

Introduction

Dear PVHS Band Student and Parent(s),

Welcome to the Park View High School Band. The band program here at PVHS is an important and dynamic part of the total high school experience. The band is the largest, most colorful, highly disciplined and visible of all school groups.

The Park View High School Band serves two functions, the first of which is to educate students, both in the specific area of instrumental music and in the more broad area of life skills. Students will be challenged to develop individual musicianship, self-discipline, personal responsibility, and teamwork, and will be expected to demonstrate understanding of these concepts through positive participation in all applicable activities.

A secondary, yet important, function of the band is its performance obligation to Park View High School and to the South Hill and surrounding communities. The band plays an important role in the school and the community through performances at concerts, parades, sporting events, and community functions throughout the school year.

By taking advantage of the opportunity to perform in one of Virginia's finest band programs, students can foster the self-discipline, work habits, and attention to detail that will undoubtedly benefit them throughout their lives. It is no accident that students who participate in band are consistently among the top students academically, and once out of school, very often become the most successful members of society.

In this handbook, you will find all that you need to know about the band program at Park View High School, including information pertaining to performances, discipline, grading, uniforms, and other important information that will make this band one of the best in the state of Virginia. It is to your advantage that you and your parents take time to fully read and understand the details set forth in this handbook so that you may take the full experience of being in a high school band program. The one thing I really want to ask of you in order to have a successful year is "that you do your very best, on every step and on every note *every time with the proper attitude!*"(quote from John Hendricks, WVU Director of Bands).

Again, I welcome each and every one of you to the program and I am looking forward to sharing many valuable musical experiences with you, the parents and students, and the program itself.

Musically Yours,

Allen P. Heath
PVHS Band Director

Grading

Unlike sports, which are extracurricular, band is a co-curricular activity, meaning that band activities may take place both during and outside of the school day. The grades set forth for the PVHS Band are based on participation and effort, not talent. Therefore, attendance is required at all scheduled rehearsals and performances. If the student misses an event and the excuse is valid, then this is considered an excused absence. (*Further sections in the band handbook discuss this type of absence in more detail*)

Performances are not the only graded activities. Throughout the fall marching season, you will be assessed on your memorization of the show music as well as demonstrating excellent marching and maneuvering skills that will be covered from band camp till the end of the marching season. Please pay close attention to all the details provided during the fundamental exercises that will be introduced at band camp. Other grading options will include but are not limited to: having music (even if memorized), pencil checks, drill charts (if applicable), appropriate shoe wear, and conduct. The main thing to do is always be prepared for anything and everything!

The grades that you will receive will be broken down as follows:

<u>Performances:</u>	50%
<u>Class Participation:</u>	25%
<u>Playing/Marching Tests:</u>	25%

Most students should receive an “A” in band class. Students who receive grades other than “A” most often do so by missing performances and/or not being prepared for a playing test, field rehearsal, etc., and/or talking excessively during band class and rehearsals, which negatively affects the class participation grade.

Responsibilities of a PVHS Band Member

In the PVHS Band, we will always strive for excellence. In order to attain our goals, it is absolutely necessary that the teacher and the student work together. A teacher can teach, but that does not necessarily mean that learning is taking place. The student must be self-motivated to the extent that he/she will fulfill the basic responsibilities of membership in the organization. The basic responsibilities for the general membership and specific sections are listed ahead.

Attendance and Punctuality Responsibilities

Each student will receive a copy of the activity schedule set forth by the PVHS band in enough time that the student can make necessary arrangements to attend each performance. Whether it is to schedule time off of work or to find an alternate way of arriving to the band room for a trip to a

marching band festival, it becomes the student's responsibility to make sure that they attend the scheduled performances.

If a student misses a scheduled performance, then that student must submit a written excuse signed by your parent or legal guardian to Ms. Conner no later than the end of the next school day after the performance. In this document, you must date of the absence, the performance title, and reason for the absence. If we do not receive a note by the end of the next school day following the performance, than this absence is considered to be unexcused, which can lower the student's final grade. (Please note that when the excuse is submitted, Ms. Conner and I will discuss the validity of the document and will keep an accurate record of each excuse). Emergencies will be dealt with individually for the protection of the member's eligibility for the excused absence. Failure to comply with these policies will result in the following:

1. Tardiness for a Performance: For every 5 minutes that you are late without a valid excuse, a deduction of one (1) letter grade will occur.
2. Missed Performance: (Unexcused Absence) You will receive no credit for the given performance.

REMEMBER— A performance is worth 50% of your final grade. Missing an abundant amount of these activities and deciding that the absence is unexcused can dramatically affect your grade. Also, if a student comes to a rehearsal or performance without the proper equipment, uniform, or materials, the individual will receive a grade deduction for that activity.

Sports Conflicts

The goal of the PVHS band program is to allow every interested student to participate. There is an understanding that many band students may also wish to participate in fall sports. Therefore, there is a policy to deal with conflicts that may arise between the schedules of band and fall sports. Students are expected to split time evenly between band rehearsals and performances and sports practices and events. Attendance at performances and games takes precedence over attendance at practices. With this in mind, the students can use the following information as a guide when deciding which activity to attend:

1. **Band Performance vs. Sports Practice**: Attend the band performance.
2. **Band Performance vs. Sports Event**: Attend the band performance the first time the conflict arises and the sports event the second, or vice versa.

