

2019-2020

HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



PLEASANT GROVE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TEXARKANA, TEXAS

PLEASANT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

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Instrumental Music Department

Student Expectations

Pleasant Grove Independent School District

- The members of the Pleasant Grove band program must hold themselves to the highest standard of excellence, not just in band, but in academics and other extracurricular organizations. ****
- Each member must always strive to be a role model and student leader for his or her peers. ****
- Each member is a student ambassador to Pleasant Grove ISD and must be aware that outside of school, he or she is representing our school and band program. ****
- Respect for authority will always be shown to each band director, teacher, and administrator, as well as any other school personnel. ****
- Being on time is considered unofficially late. Each member is expected to arrive at all rehearsals, performances, etc. earlier than the original times given. ****
- All students are expected to act professional during all rehearsals and performances. All members will abide by the rules and procedures given by the band directors throughout the year. ****
- The band hall, theory room, and percussion room will always be a clean environment. Any trash, music, or other personal belongings left out will not be tolerated. ****
- When the band travels for a football game, band competition, etc., all busses and areas that are used by the band will be left cleaner than its original state. ****
- All members will hold themselves and their peers responsible for practicing all music, submitting all pass-offs, and giving nothing but their best in each rehearsal and performance. ****
- Students are expected to be present to all rehearsals and performances. All excused absences will be outlined in this handbook. ****
- Members will treat each other with the utmost respect and unite with a common appreciation and love for music.

Instrumental Music Department Objectives

Pleasant Grove Independent School District

Cultural

To provide a respectful and accepting environment for all students.****

Educational

To develop aural skills, music literacy, and technical skills and use these abilities to perform at the highest level possible.****

Service

To be a school and community advocate and always promote the Pleasant Grove band program with dignity and respect.****

Recreational

To create a family outside of home for all band students and provide a fun and healthy social atmosphere.****

Pleasant Grove Band Program

Marching Band

Every student enrolled in band will be a participating member of the Marching Band in the Fall semester. The Pride in Motion has a high reputation of excellence not only in musicality, but athleticism and showmanship. Any student not previously enrolled in band must receive special permission by the Director of Bands to be a part of the Pride in Motion.

Concert Band

Every student enrolled in band will be a participating member of the Concert Band in the Spring semester. The expectations of the Concert Band are to perform music literature written for a concert band setting and to further develop technical abilities as a musician. Any student not previously enrolled in band must receive special permission by the Director of Bands to be a part of the Concert Band.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is offered as an elective for any students interested in performing in a jazz ensemble. The course is primarily offered to students enrolled in band, but any student who has a prior background in rhythm instruments, such as guitar, bass guitar, piano, and drum set, may enroll in the course by approval of the Director of Bands and campus administration. ****

Instrumental Ensemble

Instrumental Ensemble is offered as an elective for any student who needs the extra time to practice for All-Region, Solo & Ensemble, etc. and wants to go far and beyond to enhance his or her abilities as an instrumentalist. Any band student who wants to perform in an ensemble for UIL competition must be enrolled in this course. This course is only offered to students who are enrolled in band.

A.P. Music Theory

Music Theory is an advanced course offered for any junior and senior at Pleasant Grove High School with a prior background in music. This purpose of this class to teach aural skills, musical content, and composition skills. You do not have to be in band to enroll in this course. ****

Winter Guard

Winter Guard is not a course offered at Pleasant Grove, but is an extracurricular organization that meets outside of school. The purpose of this group is for students to continue mastering the skills required for Colorguard in the Spring Semester and to compete against other winter guards in the North Texas Colorguard Association. Membership for Winter Guard is obtainable by an audition process and is open to any student who did not perform in Colorguard in the Fall semester. ****

Grading

This section pertains to the grading system that will be enforced in Marching Band and Concert Band. Other music electives will have a syllabus that instructs its own grading system.

