

2011-2012

HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



PLEASANT GROVE

INDEPENDANT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TEXARKANA, TEXAS

Instrumental Music Department Pleasant Grove Independent School District

As a member of the band, you are a member of one of the school district's most important and respected organizations. As with any other organization, the success of the band depends on the loyalty of **ALL ITS MEMBERS**.

How can a bandsman show loyalty and cooperation to the band? First, by making up your mind to be a proud and worthy band member. Second, by giving the organization all you possess in attention, interest and effort. Third, by observing the general objectives and rules outlined which are a necessary part of any successful organization. The rules outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to abide by. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your school, your fellow band member, your family, and yourself.

It is intended that this handbook serve each bandsman with an acquaintance and an understanding of the **TRADITION, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES** of the Pleasant Grove High School Band. There is no place in any outstanding organization for half-hearted participants. Only when every band member cooperates can a band achieve the distinction of being truly outstanding.

Band Objectives

Cultural

To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music.

Educational

To develop interested and discriminating listeners and provide a well-rounded musical background.

Service

To provide music and support for certain school and community affairs, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the band at music festivals and concerts.

Recreational

To provide all students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

The Instrumental Music Program's Responsibility to the Student

- Provide the band members with the proper kind of rehearsal room, ventilation, lighting, seating, music stands, instrumental storage space, and such other equipment as is necessary to aid in developing the student's musical ability and to help him form good, lasting citizenship habits.
- Plan each day's activities and encourage daily progress of the entire band.
- Provide the band with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening.
- Assure that no individual member, through inappropriate or irresponsible behavior, interferes with the learning or achievement of the group. It is the responsibility of the department to see that all members conform to the school and department policies.
- Supervise the students in class or on school sponsored band trips. Each student will receive information about the plans for the trip, the type dress and the complete schedule of activities.
- Grade the progress of each member on his instrument and his participation in band.

The Band Member's Responsibility to the Band

- Be regular in attendance and make sure all absences are excused by the band director prior to the absence.
- Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
- Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions.
- Be personally clean, neat, and dress appropriately. Gentlemen will be expected to honor reasonable requests regarding hair length and grooming habits.
- Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- Follow all classroom guidelines, school regulations and all travel instructions given for trips.
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program.
- Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your talents.
- Read and play music with insight and expression.
- Above all else: **HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!!**

Course of Study Outline

- I. Teaching Techniques and Rehearsal Procedures**
 - A. Further emphasis on proper breath control.
 - B. Continuation of intonation studies at more advanced levels.
 - C. Continued study of phrasing.

- II. Further Extension of Basic Musicianship**
 - A. Continuation of work done in middle school, but on a more advanced plane, with the addition of transposition for all instruments.
 - B. Some training in chord recognition.

- III. Further Training in the Proper Concept of Tone Quality for Individual Instruments and for Production of Fine Quality of Band Tone.**

- IV. Intonation Studies**
 - A. Continuation of studies outlined for middle school, but at more advanced levels.

- V. Further Development of Style**
 - A. More detailed study of periods of music.
 - B. Playing music of different periods and styles.
 - 1. Use of recordings as aids in developing maturity of style.
 - 2. Development of discriminative listening.

- VI. Materials**
 - A. Band Repertoire
 - 1. Overtures 2. Suites 3. Marches
 - 4. Contemporary band literature 5. Sound track, film and pop music
 - B. Supplementary materials
 - 1. Method books for individual study of clinic material.
 - 2. Unison studies for full band.
 - C. Small ensemble materials for various combinations of instruments.
 - D. Solo materials for all instruments.
 - E. Electronic aids
 - 1. MP3 Player 2. CD Player 3. Tuner 4. Metronome
 - 5. Computer Software 6. Digital Recording Equipment

Pleasant Grove Band Program

MARCHING BAND

The marching band is open to any student in Pleasant Grove High School who has had at least one year's experience in band or by special permission of the Director of Bands. Every student enrolled in band will be a participating member of the marching band.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The purpose of the symphonic band is to perform band literature written for the concert band. Every student enrolled in band will be a participating member of the symphonic band.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band will be made up of students from the full band who are interested in studying and playing jazz ensemble music.

BRASS, WOODWIND, AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

Ensembles will be scheduled after school as time permits for Solo and Ensemble Festival, and will be open to every band student. Ensembles that are available are:

Brass Choir, Brass Sextet,
Brass Quintet, Woodwind Choir, Woodwind
Quintet, Clarinet Choir, Clarinet Quartet,
Saxophone Quartet, Flute Choir, Percussion
Ensemble, various trios, and quartets.

