PLAINVIEW PIRATE BAND HANDBOOK

"ONE BAND, ONE SOUND"



2026 – 2027

Pirate Band Handbook

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Dear Pirate Band:

Welcome back! I am incredibly excited to have you as an integral part of the Pirate Band! The Instrumental Music program at Plainview is a special place where you as a student will get the opportunity to express yourselves individually and, in an ensemble setting. Not only will you be enabled to perform selected literature on your specific instrument, but it will also give a general understanding of music as a performer, listener, and intelligent consumer of the fine arts. The instrumental course will require a great amount of daily attendance, class and concert participation, positive attitude, attentiveness, adherence to class expectations, proper use of social skills, and respect toward individuals and themselves.

This handbook has been designed to assist both the student and parent. As will all great music programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make this a rewarding experience for everyone involved. This handbook has been created to be a tool to help answer any questions you may have.

If you do find that you have a question that is unanswered by this handbook, please contact Ms. Fulsaas.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pirate Band is to provide a quality music education to all students. The goal is to achieve quality by focusing on the individual performer. Concert Band, Marching Band, small ensembles, and solo experiences lead to a well-rounded player. Performance opportunities, especially those through the Nebraska Music Education Association, are encouraged for all. Additionally, through the band, students develop a sense of belonging, teamwork, time management, dedication, self-esteem, leadership, cooperation, and responsibility.

Ensemble Information

All students who have any interest in performing in band, are welcomed!

I. Marching Band:

This ensemble will be taking place in the first half of the fall semester. The scheduled rehearsal time will be dedicated to the rehearsals of the Marching Band. Student attendance will be required.

II. Concert Band:

The concert Band takes place the rest of the school year when Marching Band is finished. This ensemble will get the opportunity to play repertoire of varying grade levels. Pep Band is also an extension of this ensemble.

Pep band is a great way to show your school pride! All events, unless a excused overlap occurs (other Activities or family events with prior notice), are required.

Band Activities and Events

Below is a partial list of the Pirate Band Activities, Practices and Performances during the year. Some are mandatory while others are voluntary.

I. Mandatory Band Activities:
- Winter and Spring Concerts
- District Music Contest in the Spring
- Assemblies (if applicable)
- Pep Band
- Other Performing Events

II. Voluntary Band Activities:
- Solo and Small Groups for District Music Contest
- All-State and Honor Band Auditions throughout the school year

Watch the school calendar and announcements should one of these events be canceled, postponed, or another event is added upon Director approval.

Absences

To be considered an excused absence you must follow the absence policies below.

I. Excused Absences from Practices, Performances, or Other Required Activities:
- Personal illness
- Unavoidable family events: Weddings, a death in the family, etc. (Prior notice required, if possible)
- Direct conflicts with other school activities
- Other items at the discretion of the director
- Students will be asked to do an additional project to make up for the absence of performances

II. Unexcused Absences from Practices, Performances, or Other Required Activities:

- Work and homework are not considered an excused absence. Employers should be notified well in advance of your obligations to both family and school events. Provide your employer a copy of your calendar to assist them in scheduling. Please be courteous.
- Examples of Absence Excuses Not Accepted:

1. "Had to work." Make arrangements with your employer early.
2. "Couldn't get a ride." Be responsible. Arrange this early, or carpool!
3. "Didn't know about it." Be responsible. Listen and read all information on the attached calendar carefully.
4. "Forgot my instrument" Be responsible.
5. "My Parents made me stay home to do homework." Always maintain your grades! Be responsible. Uphold your commitment to the band by being a good student!
6. "I have a doctor's appointment." Please schedule around events if possible!
7. "Family or relatives are visiting." Visit and explain your commitment to the total organization. Bring them to the performances or events and let them watch!
8. "I'm grounded by my parents." Have them contact the Ms. Fulsaas for discipline assistance; there is much work to be done around the band room.
9. In the event that something does take precedence, please contact me and we can discuss it!

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Your best is always good enough for me. Below are things that will lower your grade when you are not giving your best. Please give it your all!

I. Daily Participation in Rehearsals: 40% of Final Grade

All students receive 5 points per rehearsal in this category if expectations are met. Points will be deducted as follows at the discretion of the director:

- Tardy to Class
- Absent
- Not prepared for class (Music, Pencil, Reed, Instrument, etc.)

