
Mount Olive Percussion Group

with The Piascik Percussion Group

Handbook and Policies 2025-2026



Dr. Kenneth Piascik

1st Edition : V3

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Welcome to the Mount Olive Percussion Group



Welcome to the 2025-2026 Season of the *Mount Olive Percussion Group with The Piascik Percussion Group*. This year will certainly bring many great performances, exciting rehearsals, and fun. This handbook will help you understand what Dr. Piascik expects from each member and their parents. Please take some time to read the handbook so you all understand how the year will unfold.

What is the “Mount Olive Percussion Group” & “Piascik Percussion”

Percussionists are musicians like any other instrument. However, we are frequently in the back “supporting” the band or orchestra with timbre or rhythm. Smaller percussion chamber groups provide the opportunity for our percussionists to become better musicians by creating phrases, extending performance techniques, and listening. Percussion Ensemble is crucial to the development of a great percussionist and section.

Mount Olive is proud to have a serious percussion group for our students and also work with *The Piascik Percussion Group*. The two student bodies will create an outstanding experience for our percussionists to grow, mentor, and inspire each other.

1. The students will work with Dr. Piascik in a more detailed educational rehearsal. Students will be inspired by working with older students and strive to new skills, insight, and abilities.
2. We will have an advanced group called “The PERC” which will also give advanced students the opportunity to learn how to conduct the other students. Coaching, leading, and directing a group is much different than performing. (*This is subject to audition, enrollment, and time*)
3. All members will perform together. Each student will be inspired to reach new challenges by working collaboratively on the same goals.
4. Students in “The PERC” will learn more challenging literature that cannot generally be done at the High School.
5. Students will have the opportunity to perform a solo on the concert.
6. We are a family! We are all here to help, support, and inspire each other. We are here for each other in good and tough times.

Who is Dr. Piascik?

Dr. Piascik started teaching percussion in 1987 and opened AmusiK Studio in 1991 to further develop and inspire students to become the best musicians that they wish to be. Through many years of teaching at the university, private, and public school levels, Dr. Piascik has been a leading performer, educator, and clinician throughout the country. The *Mount Olive Percussion Group* will join many great groups of students from Mount Olive High School and AmusiK Studio into one ensemble that brings musical education to a new level.

You can also find more information about Dr. Piascik on his website at kennethpiascik.com. Dr. Piascik looks forward to watching you all grow as musicians and people throughout the year.

General Information

Expectations for Members

Commitment

Dr. Piascik is dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experience to all the members. With this focus, Dr. Piascik expects its students and parents to follow the policies set fourth to provide the best education for us all. **Please be punctual and attend all rehearsals and concerts.** Communication is of high importance so we can all plan ahead in our busy lives. Please remember that we are all counting on each other as a team.

The “A’s” of Success

Attendance - We will not fulfill our potential if we are not at rehearsals

Attitude - When your attitude is about the journey and developing, then you will learn despite any setbacks along the way. We need to all be positive and support each other’s journey. We all represent the percussion “Family.” Your attitude and actions should always reflect our dedication and devotion to the music.

Awareness - We are all part of a team. Be aware of how you can add, in many areas, to our family of percussionists. “Awareness is Key” for if you are not aware, then nothing can happen.

Ability - Your continual dedication to improvement of your skills and ability to understand, perform, and move to the next level in your musical journey. We always need to be better than the last rehearsal.

Mount Olive and Piascik’s Equipment

Percussionists will respect all equipment and return everything back to the proper storage area at the conclusion of all rehearsals. Dr. Piascik will also let you use his personal equipment and expects that you will all respect the value and sensitivity of each instrument.

Private Lessons

Dr. Piascik highly recommends that members take private lessons. There is so much to learn and the assistance of a private teacher will add to the student’s journey to excellence. Please see Dr. Piascik if you need a teacher recommendation.

Personal Equipment for each Member

Each member should have the following equipment. Please see Dr. Piascik if you need some recommended brands or places to purchase the equipment. **Dr. Piascik also has a more detailed list on his website.**

- 1-2 Black Towels (Hand towel to cover the stick tray and Bath towel)
- ALL BLACK concert cloths (Black pants/dress, shirt, socks, shoes)
- Pencils- lots!
- A Stick bag to hold your gear (i.e. Vic Firth Professional Tech Backpack bag: (SKU:VXSBO114 ~ \$99.95)
- Snare sticks (ex. Vic Firth SD1 or better)
- **Optional** Mallets (*You can purchase these slowly over time*)
 - Med-Soft yarn mallets (for Sus Cym.)
 - Hard Xylophone/Bell Mallets
 - Medium Rubber Mallets
 - General Timpani Sticks
 - Ultra Staccato Timpani Sticks or Swizzles
 - Plan on purchasing the mallets you need for your assigned music

Advisory Notice

Smoking or the use of illegal drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated at Mount Olive High School. If students are observed smoking or drinking at any event, it will result in their immediate dismissal. Any behavior that endangers, violates, or disrespects another person may be cause for immediate dismissal.

