

Pojoaque Valley Middle School

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Principal
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Pojoaque Valley Schools
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8th Grade
Counselor/Social Worker
455-2238 Ex. 1605

Aric Wheeler
Discipline Officer
819-2312



Kindness Rules !!

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year, my name is Mr. Jesus Montes and I am the band director at Pojoaque Valley Middle School. I teach Concert Band and Guitar, two classes where students are able to develop discipline, interpersonal interactions, confidence and self-reliance, independent study skills, new ways of self-expression and much more. All of this while being in a safe and fun environment.

This year the PVMS Band/ Guitar program will focus on performance as well as proper instrumental technique. We will also focus on the ability to read, understand, and perform the different harmonic, rhythmic and melodic elements of music. (and we also try to have as much fun as possible!) Music is a dynamic subject that can relate to History, Math, Science and Literature, for this reason many lessons will be linked to the Common Core State Standards as well as the New Mexico Fine arts Standards.

Course overview:

- During the first portion of the school year, students will work to build their basic music/ instrumental skills. Such as reading basic music notation, proper tone production and building good practicing habits.
- Later on students will prepare several songs to play for our annual winter concert. These songs will challenge students as well as help them develop their rhythmic and melodic fundamentals.
- Moving on students will learn more songs that will challenge our students and help them become better musicians. Band students will compete at our district Music Performance Assessments.
- And to end the year students will perform and show what they have learned throughout the year at our annual spring concert.

Grading:

Grades will be based upon actual evidence of what students know and what they are able to perform on their instrument. This includes playing grades, participation, theory tests, performance etiquette, performance tests and more.

For Guitar Students:

Guitars, picks and books are provided to the students at no cost. Students are not allowed to take their guitars home. Students can bring in their own guitar from home and can be safely locked away, but PVMS and Mr. Montes is not responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen items. Students are responsible for their guitar and will be charged for any damage incurred to school property.

For Band students:

PVMS will rent out instruments to any band student who does not own an instrument. Along with a rental contract, rental fees are \$80 per year, and \$0 to any student who receives free or reduced lunch. Students and parents are responsible for the instrument and must pay for repairs and will be charged for any damages incurred to school property. Band students are able to take their instruments home at any time.

District wide focus:

Two of our top priorities throughout the school district are to improve our student achievement, as well as foster and develop a deeply connected, positive school culture. Together we hope to create an environment that supports positive social interaction, learning, and growth in our students.

Donations:

If you or someone you know would like to donate to the PVMS Band and Guitar Program, please visit www.donorschoose.org/PVMSBAND. Your donations are greatly appreciated and go directly into new classroom resources. Thank you in advance for giving to our classroom.

A bit about myself:

I am graduated of Questa High School. Afterwards I attended New Mexico Highlands University, in Las Vegas, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Music Education as well as Music Performance. During my time in Las Vegas, I performed with the NMHU Marching and Concert Band for several years. I also played with NMHU Mariachi ensemble "Vaqueros de la Sierra." After completing my teaching licensure program at NMHU, I was hired at PVMS, and have remained here for the past six years. Most recently I have received my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) also from New Mexico Highlands University. I find that it is a great pleasure to be able to teach and share the tradition of music in the Pojoaque Valley School District, truly the Valley of Champions.

Parents and Guardians are more than welcome to come and visit the PVMS band room, to see (and listen) firsthand what our students are learning, and playing. Visitors must first sign in at the front office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at jcm@pvs.k12.nm.us

Thank you,

Jesus Montes

Jesus Montes
Band Director PVMS