There are two main points to the band grading system:

1. Participation

Participation in class will be counted as a daily grade. Participation for major performances will be counted as a test grade. The key to success in band is to be at every rehearsal and every performance that is marked in the band and school calendar. Below is the list of all excusable absences. This list of excused absences will not be accepted unless the Director of Bands is notified by a parent or guardian:****

- **Serious Illness**
 - This is excusable by a doctor's note or a parental notification that is approved by the school's administration.****
- **Family Emergency**
 - This primarily includes funerals or family weddings. Any other family emergency may be excusable by the discretion of the Director of Bands. A lack of parental notification will result in an unexcused absence. ****
- **School-Related Conflict**
 - If a student is involved with another school organization, it is the student's responsibility to remind the Director of Bands of any future scheduling conflicts. All school-related absences are excused. College visit days for seniors must not be scheduled on top of the band calendar. If there is a crucial scheduling conflict with college visit days, a parent must contact the Director of Bands to resolve the situation. ****

5 points will be deducted for each tardy or unexcused absence in class, and additional points may be deducted by the Director of Bands for misconduct and any other violation of the band handbook. There will be two attendance grades per six weeks that are split up into three-week segments. Unexcused absences for major performances that count as a test grade will result in a 0. ****

Students must understand that school comes before work. Missing a rehearsal, performance, contest, football game, etc. for work will be marked as an unexcused absence. Work absences may be excused for any event scheduled at the last minute by discretion of the Director of Bands. ****

2. Pass-Offs

Pass-offs are very important to the success of the band program. All students are held accountable for practicing their music outside of band and passing off any music by the deadlines that are given. Pass-offs will be enforced by a new program that will be introduced the Pleasant Grove band program called **Smartmusic**.****

Smartmusic is an electronic program designed for students to practice and pass off any music that is assigned by a band director. *Smartmusic* is compatible with computers, laptops, iPads, and chromebooks. If a student does not have access to any of these devices, said student may use a school chromebook in the band hall to pass off or practice his/her music. Students will be required to pay \$8 for the student subscription. It will be added on to the list of band fees. In case of a technological emergency, students may pass off to a band director by the deadline given. Any pass-offs played for a director must occur before or after school.****

All pass-offs will be counted as a test grade. The grade for each pass-off will be determined by the assessed grade from *Smartmusic* or by the discretion of the band directors. Failure to complete a pass-off by the deadline given will result in a 0. All students will have the opportunity to make up an incomplete or failed pass-off by the end of the current six-weeks. The highest grade that will be accepted by those students is a 70. Refusal to pass off by the end of the six weeks will result in benching during marching season and not competing at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. ****

All students are expected to give themselves enough time to pass off their music in case of future scheduling conflicts. The earlier a student passes off, the better!****

In closing, to receive the best possible grade in band, you must be present at all times, complete all of your pass-offs in a well-prepared manner and on time, and abide by the rules and expectations of the band handbook. ****

Rules of the Band Program

Every member of the Pleasant Grove band program will abide by the following rules. Any sort of misconduct will result in point deductions from the band grade and/or consequences enforced by the Director of Bands and school administration (Detention, ISS, OSS, DAEP).

- Always be early to rehearsals, performances, or any other events scheduled.
- All students will be respectful to one another, as well as their teachers, administration, and other school personnel.
- All members will be respectful of other schools in regards to competitiveness. Disrespect shown to other schools and the students, teachers, and administration affiliated with said schools will not be tolerated.
- Unexcused absences, tardies, or skipping class will not be tolerated.
- All areas of the band hall will remain clean at all times. Any personal belongings left out and not stored in a locker will be subject to the lost-and-found or thrown away by discretion of the band directors.
- All members will be responsible for keeping any used areas cleaner than it was originally found. This includes stadium bleachers, gyms, parking lots, busses, etc.
- When a band director is speaking, students will not speak unless they are asked to by the director.
- All students will be responsible in having their instrument, music, pencils, and other necessities ready for a rehearsal or performance.
- An excused absence in rehearsal because of make-up work in another teacher's class may only be acceptable when a teacher's note is presented at the beginning of class. The Director of Bands still reserves the right to keep band students during the appropriate class period.
- Cell phones will not be allowed for any reason unless the students are granted permission by a band director to use them for educational purposes (metronome, tuner, Remind 101, etc.)
- Any use of inappropriate speech or contact towards another student, teacher, or administrator will strictly be subject to the consequences enforced by the Director of Bands and/or school administration. The student may also be subject to immediate dismissal from the band program.

