

PLAINVIEW ISD BAND

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"A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE" BAND POLICY HANDBOOK

I. FORWARD

The band handbook has been devised for the benefit of Plainview I.S.D. band members and their parents. The handbook describes all organizational aspects of the Plainview band program. The handbook is also intended to provide knowledge of established traditions for the purpose of promoting "Esprit de Corps" within the band. Should there be an inconsistency in campus policy and district policy; district policy will always supersede campus policy.

II. PHILOSOPHY

Band is first and foremost an academic subject fulfilling the state requirement for Fine Arts in the school curriculum. With the implementation of House Bill 246 passed by the Texas Legislature in 1984, the Texas Education Agency required Fine Arts to be offered in all Texas public schools. Many colleges and universities are requiring Fine Arts as a high school graduation requirement for college entry. Band meets and fulfills these requirements. Although the band is involved in many "extracurricular" activities through the course of the year, these are merely extensions of the essential elements being taught in the classroom. House Concurrent Resolution No. 105 states:

"Whereas, while education and technology may be the building materials of a prosperous society, the arts and humanities are the building materials of civilization, and their importance in the lives of every individual cannot be overestimated."

The Plainview High School Band is one of the most successful band programs in the nation. There have been several generations of students that have contributed to the "Tradition of Excellence" associated with the PHS Band. Therefore, membership in the PHS Band should be considered a privilege and not a "right". It is an honor for a student to be a member of this band program, and each band member is expected to uphold the honor of the PHS Band through his/her conduct, loyalty, and dedication.

III. ATTENDANCE

In order to maintain a high quality band program, it is sometimes necessary to have extra rehearsals outside the regular school day. However, because of the large number of students in band that are involved in other school activities, extra band rehearsals will be held to a minimum. Extra rehearsals will be announced in advance so that transportation and work schedule arrangements can be made. If at any time a band member is unable to attend an extra rehearsal, the director should be notified at least one day in advance. The absence is unexcused unless advance approval is given. Exceptions may be made for emergency situations.

Students that have excessive absences from band due to unexcused absences and/or disciplinary actions such as I.S.S., A.E., etc. may forfeit a marching spot or chair placement. A student is eligible for extra curricular activities at 3:55 pm of the last day of the ISS/DAEP assignment. They also may be moved to a lower band, forfeit participation in band activities and trips, or may be removed from the band program.

Missed rehearsals and performances, excused or unexcused, must be made up. Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances may result in disciplinary action or have a negative impact on a student's grade. Continual unexcused absences from rehearsals may result in the student being dismissed from the band program.

Attendance at summer band rehearsals is mandatory for membership in the marching band. Vacations and summer jobs must be scheduled so as to not conflict with summer band rehearsals.

An unexcused absence from a performance is considered the most severe violation of band attendance rules. Band members must be depended upon to make every effort to be in attendance at all public performances. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in disciplinary action, the student being removed from the performing group, or a severe negative impact on a student's grade. An unexcused absence may also result in the student being dismissed from the band program.

IV. GENERAL BAND HALL CONDUCT

The following rules are for band classroom conduct:

- Be on time--be prepared
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- No gum, food, candy, paper, straws, etc. in the band hall.
- Take proper care of school property
- All Cell phones, MP3 players, and unapproved electronic devices should be turned off and stored out of sight.
- All of our rules and procedures can be summarized into the following four RIGHTS:
 - BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE.
 - AT THE RIGHT TIME.
 - WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.
 - AND THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

V. GRADING

As we stated in section II, Philosophy, band is an academic subject fulfilling the state requirements for Fine Arts. Band grades will be based on a student's ability to demonstrate mastery of the essential elements required for band. Mastery will be demonstrated in the following ways:

- A. Participation in extra rehearsals and public performances.
- B. Tests over music being taught and rehearsed during band.
- C. Memorization tests on music for marching band.
- D. Demonstration of proper marching fundamentals.
- E. Tests over required scales and technical exercises.
- F. Tests to determine sight-reading skills.
- G. Written and playing tests over rhythmic counting, note reading, key signatures recognition, fingerings for assigned instrument.
- H. Extra credit may be given for students who participate in all-region band or solo and ensemble competition.

Students are also responsible for maintaining a passing grade in all other subjects. Any band member that makes a six or nine weeks grade below 70 in any class will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a period of three or more weeks (No pass, No play!). Students that are ineligible to participate in several band activities throughout the year because of consistent failing grades may be removed from the band program.

VI. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. MARCHING BAND:

- The student will be able to perform all marching band music, warm-ups, scales, etc.
- The student must memorize all music and warm-ups that are required for marching band
- The student will be able to perform all marching fundamentals and techniques that are required for marching band.
- The student will attend all extra rehearsals including summer band, night rehearsals, section rehearsals, and performances as required by the director.

B. CONCERT BAND

- The student will be able to perform all concert band music, warm-ups, scales, etc.
- The student will be able to perform technical exercises as required.
- The student will be able to perform all solo and ensemble and all-region band music as required.
- The student will attend all extra rehearsals including section rehearsals, clinics, and performances as required by the director.

VII. EQUIPMENT/MUSIC

The equipment and music provided for us by the taxpayers of our school district and the generosity of our Band Boosters represents many thousands of dollars. Beyond the expense involved in the instrumental music program, we each have a personal obligation to maintain our equipment for longevity and personal pride.

All school owned instruments and equipment will be issued using an appropriate PISD form. An instrument usage fee of \$10.00 will be collected when the instruments are checked out and is not refundable. Maintenance and care of such equipment becomes the responsibility of the student. Excessive abuse (i.e. dents, slides, bent keys, valves, etc...) will be repaired at the student's expense.

