

STUDENT AND PARENT
HANDBOOK
FOR THE
2020 – 2021
PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL BAND



I. Grading Policy

A. Performances and Playing/Written Tests

1. Band is a performance-based class, and ALL performances are mandatory. Scheduled performances include Football Games, Contests (marching and concert MPA included), Concerts, and Parades (Union County Parade, Unionville Parade, and the MLK Parade in January).
2. If a student misses a Contest, Concert, or Parade, they will receive a 0% as a test grade. Students that perform in each required performance will receive a 100% for a test grade. Students will be given an opportunity to make up the 0% grade with an alternate assignment.
3. All scale tests will be tested by memory.
4. Students will be tested periodically on passages from the music they are studying in class.
5. With each announced playing test the students will receive a numerical grade. Starting the following day, any student may come to me and retake the test once a day, as many days as they would like in order to improve their grade. The ultimate goal is for the student to become accomplished on their instrument. If they don't like their grade, I want them to have the opportunity to keep working at it so they can reach a mastery level of playing with each assignment. Grades will become final at the end of each grading period.

B. Class Participation

1. Students are required to participate in band each and every day they are present in class.
2. There are 30 days in a grading period. Each day a student does not participate in class, he/she will receive 1 point off their six weeks grade.

II. MARCHING BAND

A. Performance Etiquette

1. We are at games to support our school and our football team. ALWAYS be on your best behavior and show school spirit at ALL times.
2. Students are not to use their cell phones while in the stands. You may use them all you want during 3rd quarter break.
3. Show respect. The band will be called to attention during the National Anthem. Failure to maintain a perfect attention will be considered a serious offense, and you will lose your 3rd quarter break immediately.
4. Band members are expected to observe the other band's halftime show. When both bands perform at halftime, we will observe from the sidelines. Do not move around while the other band is performing; this is extremely rude. Observe, learn, and enjoy the other band's performance.
5. Complement the other band's members after they perform. Don't make derogatory comments; such immature comments do nothing but harm the image of our band.
6. While in the stands, students need to stay in their designated spot with the rest of their section.
7. Only marching band students are allowed to be in the stands with us. All boyfriends, girlfriends, friends, etc. that are not in the band can sit in the section

next to us if they would like.

8. Act mature and make good decisions. Public displays of Affections (PDA) are not permitted while in school, therefore they will not be permitted while attending football games, band contests, practices, and bus rides to and from Piedmont.
9. At marching contests, students are not to talk once a performing band has taken the field. Be quiet, be still, and be respectful of the performing band's effort and "if you can't say something nice, then don't say nothing at all." – Thumper.
10. Food, candy, gum, drinks (except water) are not allowed in the stands at any time during the game. Do not bring food back with you into the stands after 3rd quarter break. Uniforms and instruments are very expensive. They can be damaged very easily with food and/or drink items.
11. When in full uniform, please stay clear of ketchup, mustard, nacho cheese, and other foods that could stain your clothes.
12. Students/Parents will be responsible for cleaning their own uniforms. Instructions for proper uniform cleaning can be found on the band website.

B. Travel Guidelines

1. ***All students must ride the bus to the game/contest. Once the contest/game is over, any parent wanting to take their child home directly from the performance location must provide a written note to the Band Directors BEFORE we leave PHS for the game/contest.***
2. Stay seated when the bus is moving.
3. Trash is not to be left on the bus. All trash belongs in the trash can.
4. The bus must be cleaned each time that you leave the bus. **Students are responsible for this, not parents!**
5. Only drinks with a screw on cap will be permitted on the bus.
6. Co-ed seating will not be allowed on the bus.
7. Couples will not be allowed to ride the same bus. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
8. If issues persist with inappropriate behavior, we will have a boy bus and a girl bus.
9. Yelling, bad language, rough play, or public displays of affection will not be permitted at any time.
10. Students should remain respectful and keep noise to a minimum while on the bus.
11. Students may listen to music on the bus, but they must use headphones at all times.
12. Cell phones are permitted on the bus, but they must be on vibrate or silent at all times.
13. Students are to obey the Directors, staff members, and chaperones at all times. If a student feels he/she is being treated unfairly, that student should obey orders regardless, and then discuss it with the Directors in private. If we as the Band Directors do not know what is going on, then we can't help you.

C. Uniforms

1. Summer Uniform
 - a. During the first few football games, the band will wear a slightly more comfortable uniform in order to stay cool and healthy.
 - b. CURRENT YEAR Band T-shirt (included in band fees).
 - c. Khaki colored shorts, purchased by the student (stay in PHS dress code).
 - d. No-show socks
 - e. Tennis shoes

- f. You may **NOT** wear jewelry, watches, ball caps, etc. while in uniform. Hats and sunglasses are permitted in the stands, but NEVER on the field. This rule also applies to guys that have any type of earrings.
 - g. **Colored-hair that is not “natural” looking is not permitted starting at Preview Night in August and ending at our last parade performance in December.**
 - h. Body piercings that are visible while in uniform must be removed.
2. Full Uniform
- a. Students must wear black socks that do not show any skin. They must be at least 6 inches above the ankle (NO ANKLE SOCKS).
 - b. When in full-uniform, you must put your coat on at the end of the 1st quarter. Hats and gloves can go on when dismissed to warm-up for half time.
 - c. Only when the director tells you, coats may come off. If you are not wearing your current year band shirt, you can not take your coat off.
 - d. **When coats are off, suspenders must stay on your shoulders properly and pants must be zipped at all times. Failure to comply will result in keeping your band jacket on for the rest of the SEASON.**
 - e. All uniforms must be hung properly on the hanger. Nothing but the hanger, jacket, and pants are allowed to go in the uniform bag. Inspections will be done by officers and/or directors. If you are not sure how to store the uniform, ask an officer for assistance.
 - f. Please only wear your current year band shirt or hoodie when your band jacket comes off. You might want to give your hoodie to a parent to take into the stands, or plan to arrive early so you can take your stuff to the stadium. You will not be allowed to carry it with you due to the fact that we go straight to the field for Pre-Game.
 - g. Your marching shoes and any other clothing must go home after practices and performances. The band room is not your personal locker or bedroom.
 - h. You may **NOT** wear jewelry, watches, ball caps, etc. while in uniform.
 - i. Body piercings that are visible while in uniform must be removed.
 - j. Long hair must be pinned up in your band hat (shako).
 - k. **Colored-hair that is not “natural” looking is not permitted starting at Preview Night in August and ending at our last parade performance in December.**