II. Playing Test: 20% of Final Grade

Throughout the semester, student progress will be monitored through written and verbal test: Some examples include:

- Memorizing Marching Band Songs
- Semester Test
- Playing Test

Throughout the semester we will have Playing Test to check in on student progress and what is needed to help support the musician. These will be announced ahead of time so that the students can have time to practice and prepare. Evidence of effort and practice will determine what grade you receive. Please give your best!

III. Performance Attendance: 40% of Final Grade

Students will receive full credit for attending and actively participating in a performance. These graded performances include those for Concert Band, Marching Band, and Pep Band.

- If a student must miss a performance for any foreseeable reason, a note from a parent must be received to Ms. Fulsaas at least **ONE WEEK** prior to the event.
- If a student has a VALID, excused absence, the concert must be made up in the form of an additional project that is to be determined by Ms. Fulsaas. Grades for missed performances will be immediately recorded as a zero until made up. It is the student's responsibly to check in with Ms. Fulsaas about a make up assignment.
- Any unexcused absence WILL result in a zero for that performance. Please see Absences for what acts as a excused and unexcused absence.
- Pep Band will be graded as 50 Points each semester. Concerts will be graded 100 Points each performance.

General Band Room Rules

1. DRINKS or FOOD are not permitted during the school day and not allowed into the band room. Water is accepted and great!
2. You are responsible for the cleanliness of your area in the instrument storage area and band room. Please, do not leave anything other than your instrument and music in your cubby. Instrument cases must be closed and always latched. All percussion instruments and equipment should be correctly put away after use.
3. Vandalism and theft will not be tolerated.
4. Please treat others and their belongings with respect and kindness.

Equipment Responsibilities

Students are responsible for ensuring they will have a quality, working instrument for band. They should either own their own instrument or arrange with Ms. Fulsaas to rent an instrument.

- Students are responsible for having their instruments in good playing condition. This involves regular maintenance checks and will occasionally involve taking the instrument in for repairs. If an instrument is not working, it is advised to talk to Ms. Fulsaas right away. Please come in BEFORE SCHOOL if you need to borrow an instrument while yours is being fixed.
- Students using Plainview Public Schools school-owned instruments will be expected to pay a fee to rent the instrument for the school year unless on free and reduced lunch. Repairs beyond normal wear of the instrument are the students' responsibility. Normal wear will be at the discretion of the band director.
- Students will be responsible for having the necessary accessories for their instruments in every rehearsal and performance. These accessories can include quality reeds, ligatures, mouthpieces, mutes, swabs, sticks, etc. Please see Ms. Fulsaas for quality recommendations.
- Each student is expected to have the proper supplies to maintain their instrument. While valve oil and slide grease are provided at the school, maintaining your instrument needs to be taken care of. All woodwind players need to have 2-3 good reeds in their case that they can use regularly. Reeds can be purchased at Midwest Music in Norfolk, Amazon, or JW Pepper. Please talk to Ms. Fulsaas if you are unsure what brand or strength of reed to purchase. Some reeds will also be available to purchase from Ms. Fulsaas.
- Students will be given original copies of music for practice and performances. Sets of music can be very expensive. It is the responsibility of the student to keep their music well organized and in good condition. The cost to replace lost/destroyed music will be the responsibility of the student.

Uniform/Proper Uniform Wear

A uniform will be checked out to each student before the marching season begins and check in at the conclusion of the school year. Uniforms are stored at the school and will be properly hung and cared for. Your uniform should always be placed on the hanger to help maintain its proper shape and look. Do not ever do any alterations to the uniform. If hemming is needed to allow the uniform to fit correctly, Ms. Fulsaas will alter the uniform.

Students should take great pride in and will properly wear the uniform at all times required. The uniform will be worn as a "full uniform" or "half uniform" unless otherwise specified.

- Full uniform: Black marching shoes, black socks, marching pants, and marching jacket
- Half uniform: Black marching shoes, black socks, and marching pants.

It is extremely important to remember everyone judges your school based on YOUR actions in the Plainview Band Uniform. So, it is imperative you treat your uniform with the utmost respect and show your Plainview Pirate Pride!

For concert band performances you will be expected to wear SCHOOL APPROPRIATE concert dress. We will discuss about concert attire prior to each concert.