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

During marching season, a member that is benched will be classified as an alternate. Alternates are usually assigned based off of lack of attendance, poor attitude, or unwillingness to practice music. Alternates will still learn music and march in the shows for football games and parades, but not competitions. Being an alternate is not always a disciplinary measure. Alternates are also assigned to well-behaved band students who experience difficulties to march and perform at a competitive level. Alternates have the opportunity to fill a hole in the competition show based off of good behavior, improvement in marching abilities, improvement in playing abilities, or by the discretion of the Director of Bands. **** The member must wear the uniform, be on time for every event, stay for the entire event, and play your instrument if required to do so.

When a member is suspended, 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 during the school year will result in dismissal from the Pleasant Grove Band.

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. Dismissal could also be the result of any severe actions outside of band that are against the Student Code of Conduct.

Benching, suspension, and dismissal will be the decision of the Director of Bands.

Band Trip Policy

Any student that is suspended or dismissed from the band program will not be allowed to attend the band trip. Any student that is benched because of disciplinary reasons are still allowed to attend the band trip, but is subject to not being allowed to attend if misbehavior continues throughout the year. Refunds for trip expenses will not be given to students who are not allowed to attend band trips. ****

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 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 a normal tone of voice. Yelling will not be tolerated.
- Remain seated at all times. ****
- All students must ride the bus to events.
- All students must ride the 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 result in an immediate phone call to a parent and consequences implemented by the Code of Conduct. The student(s) will be returned home by school administration, personnel, band bus, or a parent, and will be dismissed from the band program. ****

- Students found to be in possession of vaping materials or tobacco products will result in an immediate phone call to a parent and consequences implemented by the Code of Conduct. Additional consequences will result in a two-week suspension from the band program.****
- On the bus, students are not allowed to sit with students of the opposite sex.
- On overnight trips, students are not allowed to be in the rooms of the opposite sex.

Game Conduct

- Always show support for your team!
- During the game, you are to remain at your assigned seat.
- No food, candy, or drinks are allowed in the stands, even during third-quarter breaks. Bottled water is only acceptable in the stands.
- Always stay alert to the game, the drum major, and the band directors. ****
- Cold-weather attire is acceptable to wear underneath the uniform.
- Students are expected to remain in the stands during the game unless you are given permission to by a band director.****
- The band will be dismissed from the stands by the band directors, not the game clock. ****
- Tardiness to games and 4th quarters will result in loss of 3rd quarter break. This also includes refusal to pass off music.****
- No other t-shirts or hats are allowed in uniform.

Equipment

Instruments

We encourage all students to purchase their own instruments through approved websites and local vendors, such as the Band House Music Store. Please consult a band director before making an instrument purchase. Our goal is to ensure that every student is playing on the best quality instrument that there is to offer. ****

At Pleasant Grove, we do offer school-owned instruments to rent to students who cannot afford to purchase an instrument. We do implement at \$50 rental fee for any maintenance or immediate repairs throughout the year to a school instrument. The Pleasant Grove Instrumental Department is not financially responsible for any repairs to a student's personal instrument. It is the student's responsibility to send his or her instrument the Band House Music Store for major repairs. Minor repairs to any instrument may be completed by the band directors. ****

It is the responsibility of the student to provide instrument care items, such as valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, cleaning kits, etc. These items can be purchased at the Band House Music Store.****

Marching Band Uniform

The marching band uniform is the symbol of the band program. The Pride in Motion has a high reputation of excellence and we must maintain a strong image with our marching band. We keep to a strict uniform policy to ensure the preservation of our band uniforms:****

- The uniform will always be clean and pressed before each performance.
- No uniform part will ever be left out unattended.
- When the uniform is not worn, it is to be neatly placed on a hanger either on the uniform rack or in a garment bag.
- No uniform part will ever be left on the ground or any area that will result in the uniform being unpresentable.
- All students are liable for each uniform part. Any uniform part lost will result in a fine to replace the lost part.
- Any violation of the uniform policy will result in a failure to perform with the band, loss of attendance points, or other disciplinary measures enforced by the Director of Bands and/or school administration.