Rehearsals and Concerts

The *Mount Olive Percussion Group* will have one concert a year (Solo/Ensemble Concert), one piece on the Mount Olive Spring Concert, along with occasional festivals, tours, or special concerts.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are the heartbeat of the group. **Attendance is incredibly important at every rehearsal** due to the nature of performing chamber music. For example, when a piece is only for five players and one person is missing, the rehearsal is weakened and the material will need to be redone at the following rehearsal. This is not fair to the group.

The full ensemble will rehearse from 5pm - 7pm on Sundays. Members of the advanced ensemble will continue to rehearse until 8pm (5-8pm). **Please be aware that the schedule might be adjusted according to the size of the group.** Make sure you can log into the portal of *My Music Staff* so you can check which pieces we are rehearsing. The **tentative** breakdown of the time is as follows:

4:00-5:45	Whole Group (1 or 2 large ensembles)
5:45-6:00	"Family Time" meeting
6:00-7:55	Whole Group , (Chamber groups with student conductors)
7:55-8:00	"The PERC" : Advanced Group (Audition required)

There will roughly be 10-15 rehearsals for each concert. The rehearsal schedule will be posted on "My Music Staff" portal. **The final two rehearsals and "Dress" rehearsal before the concerts are mandatory.** Make sure that you do not have any conflicts on those days and times.

Please **arrive 10 minutes prior** to your rehearsal time so that we start on time. Also, be aware that sometimes Dr. Piascik will have to hold the rehearsal a few minutes later depending on the work being done.

Location of Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held at Mount Olive High School in Mount Olive (18 Corey Road, Flanders NJ 07836). **Please park to the right of the Performance center.** Walk up the driveway on the right (in-between the PAC and the DOME) and the door to the band room is on the left. Pick up will be in the same location.

Concerts and Dress Code

The FREE Spring concert will be on **Sunday at 6:30pm at Mount Olive High School, in the recording studio.** The "dress" rehearsal will start at 4:00pm for the entire group. The concert will also include solos from the students. We will also perform on the Mount Olive Spring concert.

The dress code for concerts is **"All Black."** This means a black button down shirt, black pants or dress, black shoes, and black socks (if needed).

Rehearsal Cancellations

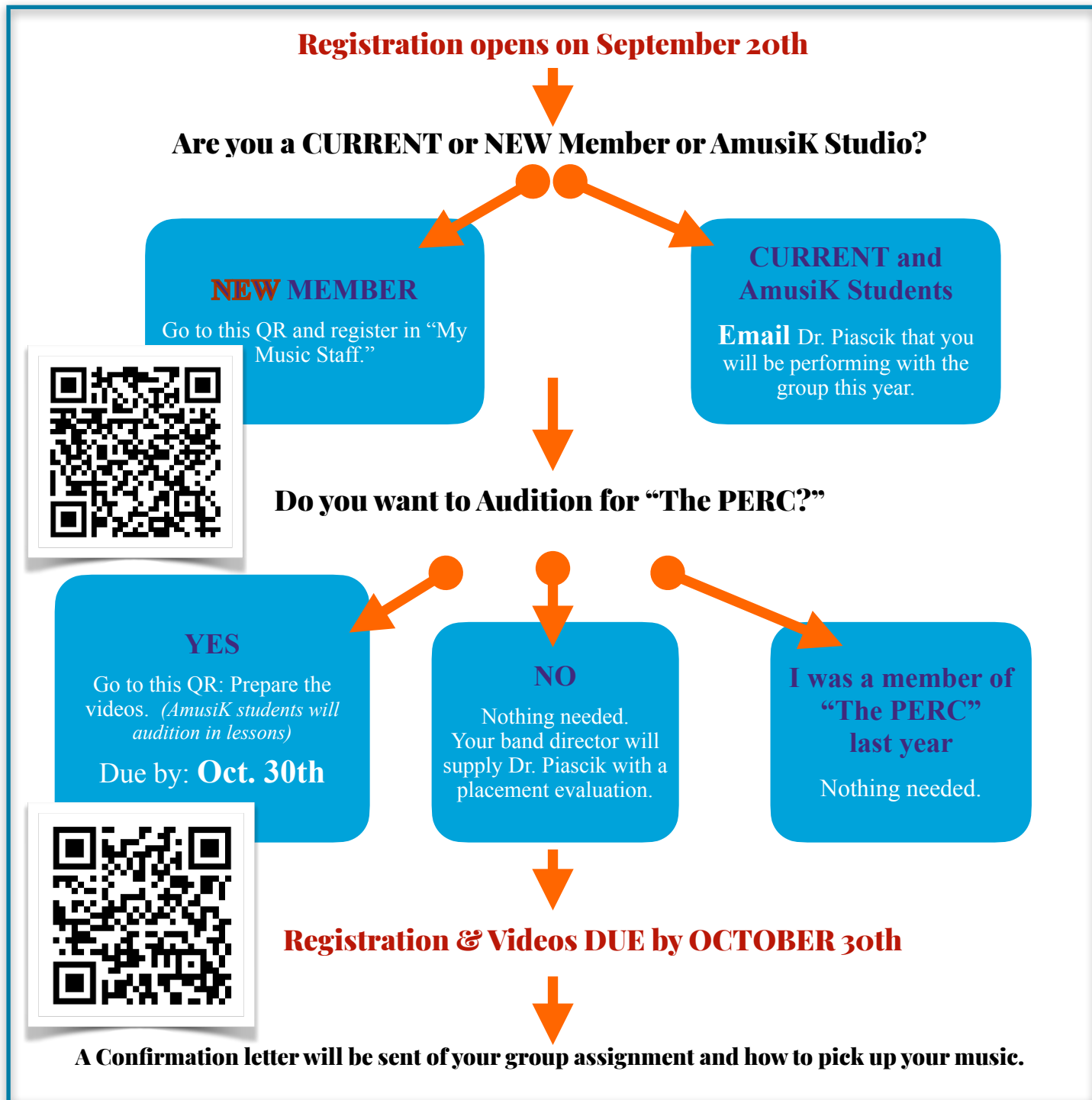
In the event rehearsal needs to be cancelled, Dr. Piascik will contact you through "My Music Staff."

