

PSP Parent Handbook

Welcome to PSP! This is an incredible opportunity for your child in which they will learn unparalleled music and ensemble skills as well as valuable life lessons of dedication, consistency, and perseverance. It is also a significant investment on your part as a parent to support your child. Here are some helpful tips and

Practicing

In the contract that both students and parents sign it states that students will need to practice at least 45 minutes per day. Building a habit of practicing is essential for success in the program.

Some tips for practicing:

- Establish dedicated, scheduled practice times (especially in the summer when schedules change).
- Use a metronome. This is required. If you do not have a metronome, the Pro Metronome app is an effective option.
- Use timers to ensure that you spend enough time on stick control, rolls, scales, etc.
- Film parts of the lesson to be able to play back for your child as they practice.
- For students needing some incentive to practice, create Thursday family “concert days” in which students perform what they have been practicing that week for an audience of their family members.

Lessons

These occur every Saturday, but the timing changes from week to week. You will receive an email late Thursday night/early Friday morning with the lesson time for that week. Ensure that your child signs in at the security desk near the Adams St entrance before proceeding downstairs. If any of the doors or the elevator are locked, you can ask the person at the security desk for help. You should be present, ready to start 15 minutes *before* your scheduled lesson time.

Concert Attire

For the Winter and Spring Concerts, students will need to wear black bottoms (dress pants or skirts), white dress shirts, long black ties (optional for female identifying students), black shoes/socks, and (for those using click tracks) a black belt. For Family Day Concerts, performers should be dressed like professional musicians, but there is more flexibility with color of attire and style of ties.

Concerts

There are four concerts during the year with additional potential performances. The dates for the performances are generally available in June or July for the upcoming school year. The first and third concerts are Family Day Concerts in which each student will play individually in a recital format. The second concert is a Winter Concert held in December and the Spring Concert occurs near the end of the school year. These concerts are both ensemble concerts in which the full PSP group plays together in a variety of combinations.

For the Winter and Spring Concerts, group rehearsals will occur on both Saturday and Sunday for a few weekends preceding the concert date. Students will need to carefully read the rehearsal schedules to ensure they are present 15 minutes before each rehearsal time. Click tracks (an electronic method of keeping the full group on beat) are used for some of the large ensemble pieces. Students will need to have a belt and a pair of corded earbuds for rehearsals and performances if they are playing a piece that uses a click track.

For the Winter and Spring Concerts, students will have a call time several hours before the start of the concert to do a final run through of all ensemble pieces well before the audience arrives. After every concert, there is a potluck organized by the most senior student. They will send out an email a few days prior to the concert so everyone can reply all and confirm what they are bringing. PSP provides plates, napkins, and eating utensils.