Concert Band Uniform

In the Spring semester, we will check out Concert Band uniforms to all students. The same uniform policy for marching band will apply to the concert band uniforms.****

Miscellaneous Equipment

Other school-owned equipment, such as cleaning kits, tuners, metronomes, music stands, chairs, etc. that are damaged or stolen by a student will be subject to a fine in the amount that it takes to replace said equipment and/or will be subject to school-district disciplinary procedures based on the severity of the situation.****

Supplies and Repairs

Before summer band begins, all students are required to obtain the following supplies in preparation for High School Band:

- 1-inch 3-Ring Binder
- Sheet Protectors
- Pencils
- Water Jug (Marching Season)

The following supplies can be obtained at the Band House Music Store:

- Valve Oil (Brass Players)
- Slide Grease (Brass Players)
- Reeds (Woodwinds)
- Cork Grease (Woodwinds)
- Cleaning Kits
- Tuner (Optional; May be used on phone prior to the start of rehearsal)
- Metronome (Optional; May be used on phone during individual practice time, NOT during rehearsal)

Music Distribution Policy

All students will receive their music by the Director of Bands. Any music left out in the band hall, theory room, or percussion room will be put in the Lost and Found. For any requests to recopy music for a student, a 10-cent-per-page fee will be implemented. All students are responsible for maintaining all music once it is handed out by the Director of Bands.****

Lost and Found

Any supplies, music, personal belongings, etc. that are left out in the band hall will be placed away in the Lost and Found. At the end of each six weeks, the Director of Bands reserves the right to empty all items collected in the Lost and Found.

Repairs

Any repairs on school-owned instruments will be covered by the Instrument Music Department once each student pays the \$50 rental fee for the year. Any unnecessary damage or vandalism done by a student to a school instrument will not be tolerated, and the student will be issued a fee to cover the repair expenses. The Instrument Music Department is not responsible for covering any repair costs for personal instruments. However, the band directors may be able to repair personal instruments based on the severity of the situation. ****

Rehearsal Productivity

The daily rehearsal is the basis for a good performance. Maximum 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. To make our rehearsals more productive, you must:

- Make a conscience effort to not schedule any appointments during rehearsal time.
- Be early to all rehearsals. We will start precisely on time each day.
- Warm-up softly and slowly before rehearsals start. Ensemble warm-ups aren't always designed to warm up the individual at the start of the day.
- ALWAYS have a pencil.
- Always have your binder of music at rehearsals.
- Maintain good posture at all times.
- Do NOT talk or play while the Director or anyone else is on the podium, unless instructed to do so.
- Use a tuner before rehearsal starts. This will make the warm-up process go by much quicker.
- Reach out to a director, section leader, or friend if you are experiencing issues with the music for band.
- **Take your horn home to practice!** All instruments are required to go home over the weekend or long breaks.

For marching band, discipline is the key to maintaining great rehearsal etiquette. All students will abide by the following guidelines for marching band rehearsals:****

Walking is not an option during rehearsals unless instructed by a director.

When the words "fall in" or "at ease" are said, both feet are placed together and the instrument is in its low position, but talking is not allowed.

The only acceptable times to talk are water breaks, when the directors say so, or if your hand is raised with a question in regards to rehearsal.

All calls to attention, horns up, and horns down are to be executed right on the beat each time.

Laziness will not be tolerated.

Section Leaders or Drum Majors do not have the right to speak over a band director. The directors will address when it is appropriate to help a fellow band member.