General Information

Uniform

Each member of the marching band will be issued a complete band uniform, with the exception of black shoes, socks (black), white gloves and the official band T-shirt. The uniforms are issued prior to marching season and are returned at the end of the school year. It is the responsibility of each member to clean the uniform regularly and to keep up with all uniform parts. The concert uniform will consist of a dress for ladies and dress shoes, shirt, tie, and slacks for gentlemen.

Trip Conduct

Since the band is a part of the whole school system, we will operate within the rules set down by the school district with a few additions of our own. The band will always travel to a performance as a group on assigned buses. Once a student has signed up for a bus, there will be no changes in the seating arrangement. A student may return with his parents provided a permission slip, signed by the parents, is given to the director *prior* to departing from school.

Prior to a trip, information will be given which will tell students exactly where to be, at what time, with what equipment, in what uniform or dress, and for what purpose. Students are expected to follow these instructions to the letter.

Transportation will be provided by the Pleasant Grove I.S.D. We will be traveling on school buses driven by competent drivers. Our drivers are well acquainted with the routine and responsibilities of the Pleasant Grove Bands. The bus trip's sole purpose is to transport the Pleasant Grove Bands to and from an event. It is not for entertainment. The following rules will be followed at all times you are on the bus:

Respect for the bus driver and all chaperones.

Be completely quiet during roll call and until buses are out of town.

No food or drink, unless authorized.

Use normal tone of voice (don't yell).

Must ride bus to events.

Must ride bus home from event unless riding with parents.

If riding home with parents after contest, you must stay until awards presentations are completed.

Students found to be in possession of or under the influence of drugs or

alcohol will be returned home with their parents or guardian and recommended for expulsion from the band.

On overnight trips, students are not allowed to be in the rooms of the opposite sex.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Academic

Attendance: rehearsals and performances
Playing off of assigned music
Writing assignments

Citizenship

Detail
Conduct

Inspection

An inspection will take place before every performance of the Pleasant Grove Band. Shoes should be shined, instruments cleaned inside and out, uniform and its parts in order, and no jewelry worn.

Equipment

Students will be responsible for the up-keep and care of all of their equipment, whether it be school owned or not. Any damages to the instruments, music, uniforms, or any other equipment will be repaired or replaced immediately at the student's expense.

Students who use school owned instruments will pay a maintenance fee of \$50.00 per year payable at the time of instrument checkout. Percussionists will pay a maintenance fee of \$25.00 per year.

Expectations of Rehearsals

The daily rehearsal is the basis for a good performance. A conscientious effort at rehearsals will guarantee successful performances. This means that adequate preparation on your individual part must take place at home. Band rehearsals are designed to learn about music and solve ensemble problems. Please spread appointments throughout the day, not just last period.

To Make Our Rehearsals More Productive;

- _ BE ON TIME!!! (meaning ready to play).
- _ Warm-up softly and slowly - no blasting.

- Have a pencil at ALL times.
- Make sure your folder is at all rehearsals, even if you are ill, so others will not suffer from your absence.
- Maintain good posture at all times keeping both feet on the floor.
- Do **NOT** talk or play (except when instructed to do so) while the Director or any one else is on the podium.
- The tuner is available at all times before or after rehearsal.
- Have a friend work with you as you cannot play consistently when working by yourself.
- Take your horn home often to practice.
- All instruments will go home on Friday.

Region Tryouts

All students are urged to try-out for the All-Region band. This is done through auditions on solo work prepared to be played for region directors.

If chosen, the student will attend a two day clinic at a region site. Transportation will be provided as needed. Those students who are selected and attend the All-Region Clinic will earn a band letter jacket.

Conduct

The conduct of a Pleasant Grove Band member should reflect the following characteristics:

- Display courtesy at all times.
- Be respectful to fellow band members, any other visiting band members, all directors, all teachers, and general public.
- When out of town, remember you are representing your school, community, state, and yourself.
- When in any type of restaurant, you will be on your best behavior.
- Be quiet, eat as quickly as possible, and make sure you clean up the area and dispose of trash properly before you leave.
- Leave a good impression.
- During rehearsal, you will not talk or be disruptive and will pay attention at all times. This means you will not bring any material that does not pertain to band.

- Show pride in being a member of the Pleasant Grove Band.

Detail

Work detail will be issued to any band member who violates a Band rule. The length and type of detail will be at the discretion of the band director. Failure to do this work will result in a more severe punishment. **SEE BENCHING.**

Supplies and Repairs

It will be the responsibility of each student to provide their supplies and have repairs done.

Color Guard / Winter Guard / Drum Major

The Color Guard / Winter Guard / Drum Major units are an extremely important part of the Pleasant Grove Band. The auxiliary unit performs at all football games and competitions in which the band is involved. The unit's function is to provide the audience with visual enhancement of the music through the use of body movements, color effects, dance steps, and equipment maneuvers.

