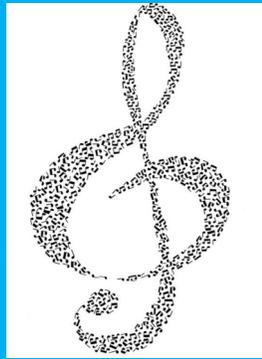


Middle School Band  
Newsletter  
September, 2016

Mrs. Burg  
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# PK Yonge Band

The Performing Arts Program at P.K. Yonge

*“When words  
fail...music speaks”*

## Welcoming our Newest Members

Our beginning band class is set for this year and I'm excited to welcome **42 new band kids and their families to the program.** We are in the process of instrument trials in beginning band. Each student will get to try at least 4 instruments before deciding what they want to play. We are looking for that perfect “chocolate chip cookie recipe.” If you are wondering why we are talking about chocolate chip cookie in band, ask your student!

## SmartMusic & Grading Changes



I've done a lot of work this summer thinking about grading and the way we use the Smartmusic program. You might know Smartmusic is a great tool to give students immediate feedback when they are at home practicing. You might also know that some students don't love it. Hopefully our changes this year will allow students to view Smartmusic in a more positive light. Individual assignments will be graded on a rubric scale. See the syllabus for more details.

**Here's more good news- You don't have to have to pay for a home subscription AND the program can be used on Chromebooks. We are still working out the logistics, so assignments haven't started yet, but they will soon!**

My classroom/gradebook is transitioning to Standards Based Grading. This grading style assists parents and students to better understand the level of mastery that the student is achieving in a simple way. You will see a rubric based scale being used in skyward instead of the standard 1-100 percentage point grading. The gradebook is still being set-up from an administrative standpoint, so hang in there. You can ask students to show you the syllabus for more details. The basic concept is that a 4 demonstrates Mastery, a 3 students can correct their own mistakes, a 2 needs assistance to perform and a 1 is a beginning level.

*Mark your calendars*  
*Fall Concert... October 18<sup>th</sup> 7PM*  
*PKY PAC*  
*Free Admission*

## **PK Yonge Honors Band-** **NEW for 2016-2017**

This year we are starting a P.K. Honors Band. This is a self-selected group of students who are looking to go the extra mile. They will represent our school at the Alachua County Honors Band, have custom SmartMusic assignments, have special performance opportunities at concerts, be given leadership opportunities including mentoring & conducting, and more. Honors Band students must audition for the Alachua County Honors Band in December and must participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. These select group of students will also receive special recognition throughout the year in an effort to recognize their hard work and dedication.

**This opportunity is only open to 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> period band members. Currently we have 31 students who have already signed up. Yay!!!**

This is just another reason our kids at P.K. Yonge are so awesome.

*"I'm looking forward to  
 an amazing year!"*

*-Mrs. Burg*



## **Fundraising Commitments \$100/yr.**

*Mrs. Burg teaches  
 only Middle School  
 band this year!*

There will be 2 fundraisers this year that are exclusive to band, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Families can choose to participate in the Fundraisers to earn profits credited directly towards their \$100 FRC. If families prefer to not participate in the Fundraising Opportunities, they can make direct payments. Checks can be made payable to The University of Florida. Please turn your payments into Mrs. Burg.