Consequences for not abiding by the rules of rehearsal etiquette will result in various forms of physical training, such as running, push-ups, etc. Any additional abuses of rehearsal etiquette could result in benching.****

Student Leadership Team

The student leadership team will serve as the organizational body of the band members. The leadership team is expected to be role model for Pleasant Grove High School, to always be in good academic standing, and to always show pride and promote the band program. The leadership team will consist of the following:

- Drum Major - Senior selected via audition process if not Assistant the past year.
- Assistant Drum Major - Junior selected via audition process
- Colorguard Captain - Senior selected via audition process
- Assistant Colorguard Captain - Junior selected via audition process
- Band Captain - Senior that is voted on by all students
- Class Lieutenants - Voted on by students of each classification
- Section Leaders - Juniors or Seniors selected via audition process
- Historians - Any student(s) appointed by the Director of Bands

All members of the leadership team are to abide by the following guidelines. Refusal to abide by the following guidelines will result in having his/her leadership title removed and appointed to another individual:****

- Follow all the rules stated in the Band Handbook.
- Follow all the rules stated in the School's Code of Conduct.
- Be in good academic standing all year.
- Be ready to work per request of any band director or the Band Boosters.

Awards and Honors

Honor Clinic Bands

Students selected to any honor clinic band, such as Texas A&M Commerce and Four States Bandmasters, will be first submitted by the Director of Bands and selected by a committee of honor band officers. Students who are normally selected for honor clinic bands are sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Association of Texas Small School Bands Honor Bands

All students who are in good academic standing are eligible to audition for the ATSSB All-Region Honor Jazz Band in September and/or All-Region Honor Band in December. Students who are selected to advance to All-Area will audition in the beginning of January. Students who advance to All-State will be expected to attend the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio, TX in February. All expenses including meals, hotels, entry fees, etc. will be covered by the Instrument Music Department. Students who refuse to audition after originally confirming that they will audition will be fined a fee to cover entry costs.****

Band Jackets

The right to wear a band jacket is a high honor at Pleasant Grove High School. A band jacket may be earned by the following methods:

- Method 1 - Students entering the 12th grade.
- Method 2 - Students who are selected for the ATSSB All-Region Band
- Method 3 - Students who try out for ATSSB All-Region and earns a first division rating on an approved Class I or II solo or ensemble piece.

End of Year Awards

The following awards are presented to students who excel at the top of their class in band. These awards are presented at the High School Spring Concert:

- Outstanding Colorguard Awards - per classification
- Outstanding Woodwind Awards - per classification
- Outstanding Brass Awards - per classification
- Outstanding Percussion Awards - per classification
- Outstanding Overall Awards - awarded to one freshman, sophomore, and junior

The following awards are presented to outstanding overall seniors who have maintained an outstanding history of success in the band program. These awards are presented at the High School Spring Concert:****

- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
- National School Marching Award
- Director's Award
- Patrick S. Gilmore Award
- John Philip Sousa Award

Scholarships

The following scholarships are awarded by the band directors and band booster officers. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the campus awards assemblies:

- Band Camp Scholarship - awarded to any student wishing to attending the Henderson State University Senior Band Camp. Selection will be based on musicianship, band participation, and a written essay. The selection committee will consist of Band Booster officers.
- Band Booster Scholarship - awarded to seniors in the amount of \$500. Selection will be based on musicianship, band participation, and a written essay. The selection committee will consist of three Band Booster officers, who are not senior band parents, and the band directors.
- Robbey Nipper Memorial Scholarship - awarded to one senior in the amount of \$500. Selection will be based on musicianship, band participation, and a written essay. The selection committee will consist of the band directors.

Insurance

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 17 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.

Band Boosters

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 scholarships to students per year and sends the band to a spring competition every two years. The Boosters also pay for music, instruments, equipment and contracted instructors. The Pleasant Grove Band Booster Club operates concession stands, and 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.

Requirement for Students: *Students must sell a minimum of 10 gold cards at the beginning of the school year. Gold cards are \$10 a card, and any cards out of the required 10 that are not sold will be charged to the student.*****

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 p.m. in the High School Band Hall.
- You can volunteer your services to work at the events where the Boosters have a concession stand.
- Chaperone band trips. Sign up to chaperone trips at booster meetings prior to the event.
- Lend us your expertise and input.

