

# **Pleasant Hill Band Department Handbook 2006-2007**

This handbook is designed to inform students and parents of the rules of daily band rehearsals, participation in activities, grading policies and general information about the band program.

We have wonderful and enthusiastic students to work with. Above all, band should be an enjoyable and overall fun experience! But, as we know, in order to make band fun, we must abide by the rules. In this handbook, you will find all of the policies and rules of the Pleasant Hill Band Department.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory for all required events during the year. Band is a performance-based class and these events are considered part of your regular classroom work. During marching band season, it is expected that all band members attend the summer band camp in August. It is also required that students attend the early morning band rehearsals during marching season.

## **Drum Major**

Drum majors play an important role during marching band. They must be responsible, hardworking, dedicated individuals who can show leadership and confidence on the field. They will assist the band directors with conducting, teaching drill, uniform inspection, teaching fundamentals, being a band librarian and overall band supervision. Auditions for drum major are held in the spring. Auditions will consist of five sections: a written essay explaining why you want to be drum major, conducting in front of the band, an interview with the Director of Bands and the current drum majors, a marching and command calling section and a rhythm/playing test.

## **Public Performances**

1. Remember, as a student you are representing Pleasant Hill. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times.
2. For all concerts, students should dress appropriately and respectfully (no shorts, jeans or tennis shoes). Concert attire consists of black tux pants, white tux shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and black socks. The Jazz Band uniform consists of black pants and a colored button up shirt with black socks and black shoes.
3. Band members, you are responsible for your uniform. Hang it up neatly after every performance. Also, always have your hat, shoes, gloves, etc., with your uniform. Any damage to a uniform will become an obligation to that student.
4. Every band student is required to buy band shoes at a cost of \$30.00-\$35.00. Students are also encouraged to buy a band t-shirt for approximately \$12.00. Other costs include gloves (\$5.00) and tux pants (\$32.00). On trip years, everyone going on the trip is required to buy a band jacket at a cost of \$80.00. All other years this purchase is not required.

5. Band members will travel on school buses to and from all events. If you are traveling with a parent, you must first have administrative approval and bring a signed note to Mr. Beerends at least **ONE WEEK** prior to that trip. Also if you travel home with a parent from any trip that the band takes, your parents are required to sign you out with Mr. Beerends before leaving.
6. Please be on time to all events. **TO BE EARLY IS ON TIME; TO BE ON TIME IS LATE!**
7. **If you forget any part of your uniform for a public performance, you will not be allowed to participate and will take a zero for that performance grade.**

### **Rehearsal Procedures**

1. When the tardy bell rings, students should be in their seat with their instruments and music in hand.
2. Rehearsal order will be on the board so students should have their music in order.
3. Tardies and absences affect your grade unless it is excused. Be here on time.
4. No gum, candy, pop, or food is allowed in the band room. Only water is allowed.
5. Maintain good posture and technique when playing.
6. Be quiet when the director is working with other sections
7. Bring a pencil.
8. Please do not do homework or any other activity that does not pertain to the rehearsal. Do not ask to leave the classroom to do other activities unless it has been scheduled in advance. Every person is an asset to the music program. When we have even a few people absent, it affects our rehearsal.
9. Take good care of your music and instruments. We do not have the money to replace these things. If school property is damaged, you will be charged for the replacement or repair costs.
10. Leave the classroom neat and orderly. Put chairs and stands away every day and put music and instruments back in your locker.

### **Music**

The band director will pick a wide variety of music that is suited for the band. Please try to reserve opinions and/or comments until you have had a chance to learn the music. Comments can be made to the director after class.

### **Grading Policy**

I know that many of you share fears about the grading system at the high school. I want to let you know a little about my grading philosophy to help ease your fears and to let you know what to expect from band this year.

My philosophy is that during middle school, a student's objective should be to become proficient on their instrument and to master the technical skills that are needed for them to become successful musicians at the high school level. This process is achieved through playing tests and practice logs that are due each week and count toward a

student's quarter and semester grade. Once a student reaches the high school level, a transition takes place that moves the importance of musicality and the playing of good music (ensemble playing) ahead of trying to master technical skills. I am not saying that in the middle school a student will not be taught musicianship or that in the high school a student will not be taught about the technical aspects of music. Rather, in the middle school you learn to play your instrument and in high school you perform music.

Now that you know the philosophy, here is how grading this year will work. Since the high school is more performance based than the middle school, the main portion of your grade will not be based upon your playing ability but rather your availability! It is extremely important that each and every member of the band be at all rehearsals and performances. Every one of you is important to this program and its success and I want you to be here. Your grade will be based upon two items:

1. Performance: Every concert or performance is worth 100 points of your grade. Remember that these are only for required performances. You can be excused from a performance but it must be okayed with the Director of Bands. If the performance is excused then it simply will not be averaged into your grade. If a performance is unexcused, it will become a zero. No make up work will be offered.
2. Participation: Your participation grade is basically whether you are here, ON TIME, with all of your materials. This will be 100 points per quarter. If you forget your instrument, charts, music, etc., then your participation grade will suffer. Also, if you are tardy for class or have an unexcused absence that will count against your participation grade. Your participation grade works as follows:

For every two times you are unprepared or tardy, you lose five points of your participation grade (2.5 points for first offense, 2.5 points for the second offense). If you are unexcused from class, 5 points will be deducted from your participation grade. This includes morning marching rehearsals.

