. Students perform frequently for the community and perform an average of 20 events annually.

This year, Paterson Music Project is offering multiple programs including the String Program, Band Program, Guitar Program and Pre-Orchestra Programs at School 16, as well as weekday programming at John P Holland Charter School and the Community Charter School of Paterson. PMP serves over 500 students across the city of Paterson in grades 1-12, pulling from over 20 Paterson Schools.

PMP is committed to equity and diversity in all aspects of programming. All full-time admin staff participate in a three day training Anti-Racism training and all Teaching Artists do various equity, diversity, and inclusion trainings throughout the year. Our conductors and teaching staff have thoughtfully developed curriculum and concert repertoire for the year that reflects our students and exposes students to new styles and genres. We continue to let the student and community voice lead our decision making and programming. Please share your ideas and feedback with the program staff to continue to improve and develop our programming.

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CONTACT US

PMP Office

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TUITION

All students must pay a registration fee of **\$75** to cover initial administration costs. Paterson Music Project provides after school music programming at the cost of \$2,000 per student. PMP is able to cover this cost by fundraising over \$500,000 annually. Program costs include:

- Teaching staff - An average music lesson outside of PMP can cost \$60-100 an hour!
- Guest Artists and webinars - \$200 each
- Instruments: \$300-600 each.
- Field Trips: \$300-600 per bus.
- Concerts and events (food, space rental, materials): \$200-800
- Music stands, sheet music, strings, reeds, bows, and much more!

INSTRUMENT POLICIES

Paterson Music Project provides students with an instrument free of charge. During virtual learning, students will be able to keep their instruments at home. **All repairs are to be handled by PMP staff ONLY. Parents/Guardians must notify PMP staff immediately if instruments are damaged at home.** Instruments can be brought to the PMP office when in need of repair or tuning

During in-person learning, students can take their instruments home, but are required to bring their instruments to school on days they have PMP class, or a concert. If a student does not bring their instrument to school on a music day, they will not be able to play in class. If a student repeatedly forgets their instrument at home, they will no longer be permitted to take their instruments home.

Parents/Guardians are financially responsible for any major damage and/or loss that occurs to the instruments and their accessories based on the costs and payments listed below.

Instrument Costs

This includes common, but not all, possible replacements and repairs. The costs listed below are estimates and may be different depending on the extent of the damage.

Replacements:

Instrument - \$300-1500	Mouthpieces - \$35-45
Bow - \$50	Ligatures - \$20-25
Shoulder Rest-\$25	Neck straps - \$25-50
Strings - \$5 each	

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Repair:

Instrument Neck or Fingerboard - \$100	Missing cork - \$15-\$30
Crack or Open Seam - \$75	Brass Instrument Dent work – \$20-\$200
Bridge - \$30	Brass Instrument Valve overhaul - \$100 per valve
Peg - \$20	Trombone slide service - \$70+
Cello or Bass Endpin - \$20	Brass Instrument Clean, oil, and adjust - \$120+

INSTRUMENT POLICIES CONTINUED...

Payments

Payments are due within 2 weeks of damage notification. If payment is not received within 2 weeks, the student will no longer be allowed to take the instrument home for the remainder of the year. If a full payment is not possible at the time of the damage, a separate payment plan may be agreed upon by the Site Director and Parent/Guardian.

Do's and Don'ts of Instrument Care

DO...

- Keep a small cloth in your case for cleaning your instrument
- Keep your instrument in a temperature/humidity-regulated room.
- Loosen your bow when not being used (for string instruments)
- Wash your hands before practicing.
- Swab out your wind instrument after use.

DO NOT...

- Leave the instrument in extremely hot or extremely cold temperatures.
- Leave the instrument inside of the car for more than 15 minutes.
- Keep your bow tightened after playing (for string instruments)
- Tune the instrument on your own. Wait for teachers to help you tune (for string instruments).
- Attempt to clean the instrument with any sort of cleaner or liquid.
- Repair the instrument if damaged or attempt to change strings.

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CONCERTS AND EVENTS

Concerts

There are several performance opportunities throughout the year. Mandatory performances are listed below. All students except Prelude and Pre-Orchestra will perform a solo on one of the Winter recital dates and one of the Spring recital dates. All students will also perform at our Winter Concert and Spring Concert.

Solo Recital Dates – Private lesson students

Winter recitals: December 20 and 22, 2022

Spring recitals: March 28 and 30, 2023

Ensemble Events

Winter Concert: January 28, 2023 (all returning students)

Spring Concert: May 13, 2023 (advanced ensembles)

PMP Playathon: June 2, 2023 (all students)

Community Events

Students may be invited to perform at events outside of the winter and spring concerts. These include local festivals, events, galas, etc. Students are generally invited to these performances based on musical readiness, attendance, and behavior. If students agree to perform at one of these events, but fail to appear or drop out last minute, they may no longer be invited to attend extra performances.