The student must act responsible if he/she decides to do both band and a sports activity. They must realize that they are expected to split time 50/50 to make it fair to the other members of the band. After all, band can be looked at as a sports event: summer preparation, after school rehearsals, constant practicing. Without everyone's participation, we are like a football team playing only 10 members, which can constitute a penalty. If you are to miss a band performance because of a sport's activity, then it is your responsibility to let me know in advance. If I am not aware of your absence because of the sporting event, then it is considered as an unexcused absence and can have a dramatic

affect on your grade.

(Be it known that the 50/50 rule assumes that the coaches of the individual sports participate in are willing to allow students to miss sports practices and events. The rule is designed to allow students to participate in fall sports and also participate in band.)

Final Note About Attendance

While the attendance policy is in place to serve as a deterrent to unexcused absences, it is the hope of the band program that students will understand the importance of faithful attendance at every PVHS Marching Band rehearsal and performance. In the end, the overall quality of the PVHS Band will be determined by the dedication of the students involved. To put it another way, the PVHS Marching Band can only achieve excellence if the members put their responsibility to their fellow band students ahead of most other situations that may arise during marching season.

Discipline Responsibilities

All PVHS Band members are considered to be “in school” when participating in band events. As such, all Park View High School policies will be enforced, as they would be during school hours. Additionally, quiet attention in rehearsals is needed to work effectively as a group. Members must abide by all laws and/or rules written or implied by federal, state and local governments at all times. Failure to abide by said laws could result in federal, state, local and/or school prosecution and/or dismissal from the band.

Performance Behavior Responsibilities

1. **Wear the uniform with respect.** The band uniform is much more than just an outfit that the entire marching band wears. It is a symbol of the organization, the school, and the community. When the uniform is on, it must always be complete: jackets zipped all the way, appropriate T-shirt, bib straps worn on the shoulders, not hanging down, and the hat to be worn appropriately. Oftentimes, I will give you the opportunities to take off your jacket and to just be in your bibs and appropriate T-shirt. This is known as the travel uniform. When asked to do so, I do not expect to see anyone wearing his or her jackets half way. They are either on or off, nothing in between. Also, while in uniform, there is to be no public displays of affection or abusive language. You are making an impression to the community, and the impression that you want to make is one that is respectable and admirable.
2. **Members must sit together by section and are not permitted to leave their seats nor invite others to sit with them while in performance.** There will be time at football

games that I will give you breaks. During this time, you can visit with family and friends, but during the game, I ask that we be in our sections and concentrate on the performance at hand.

3. **Members must understand how the public perceives them.** Members must have the mindset that their performance begins when they arrive, not simply when the first note is played, and ends after a formal dismissal from the director.
4. **Members are expected to perform when directed.** Pay close attention to the director or drum major. Particularly at football games, we will often have to play on very short notice. Be Prepared.
5. **Members are expected to ride the band's buses to and from performances.** If members must ride back with parents, a note from the parent must be submitted prior to departure. A student may ride with only the person designated to take you away from the activity via the submitted note! Also, we MUST see the said responsible party before we can let you go. Insurance regulations restrict us from deviating from this rule.
6. **All members are expected to remain in full uniform and in formation until the director dismisses them from the performance.** After boarding the bus, students may remove jackets and hats, provided they are wearing the appropriate T-shirt. When given breaks, members are to remain in full uniform unless otherwise directed, and take care not to soil the uniform with food or drink. During games, members will be given breaks after the halftime performance. Unlike the past, the full band will NOT be dismissed during the third quarter. For the sake of supporting the team, no more than 1/3 of the band is to be gone at a time. An assigned list will be created before the first football game to ensure proper instrumentation and balance. When you do leave for breaks, you have approximately 5 minutes to get food, visit, etc. No one else from the band may leave until these people return. If this rule is abused in any way, the break will be taken away and the band will remain in the stands for the entire duration of the game.

Uniform Responsibilities

Marching Attire

General Information

1. The complete uniform of the Park View High School Marching Band consists of white band shoes, white socks, jacket, bibs, appropriate band shirt, white band gloves, and hat.
2. During the summer, the band uniforms will be distributed. You must purchase the accessory items (socks, gloves, shoes, and shirt) on your own. When you receive your uniform, please check it to make sure that you are receiving it in excellent condition.

You will sign a waiver saying that you accept full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the uniform. If something is damaged to the uniform, please see me once you get it and we will get it repaired. Also, check for buttons. A complete uniform must have all accessories to it, including buttons. If for some reason you do not report any damages and at the end of the year you return it without it being fixed, then you are held responsible for that uniform until it is completely repaired.