The Director at any time can add homework assignments as seen necessary to improve the quality of the band. These homework assignments may or may not be graded at the director's discretion.

The key to having a good grade is to be here prepared everyday, ready to make great music!

### **Use of School Owned Instruments**

The larger instruments (low brass and woodwinds) are available for student use. After being checked out from the director, they are the student's responsibility. Instruments, especially larger ones, cost a great deal to repair and maintain. Therefore, the student must give proper maintenance and care to that instrument. If an instrument is damaged or comes back to the director in poor playing condition, the student will be responsible for any repairs that must be made.

## **Marching Band**

Marching Band takes place in the fall of each year. There are summer camps that will take place toward the end of the summer that students are expected to participate in. Vacations and family trips will be excused **if** the Director of Bands is notified that a student will be missing. **To protect the integrity of the marching band show, no student will be allowed to drop band after July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **Pep Band**

Pep band is an optional part of the band program. Students may sign up to play at basketball games. To have a successful pep band however, we need good instrumentation at every game. The pep band usually performs at 10-12 basketball games each year between November and March. Pep Band is a major part of the lettering process and student participation is strongly encouraged.

## **District Performances**

The concert band will perform at large group contest held at the end of March or early April. There is also an opportunity to perform as a soloist or with a small ensemble for small group contest. These groups must be picked out by the end of January to allow for proper practice times. Practices may be scheduled before or after school. If any solo group earns a "I" rating at District contest, they will be eligible to perform at State Music Festival which is held on the University of Missouri Campus at Columbia. **Note: Once you have signed up for a group or small ensemble, you have made a commitment that must be fulfilled. No one will be allowed to back out once they have signed up for this event.**

## **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is an audition only group. Auditions are held at the end of marching season (usually late October). Since this is a select group, you are making a huge commitment not only to the other Jazz Band members but also to the director. You are required to be at all rehearsals. These rehearsals happen at 6:30 am Monday thru Friday of every week. If you miss more than three rehearsals without being excused, you will be dismissed from the group. Jazz Band also performs in 2-3 adjudicated festivals during the year as well as performing at the Jazz dance in late April or early May.

## **Flag Corps**

Flag Corps is audition group that performs in the fall with the Marching Band. Auditions take place in the spring. Flag Corps members are treated as members of the band and are expected to adhere to the same rules that the band members are required to follow. By auditioning, flag members have made a commitment to the band program and will not be allowed to drop the class after auditions take place. There may be extra rehearsals that take place outside of the school day that all flags will be required to attend.

## **Accessories**

We are going to be handling accessories a little different than we have in past years. If you need things such as valve oil, reeds, cleaning equipment, etc., you will be responsible for that stuff on your own. It is now your responsibility to have reeds, etc., and you should keep track of how many you have so that you do not run out. Percussionists are also responsible for their own sticks. No sticks will be provided (except for bass drum and chime mallets) by the school. The company that we now do business with is Meyer Music. They send a representative out every week to check on us. If you should need anything they can bring it to the school for you instead of you making the trip to Blue Springs. **Money for any accessories must be given to Mr. Beerends before you will be allowed to have them.**

Meyer Music  
1512 Hwy 40  
Blue Springs, Mo 64015  
(816) 228-5656

## **Lettering Points**

A sheet is attached that outlines how a student can receive letter points toward their letter. We have a dual letter system which involves a Provisional Letter (JV letter) and a Full Band Letter (Varsity Letter). In order for a student to receive a Provisional Letter they must earn 276 points. In order to earn their Full Band Letter a student must earn 345 points. Please note that in order for a student to earn points for a certain category, they must attend **ALL** required practices and performances for that group. No partial points are given for each category, it is an all or nothing deal. Keep track of your points to see how you are advancing toward your letter.

## **Calendar**

I have attached a tentative calendar for all required events this year. Please post this in a spot where you will see it. There will be no excuses for required events due to work. Please limit your absences to emergencies, church or family. If you are in doubt about missing an event, please come ask the Director of Bands. I will try to be as understanding as possible.

## **Director of Bands**

Please don't hesitate to come talk to Mr. Beerends if you have a problem. I have an open door policy and would be happy to talk to anyone at anytime. The best time to catch me is before school or after school. Please don't come up to me right before rehearsal with a problem. I will not have time to fix the problem at that point. You can also feel free to call me at home at anytime (540-4811). No problem is too big or too small if we sit down and try and work it out together.

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the policies contained in this handbook for the Pleasant Hill Band Department.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach this page and return to Mr. Beerends by Tuesday, August 22, 2006.