Any student in the Pleasant Grove Bands who wishes to try-out for Color Guard / Winter Guard / Drum Major must meet the following requirements:

- The student must be enrolled in a band the previous semester.
- In addition to meeting UIL rules and requirements, candidates must have no lower than an overall grade average of 78 and no grade lower than a B in conduct the semester prior to the tryouts.
- The student must attend the orientation meeting and have parental permission. At the end of the 1st week of color guard practice, students will perform the tryout routine individually for video. The video will only be used in the event that the student is unable to perform on the date and time of tryouts due to 1) serious injury/illness/2) death of an immediate family member 3) extenuating circumstances deemed acceptable. Students who are in attendance the day of competition and who are granted the right to submit their videotape to the judges will be required to perform any skills medically possible. The judges will be instructed to score the student based on how the student performs the day of tryouts and based on the quality of the student's performance on the pre-tryout video.

Once selected to the Color Guard, Winter Guard, or as Drum Major, the student will have the following responsibilities:

- The student must attend all of both camps. The clinician will be paid by the school.

- The student must try-out for All-Region Band. Fee will be paid by the school.
- The students must perform a solo at UIL. Fees paid by the school.
- The students are full band members, meaning they are responsible for all music pass-offs, playing performances, and section rehearsals unless excused by the director.
- The students must set an example for other students to demonstrate leadership characteristics both on and off the field.
- Failure to uphold these responsibilities could cause the student to be benched, suspended or expelled from the unit.
- Students will schedule private lessons to prepare for All-Region, Solo and Ensemble.
- In addition to meeting UIL rules and requirements, each member must maintain an overall grade average of at least 78 and no grade lower than a B in conduct each six week grading period.

Band Area Environment

Band Room

- Band members are to keep the band room clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebaskets for items to be thrown away. No food or drinks are allowed in the band room.

Instrument Storage

- You will be provided with a shelf space to store your instrument. Instruments should be kept in their case with the case closed while on the shelves. Shelves will be inspected periodically for neatness and absence of trash and clutter.

Director's Office

- The director's office will be off limits and will not be looked upon as a lounge area. When entering, please knock first.

Game Conduct

- You are encouraged to support our team.
- During the game you are to remain at your assigned seat.
- No food, candy or drinks are allowed in the stands including during third and fourth quarter.

- Be ready to play. Music will be called up in advance. Have the fight song always ready.
- In cold weather wear warm clothes under your uniform.
- No one leaves the stands during the game except on out of town trips with director's approval.
- You will remain in our stands until dismissed after the game.
- Tardiness to games will result in loss of 3rd quarter break.
- No hats are allowed.

Attendance Policy

Rehearsal attendance is essential because the work that is missed cannot be made up. The band director, since he does not cover a textbook in his rehearsals, cannot assign make-up work in lieu of attendance. Once a rehearsal is missed, it is missed forever. Good rehearsal attendance is imperative if our band is to be successful.

The attendance rule is not intended to punish the student who is really ill; it is included in the hope that it will discourage unnecessary absences. For your convenience a calendar of events will be presented two months in advance, please schedule all appointments, work, and other activities around these commitments. Absences from a band rehearsal of any type, a concert, contest, clinic, or festival, will be categorized according to one of the following classifications:

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances. The student or family spokesman should contact the band director and relate the facts causing the emergency and the probable length of time the student will miss rehearsals. The student should bring a note to the director's office within two days upon returning to school.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

An unexcused absence is failure to attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance without the specific approval of the Director of Bands. An absence will be declared unexcused for students who do not bring a note within two days after returning to school. Work is not considered an excused absence.

Grading Policy on Rehearsal and Performance

As stated in the essential elements: The student shall be provided opportunities to attain a knowledge of music history and band literature through performance. The student shall be provided opportunities to develop responsibility and to develop the ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member and develop diligence.

Rehearsals and especially performances are considered to the culmination of our studies and therefore are treated as major test grades. An excused absence will

have no negative effect on the students grade, however unexcused absences as defined above, will cause a reduction in the students test grade.

In addition, but not limited to the above, after the first unexcused absence from a performance the student will be suspended from the PG Band for the remainder of the season. After the first unexcused absence of any kind, the student will be issued a warning stating that one more unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the Pleasant Grove Band.

Band Booster Club

The Pleasant Grove Band Booster Club is composed of parents of band students and anyone else who supports the instrumental music program. This group supports and assists the school in providing a high quality instrumental music program in the Pleasant Grove Schools. The Booster Club gives five \$500 scholarships per year and sends the band to a spring competition every two years. The Club also pays for music, instruments, equipment and contracted instructors. The Pleasant Grove Band Booster Club operates concession stands at all home football and basketball games. All parents are asked to participate in the operation of these stands during the school year. If all parents work together your children will benefit greatly.

How Can You As a Parent Help?

There are many ways a parent can help make the Band Booster Club successful.