Becoming a Member

Being a member of *The Mount Olive Percussion Group* is an honor and we take our membership seriously. We have decided to keep the membership to **only** students of Mount Olive High School and AmusiK Studio students.

Registration

Use the following flowchart to help you with registration as a Mount Olive or AmusiK Studio student:



Auditions

There is no audition needed for the *Mount Olive Percussion Group*. Your band director will supply Dr. Piascik with a placement evaluation. We want every student to enjoy their musical journey towards the “Circle of Greatness.” However, students will be expected to perform at a level that will add to our group.

To be a Member of advanced group, “The PERC,” you will have to audition or submit a video of some excerpts on Snare and Mallets.

Evaluations

Each student’s progress will be evaluated throughout the year. The evaluation is based on musical skills, responsibility, dedication, team-spirit, and attendance. Failure to make progress may result in removal from the *Mount Olive Percussion Group*.

Returning Members

All members will be automatically accepted for the following year. Dr. Piascik will let you know if you there are situations that will affect your future membership.

Communication & My Music Staff

“My Music Staff” Website Information

You should have registered for the group through *My Music Staff* (MMS) that Dr. Piascik uses with his teaching studio. Please use your personal emails when possible. This will enable all our communication to be through one place. Please make sure that all of your contact information is updated.

Dr. Piascik’s Contact Information

Cell: 973-224-3586 Personal Email: kpiascik@me.com MO Email: ????????



Volunteer Help

Concert Reception Volunteer: The Percussion Ensemble needs several volunteers to help organize, set-up, and clean the receptions after our concerts. Please see Dr. Piascik if you are able to help or take the lead of the “Reception crew.”

The 2025-2026 Season

Tentative schedule for this year. Please make sure you are on the email list to receive the updates and changes to the schedule.

Date	Time	Details	Extra Events?
Sun, Dec 7, 2025	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm	First Rehearsal	
Sun, Dec 14, 2025	NO Rehearsal	<i>(Piascik has a concert)</i>	
Sun, Dec 21, 2025	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		Photo Shoot
Sun, Dec 28, 2025	NO Rehearsal	<i>Winter Break</i>	
Sun, Jan 4, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Fri, Jan 9, 2026	TBA	<i>Regions Mock Auditions?</i>	
Sun, Jan 11, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Jan 18, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Jan 25, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Feb 1, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Feb 8, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>Superbowl</i>	
Sun, Feb 15, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>Presidents' Day Weekend</i>	
Sun, Feb 22, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm???	<i>(Piascik is presenting at a conference?)</i>	
Sun, Mar 1, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Mar 8, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>Conflict at Mount Olive</i>	
Sun, Mar 15, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Mar 22, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Mar 29, 2026	School Closed: NO Reh	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Sun, Apr 5, 2026	School Closed: NO Reh	<i>Easter</i>	
Sun, Apr 12, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, Apr 19, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>(Piascik has a concert)</i>	
Sun, Apr 26, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, May 3, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Sun, May 10, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>Mother's Day</i>	
Sun, May 17, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm		
Wed, May 20, 2026	TBA	MO Spring Concert <i>6:30 Concert</i>	<i>We will play one piece to open this awesome concert</i>
Sun, May 24, 2026	NO Rehearsal	<i>Memorial Day</i>	
Sun, May 31, 2026	5:00-7:00 or 8:00pm	Mandatory Rehearsal	
Sun, Jun 7, 2026	4:00-8:00 pm???	CONCERT I <i>6:30 Concert</i>	