Travel

Travel to and from school events will be done by school bus or school van. The only expectation is if the student leaves with a parent, I must have spoken to the parent and the student. ONLY A PARENT/GUARDIAN IS ALLOWED TO TAKE A STUDENT HOME. **Exception – Family Relative in the case that a Parent/Guardian is unable to take the student home, BUT I MUST HAVE A NOTE OR MESSAGE FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFIRMING.

While we are at events, it is expected that the student represents the school positively! If we are at a school event and any type of contraband is found (Alcohol, vapes, cigarettes, etc.), a parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and the student will be excused from the event. A parent will need to pick up the student and that student will not be allowed to participate in any out-of-town events for the rest of the school year.

Financial Responsibilities:

We will be taking several trips this year for competitions and honor events. It is the responsibility of the student to bring their own lunch money or lunch to eat while we are at these events if lunch is not provided.

Fundraising

There will be several opportunities this year to fundraise. Group fundraising money will be placed in the music account to put toward any activities or needs that the music program will have. The more that is raised will contribute to what the ensemble will be able to do!

EXTRA FUNDRAISING EVENTS A separate Band Account has been made for the purpose of purchasing new instruments and equipment for the band. Added events may appear to assist in building this account.

Band Lettering (High School Only)

A Total of 500 Points is required to letter

- Freshman completing entire year: 50 Points
- Sophomores completing entire year: 100 Points
- Juniors completing entire year: 150 Points
- Seniors completing entire year: 200 Points
- "A" average for the year in Band: 150 Points
- "B" average for the year in Band: 100 Points
- Audition for Honor Bands: 20 Points
- Acceptance into Honor Bands: 50 Points
- Solo or Small Ensemble Participation at DMC: 20 Points
- Receive Superior Rating at DMC: 50 Points
- Solo performance in the Community: 10 Points
- Set up and tear down for concerts: 20 Points
- Perfect performance attendance (Concerts): 50 points
- After school help in a Music Room: 50 Points
- Attend a Professional Concert: 100 Points
- Attend a College Concert: 50 Points

Communication

Communication will be made through weekly emails and announcements through social media. It is HIGHLY encouraged to check in with the weekly email to see what's happening in the band room and to stay up to date on events.

Calendar

** Event changes and schedule updates will be announced in class. Updates will also be notified via email. Second Semester dates are still being added. An updated schedule will be sent out to students before the end of the semester**

August 8th – Band Camp (ALL BAND)
September 2nd – Nebraska State Fair (ALL BAND)
September 19th – Lions Club Parade in Norfolk (ALL BAND)

October 3rd – WSC Band Day (ALL BAND)
October 5th – Hawkfest @ Northeast Community College (9-12 AUDITION)
October 10th – State Parade Championship in Columbus (ALL BAND)
November 3rd –Battle of the Bands in Tilden (ALL BAND)
November 11th – Veterans Day (ALL BAND)
November 12th-13th – USD Quad State Honor Band (9-12 AUDITION)
November 19th – 20th – NMEA All-State in Lincoln (9-12 AUDITION)
December 17th – 7-12 Concert (ALL BAND)

January 25th – Conference Band at Plainview (ALL 9-12)
February 6th – Staton Honor Band (7-8 NOMINATION)
April 10th – Pierce Honor Band (6-9 AUDITION)
March 19th-20th – Class C All-State (7-12 AUDITION)
April 1st – Pre-District Music Contest Concert (ALL BAND)
April 23rd – District Music Contest (ALL BAND)
May 11th – Variety Show (ALL BAND)

TBA: Spring Honor Band dates

Pep Band Calendar

** Event changes and schedule updates will be announced in class. Second Semester dates are still being added. An updated schedule will be sent out to students before the end of the semester**

September 4th – FB vs. Scotus Central Catholic **Homecoming
September 11th – FB vs. Logan View
September 25th – FB vs. Battle Creek
October 16th – FB vs. Cedar Catholic

December 4th – BB vs. Wausa
December 11th – BB vs. EPPJ
December 18th – BB vs. LCC
January 14th – BB vs. Stanton
January 28th – BB vs. Cedar Catholic
February 12th – BB vs. Creighton

TBA:

Playoffs
District Basketball