III. Concert Band

A. Concert Band Dress Code

1. The concert band wears all black dress clothes. No stripes, patterns, etc.
2. NO BLACK JEANS OR BLACK TENNIS SHOES!!!!
3. **Gentlemen** – Black shoes, black socks, black dress pants, black belt, long sleeve black button-up dress shirt, necktie or bowtie (does not have to be black)
4. **Ladies** – black shoes, black pants (NO SKIRTS OR DRESSES), black blouse.
5. You want to perform your best. Please dress your best. Please do not look like you just rolled out of bed.

B. Concert Dates and Requirements

1. The concert band will perform a Winter Concert, MPA Preview Concert, MPA,

and Spring Concert.

- a. MPA is the North Carolina Music Performance Assessment. Judges will critique us on how well we perform and demonstrate our knowledge of music.
2. Band is a performance-based class. All concerts and contests (MPA) are required from each and every student. See GRADING POLICY on page 2 concerning requirements and grading.
3. If any dates are changed due to unforeseen circumstances, the students and the parents will be notified immediately.

C. Concert Band Performance Etiquette

1. No talking at any time during the concert.
2. No gum, candy, food, or drinks during the performance.
3. If listening to another group perform, give them the utmost respect. You can learn a lot by listening to another performance.
4. Have all music and any other equipment ready before the concert begins.
5. Help clean up the performance location (auditorium, church, etc.) before leaving for the night.
6. Arrive at the concert location on time completely dressed in the proper concert attire.

V. Miscellaneous

A. District Band Auditions

1. All students are strongly encouraged to audition for All-District Band. Many of you are District level players. All you have to do is put forth a little effort, and you will do very well.
2. Students are required to prepare a solo, scales, and sight read a short piece for the judges.

B. All-County Honors Band

1. Members of the All-County Honor Band are selected at the band director's discretion.
2. The selection process for both high school county band ensembles will be announced at a later date.
3. Student selection is also determined by musical talent, dedication, maturity, and behavior.

C. Classroom Rules

1. Come to class on time.
2. Cell phones must be on silent and must stay put away during classroom instruction. Phones do NOT belong on the stand or anywhere else that may cause a distraction for you or any other student.
3. Students are expected to have their instruments and music at school for every rehearsal.
4. Disrespect or "talking back" to anyone will not be tolerated. Parents and PHS Administration will be involved with this if deemed necessary.
5. Students are expected to have a sharpened pencil with them at all rehearsals.
6. Always be alert for instructions.

7. All candy, gum, food, or other foreign objects will be placed in the trash can upon entering the band room.
8. Water is allowed, IF it is in a bottle with a screw on cap. Drinks in cups and cans are not acceptable. Please do not bring them in the band room. There are many stains on the carpet from not paying attention. This carpet was installed in August of 2014. It has to last at least another 20 years. Be responsible.

D. Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

1. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illegal Drugs
 - a. Possession of any illegal substance will not be tolerated. If any alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs are found in a student's possession, that student will be reported to the Principal and action will be taken by UCPS. All UCPS rules apply to the band for trips as well. Regardless of the fact that some students may be 18 years of age, tobacco is not permitted. If the Directors or any other staff member has sufficient reason to believe that a student has been drinking alcohol or using illegal drugs prior to a performance, that student will be sent home and his/her actions will be reported to the Principal. Any and all violations will be subject to removal from the band.
2. Prescription/OTC Drugs
 - a. No medicine should ever be in the possession of any student while on campus, unless they have proper permission from Admin to "self-carry."

E. School Owned/Personal PROPERTY

1. Use of School Instruments and Equipment
 - a. Students must accept responsibility for any loss or damage (other than normal wear and tear) that occurs to the instrument while checked out to the student.
 - b. If a student damages school owned property due to malicious behavior or recklessness, he/she will assume responsibility for either fixing or replacing the equipment.
 - c. Should the student refuse to take responsibility for damages caused, he/she will be reported to school officials and charged with destruction of school property. School owned property includes but is not limited to: percussion equipment, music stands, instruments, uniforms, guard equipment, electronic equipment, flip folders, etc.
 - d. Depending on the severity of the damage and the intent of the individual, the Band Directors along with PHS Administration may choose to remove the guilty student from band.
2. Individually Owned Property
 - a. No student should use or go through another student's instrument, book bag, or other personal property without the owners consent. If this occurs, all individuals involved will be sent to Administration for them to take care of.
 - b. Depending on the severity of the damage and the intent of the individual, the Band Directors and PHS Administration may choose to remove the guilty student from band.

G. Theft

1. Theft will not be tolerated. Following confirmation of the incident with the Administration, Depending on the severity of the damage and the intent of the individual, the Band Directors and PHS Administration may choose to remove the guilty student from band as well as any other consequences deemed necessary by the PHS Administration.
2. Part of being a member of the Pride of Piedmont means that we have to trust all students at all times.
3. Students should not leave valuable items or money unattended at any time. Such items should remained locked in your car or even better, left at home.