- Attend the meetings of the Booster Club. The Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 in the high school band room.
- You can volunteer your services to work at the events where the Club has a concession stand.
- Chaperone band trips. Sign up to chaperone trips at booster meetings prior to the event.
- Lend us your expertise and input.

Discipline Management Techniques

All band members are not only subjected to the discipline management techniques listed in the district's Student Code of Conduct when being assessed penalties for violations of the code of conduct, but may be suspended or dismissed from the program or assigned to extra physical activity for violations of rules.

Benching, Suspension, or Dismissal

Benching

When a member is benched, the member must wear the uniform, be on time for the event, stay for the entire event, and play your instrument if required to do so.

Suspension/Probation

When a member is suspended or on probation, the member cannot attend a band event in uniform, nor in any way gain recognition as a member. After the first unexcused absence from a performance, the student will be suspended from the PG Band for the remainder of the season. After the first unexcused absence of any kind, the student will be issued a warning stating that one more unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the Pleasant Grove Band.

Dismissal

When a member is dismissed, the member will turn in all equipment and music and have their schedule changed so that they no longer meet as a band member.

Benching, suspension, and/or dismissal will be the decision of the band director.

Band Council

The band will have a Band Council which will serve as the organizational body of the band members. The Council will promote band activities, pride, and enthusiasm. **The Council will be made up of the following:**

- Drum Major
- Color Guard Captain
- One Lieutenant from each class
- One Band Captain who is a junior or senior
- Two Historians

Qualifications for the Spring Band Competition

All high school band students will be eligible to go to the competition providing:

- The student is passing all classes according to state law.
- The student will not have any unexcused absences from performances or contests during the current school year.
- Each student will raise the money needed for the competition through fund raising projects or by paying his/her own expenses.
- The student will not have a grade lower than a "C" (75) in Band during any six weeks grading period of the current school year.
- The student completes and returns all necessary permission forms, medical information, student information, and hold harmless agreement.

Awards and Honors

Band Jackets

The right to wear a band jacket is a high honor at Pleasant Grove High School. (See Band Award Form) A band jacket may be earned three ways:

- Method 1 Students entering the 12th grade.
- Method 2 Students who are selected for the TMEA All-Region Band.
- Method 3 Tryout for All-Region and earn a first division on an approved solo. The solo must be accompanied and Class II or above for Freshmen, Class I for sophomores and up.
- Method 4 Awarded by Director

John Phillip Sousa Band Award

The director will select the senior band student who demonstrates superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation. The award will be presented at the band banquet. The student will receive a certificate and his/her name will be added to the wall plaque in the trophy case.

Outstanding Band Member Award

The director will choose one student from each of the three bands to receive this honor. It will be presented to the student in recognition of excellent achievement and interest in instrumental music. Attitude, grades, and attendance will also be considered for this award. The award will be presented at the band banquet.

Outstanding Band Students

One band student from each grade will be chosen to receive this award. It will be based on attitude and musicianship. These awards will be presented at the campus awards assemblies.

Booster Club Scholarships

The Pleasant Grove Band Booster Club will give five \$500 scholarships to five senior band students. Selection will be based on musicianship, band participation, and written essay. The selection committee will consist of three Band Booster Club officers, who are not senior band parents and the band directors. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the awards assembly and awarded in compliance with school board policy.

Insurance

The Pleasant Grove Independent School District provided your son/daughter with supplemental insurance each school year while he/she is participating in any school sponsored UIL event for grades 7-12. The coverage is supplemental

to the primary insurance you provide. The policy only covers accidents coverage while the student is participating in UIL athletics or activities sponsored by Pleasant Grove ISD. Coverage is in force during practice, scheduled games, and travel in a school appointed and supervised vehicle, to and from the event. In the event of an accident, claim forms can be picked up from the middle or high school offices.

Pleasant Grove Band Handbook

Confirmation

I have read and discussed the Pleasant Grove Band Handbook with my parents/guardians and we will abide by the rules stated in the handbook. We understand the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Pleasant Grove Band and will accept the decisions of the Band Director.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

THE PLEASANT GROVE BANDS

"Pride in Motion"
5406 McKnight Road
Texarkana, Texas 75503
903/832-8005

Trip Permission

_____ has my permission to go on all band sponsored trips for **2011-12** school year. I understand the consequences of the possession or use of drugs or alcohol during any band trip. In addition, permission is given to provide emergency care if deemed necessary. Please provide any pertinent medical information.

Signature of Parent

Date

_____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone

_____ Cell Phone _____ Emergency #

_____ Cell Phone

Medical Information

If you wish, list an insurance company and policy number

List any medical history of your child that might be helpful in the event of an emergency.

Student's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Doctor _____

Phone _____

Allergies _____

Medication being taken: _____