3. All uniforms must be kept in perfect condition. Each member must arrive to each performance (unless otherwise noted) in travel uniform, consisting of shoes, socks, bibs, and appropriate band shirt (No exceptions will be taken for the shirt; if you do not have the correct band shirt on, then you must arrive wearing the complete uniform minus the hat and gloves.) Before actually stepping off for the performance, a uniform inspection will be done. If the uniform is not well managed, then a grade deduction will occur.
4. When wearing the uniform, **NO EARRINGS, WATCHES, OR OTHER JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES MAY BE WORN!** Also, there will be no make-up or nail polish worn while in uniform. Color Guard may only wear jewelry/make-up as part of their uniform and must be approved by none other than Mr. Heath. Band jackets, when worn, must remain zipped **COMPLETELY** and the suspenders will be worn on the shoulders until I say otherwise. Individual must pay for damage due to improper wear.
5. All members are responsible for bringing all issued or purchased uniform parts to every performance. It is neither mine nor anyone else's responsibility to reissue items because of the irresponsibility of the members. Students who come to a performance without their full uniform will not be allowed to perform, and will receive a grade of zero for that performance.

Uniform Care- Jacket, Pants, Garment Bag

1. Always hang up the uniform after a performance. Fold the bibs on the crease and place on the hanger.
2. Always hang up the uniform in a dry place to allow moisture to escape before placing it in the garment bag for storage.
3. Repair your uniforms (replace buttons, snaps, etc.) as needed. See Ms. Conner for repairing.
4. Alterations may be made only with the approval of Ms. Conner. Always treat the uniforms with extreme care.
5. **NEVER DRAG THE GARMENT BAGS ON THE GROUND!** Always carry them flat so that the uniform doesn't form wrinkles, which is not an acceptable appearance.
6. The uniforms are to remain in the band room after each performance.

Uniform Care—Shoes

1. Clean your shoes regularly. Use a leather cleaner product so that the shoes are clean for each performance.
2. Clean the entire shoe, not just the face of it.
3. Place the shoes in the proper place of the garment bag. Keep your used socks out of the bag.

Uniform Care—Hat and Plume

1. Store hat in its container, laid flat.
2. Hats should always look as good as new for every performance. Be very careful and please try not to scratch or destroy any part of the hat.
3. Plumes will be distributed before each performance and will be collected afterwards.

Instrumental Responsibilities

Your musical instrument is the most important item for this band. Many of you may own your own, but some may not due to financial situations or for other reasons. The school has a limited number of instruments that students may borrow for their own personal use. Each student will fill out a card with their instrument information on it (serial number, model, etc.) We will keep these cards on file to quickly locate your information in the case of theft, loss, etc. This will also allow us to keep a modified and up-to-date inventory.

If you have a problem with your own personal instrument or with one that you are renting from the school, then bring it to me to see if it is something that I can fix. If not, we can ship it to a music store for repairs. During the time of the repair, you are allowed to use any extras that we may have in storage.

The Band Room: Rules

The band room serves as a classroom for instructional purposes as well as a place for band students to gather for performances. It must always remain treated as any other classroom at the high school. The rules for the band room are as follows:

1. Be in your seat/on the field and ready to start within 2 minutes of the tardy bell
2. Always be attentive and ready to rehearse when Mr. Heath is ready.
3. Do not interrupt the rehearsal by any means or the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken. Depending on the severity of your actions, you may be dropped from band.
4. Always leave the room cleaner than you found it.
5. Do not eat, drink or chew gum in the band room.
6. Be courteous and respectful to all faculty, staff and peers.
7. Be respectful to all equipment found in the band room and during outdoor -rehearsals. If it does not belong to you, do not bother it.

Any and all violations of these rules will be dealt with the corresponding disciplinary actions applied at Park View High School

Park View High School Band Hazing Policy

Hazing is illegal and will not be tolerated in any form. Depending on the severity of the incident, consequences for hazing can range from a verbal warning to removal from the band and/or prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parent Assisting

We invite all band parents to take an active involvement in their children(s) musical endeavors with the Park View High School Band program. Understanding that most parents are limited in the number of hours they can contribute, nearly all successful parent organizations share a common feature: Many parents contributing a little time or expertise to help the organization run smoothly. It is important to note that being a contributing band parent does not necessarily mean being at every band boosters meeting. There are a number of ways parents can help: chaperoning, helping to distribute, collect, and organize uniforms, helping with a particular fundraiser, etc. In other words, without the assistance of parents, this program cannot function as it should. Please consider being an active parent and see to it that your children reach their full experience with the PVHS Band program.

Final Words From The Director

Being in a high school music program can be very fulfilling, only if you allow it to be. Oftentimes, I find band members to become the closest of friends, which is what we need for this band. The band in general is considered to be a family. We work hard, play hard, and spend an enormous amount of time together. I understand tensions can and probably will rise, but now is the time to make yourself act as an adult and realize that petty issues aren't for the best of the band. Within the band, there are a variety of people, some of different ethnicity, religion, etc. We must put all of that behind us to allow the band to form as a unit, not as individuals. Remember, the band program goes on all year, unlike the sports programs that season out. We are an ongoing organization that the community respects and admires. Let's all put forth 100% all the time and have the best high school band in the state. Always strive for excellence and never settle for mediocracy.

--Mr. Allen P. Heath