Dress

The dress for most concerts and events will be the following:

- Black PMP T-shirt
- Nice jeans (no rips or holes) or black pants
- Nice black shoes (preferably no sneakers)

Occasionally for a more formal event, students may be asked to wear the following:

- White blouse or dress shirt
- Formal black pants (no jeans) or a long skirt
- Black dress shoes and black socks

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Email is PMP's primary form of communication with parents. PMP uses Remind—a free text messaging app that helps teachers, students, and parents communicate quickly and efficiently. When registering, please provide your up-to-date cell phone number so we can add you to your Remind group. Additionally, please make sure PMP has an accurate and up to date email and phone number. If you do not check your email regularly, you may miss important updates, concert information, and performance opportunities.

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STUDENT SAFETY

Above all else, student safety is our number one priority. Student safety includes not only physical safety, but personal wellness and mental health. PMP strives to create positive experiences for all students. PMP follows all Paterson Public School district policies for reporting and handling of any incidents. If there are ever any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Shanna or another member of the PMP admin team (pg. 3).

MUSICAL EXPECTATIONS

Part of PMP's mission is musical excellence for all students. Students will be expected to work hard in class and at home. Practicing at home is absolutely necessary in order for students to progress on their instruments – this is no different than completing homework assignments for school classes. Students that practice regularly and thoughtfully will improve the fastest and have the most performance opportunities.

Sample practice schedules (PMP classes and rehearsals do not count as practice time!):

- Prelude and Cadet Students: 15-20 minutes/day, 3 days/week
- Symphonic Band and Overture Strings: 30-40 minutes/day, 3 days/week
- Concert Levels and up: at least 45 minutes/day, 3 days/week

Juries

Students will have their musical ability assessed several times throughout the year. These assessments prepare students for their culminating end-of-year assessment called a jury. It is PMP's goal to place children in classes that best match their musical ability. The end-of-year jury will help PMP place students in a class where they will be most successful in the coming year. Students will receive a copy of their jury results.

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BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students in the Paterson Music Project must comply with all school and program rules and policies. Students will be held to high behavioral standards while in the program. PMP is a rigorous and challenging music program in which students are required to focus and work hard each afternoon. If a student does not comply with the program policies, they may be removed from the program or asked to take a break from the program at the discretion of the Teaching Artists and PMP leadership.

Zero Tolerance

Automatically garners a program suspension

- Bullying or intimidation
- Hitting or physical fighting
- Stealing, touching, tampering with, or breaking program materials, instruments, or classroom materials
- Posting or sharing inappropriate content online during classes or in shared spaces such as Google Classroom.

Individual Behavior Steps:

1. Verbal Warning from teacher
2. Teacher talks to student privately
3. Site Director talks to student privately
4. Discussion with parent at dismissal or on phone
5. Behavior is documented in a letter to the parent
6. Parent conference with Site Director and teacher.
7. Concert/Fieldtrip Removals: Students who are not meeting behavior expectations may not be permitted to perform in an upcoming concert or event.
8. Suspension (student will stay with the Site Director during the program or be sent home from 1-3 days)
9. Removal from Program (at discretion of Site Director)

Classroom Rules:

- 1.) **Show respect** to every student and adult.
- 2.) **Take care** of your belongings, the belongings of others, *and our instruments*.
- 3.) **Use helpful words** that compliment, and support people.
- 4.) **Work together**. Settle differences peacefully, together. We are team at PMP.
- 5.) **Try your best and participate**. Always try to perform better than you did yesterday.
- 6.) **Cellphones** are off and packed away.
- 7.) **Quiet** in the hallway.
- 8.) Have **fun!**

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

We hope that the music program can supplement and enrich students' academic learning! It is important that students succeed academically as well as musically. Please contact us if you are concerned about your child's academic progress so that we can work with you to find a solution.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that students attend class/practice regularly because students will be learning specialized skills and preparing for several performances. Missing class can be disruptive to group and individual progress. Given the unique circumstances that we are all facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that students may need to miss class more often due to technological challenges, health concerns or other personal situations. However, we ask that students attend class as consistently as possible and practice regularly to make up for any missed class. Students who miss class often and do not practice may not be able to participate in recitals and recording projects. If you do need to miss class, please notify Ms. Gaby as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

PMP Youth Leaders

PMP offers paid positions to select High School students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to their instrument and PMP. PMP Youth Leaders will assist in PMP classes, mentor younger students, participate in weekly leadership trainings and be ambassadors for the program at events. All Youth Leaders must be fully vaccinated before the start of the program.