All instruments should be stored in the band hall on the proper shelf or in the proper area for that instrument. Instruments should be kept in the case with the case closed and latched when not in use. If your instrument is not properly stored consistently, you may lose the privilege of using a school owned instrument. Students are encouraged to take their instruments home after school whenever possible, not only to practice, but also to ensure better security for that instrument.

The Plainview Independent School District is not responsible for loss or damage to personal band instruments due to theft, vandalism, or accidents while at school or on a school activity.

The individual pieces of music and method books assigned to the students are the same as any textbook loaned to the student. If the student loses or damages a text he is required to make monetary compensation to the school district for the loss or damage. Therefore, any item checked out to the student, immediately becomes the responsibility of that student.

VIII. UNIFORMS

The Plainview Band uniform will be worn with pride and dignity. The uniform is an outward indication of the "Esprit de Corps" of the entire organization.

A uniform fee of \$10.00 per year will be charged each member of the Plainview band program. This fee will be used to clean the uniform during the summer, and to help with the general upkeep of the uniform. The uniform fee is to be paid when you check out the uniform and is not refundable. Band members have the responsibility of having the uniform cleaned during the course of the year. If a

student has a problem with his/her uniform; the student should notify the director immediately so that the problem can be taken care of.

Alterations to uniforms are not permitted without prior approval of the director.

A uniform bag and a heavy-duty hanger will be issued for maintenance purposes. If the student loses or breaks the hanger, they will be responsible for replacing it. Obligations at the end of the school year, such as failure to return the uniform or damage to any portion of the uniform will result in replacement cost being paid to the school. All band students are expected to properly store their band uniform at home.

Required uniform accessories will include clean, long, all-white socks with no stripes or designs. All students will be required to have all white marching shoes to be designated by the band director. The Plainview Band uniform will be worn with pride. The uniform will be worn in its entirety unless the director specifies otherwise. Shoes will be polished and shoe laces will be clean. Trouser length will touch the top of the shoes with the seam running straight down the side. Long hair (girls and boys) will be pinned up and worn underneath the hat. No jewelry will be worn exposed during any performance.

IX. BAND TRIPS

The high school band will go to all out of town football games.

The high school band will also go to marching contest and concert and sight-reading contest. Other trips will be determined by advancement through competition or spring activities.

Bus lists will be signed before each trip. Students must sit on the bus in their assigned seats. On buses, students must stay in their assigned seat unless they are given permission to move by the director or a sponsor. The students must keep arms and legs in side the windows of the bus. Loud talking or yelling is not permitted. Portable electronic devices etc. are to be used with headphones only! *NO public displays of affection (PDA).*

On all trips, each band member is responsible for making certain that his/her instrument, uniform, and all necessary equipment is loaded. A loading crew may be assigned to load certain equipment, but it is each student's responsibility to get that equipment to the loading crew. Upon returning from a trip, each student is responsible for storing their equipment properly in the band hall or for taking it home. Band members must also clear all buses of personal items and trash before departing the bus.

*******All percussionists are responsible for packing and loading all *****
percussion equipment after each trip or performance.**

The Plainview Band may have the opportunity to take a trip in the spring, or other times of the year, to participate in parades, festivals, or other public performances. Each student will be responsible for earning his/her own way. Students will have the opportunity to earn money for the trip through various fund raising activities. Students may also earn credit toward their trip through various work and community service projects.

Participation in the band trip should not be thought of as "optional" by band members. The goal of these trips is to enrich the student's lives through unique educational opportunities. The award winning Plainview Band Program receives

many invitations and has many opportunities to perform around the United States. When we accept an invitation to perform, we owe it to our school, community and ourselves to present the best possible performance! When we perform without some members, we are not properly representing the "Tradition of Excellence" associated with our band program. This is not only a disservice to ourselves, but also to those who have worked and sacrificed to make our trip possible. Therefore, all band members are expected to make every possible effort to participate in the band trip.

Students must keep their grades up and be eligible for participation in U.I.L. contests to be eligible to go on the spring trip. Any student that becomes ineligible for U.I.L. contest in the semester of the trip will forfeit his/her participation in the trip.

X. TRAVEL CONDUCT

When the band appears in public, they are representing the school and community. Band members are expected to always conduct themselves in a courteous and polite manner. Because of the size of our program, band members are sometimes expected to adhere to a higher code of conduct than may be expected from members of other organizations.

While traveling with the band, no band member shall:

1. Use any tobacco products
2. Use or be in possession of alcohol beverages
3. Use or be in possession of any illegal drugs or substances
4. Use or be in possession of firearms or other weapons
5. Participate in any illegal activity including theft, vandalism, etc.
6. Exhibit improper behavior

Any band member that violates any of the preceding rules or otherwise brings embarrassment to the band or the school is subject to disciplinary action and may forfeit membership in the Plainview band program.

***** It is the policy of Plainview ISD that students should travel to and from events by bus. Students will be allowed to leave from the event with their parents only if they are traveling from the event to a LOCATION OTHER THAN PLAINVIEW. All arrangements for leaving from an event with parents must be made in advance. Students will not be released to anyone other than their parents unless arrangements have been approved in advance by the director. *****

All school policies pertaining to conduct and dress at school are in effect on all band trips.

XI. SENIOR BAND JACKETS AND AWARDS

Band jackets and letters are awarded by the Plainview High School Band honoring those qualified students for their loyalty, hard work, and contribution to the Plainview Band. All students with band jackets are encouraged to wear all of their medals, patches, and insignia that have been earned throughout their band career. If a student has previously earned a jacket from another organization, he/she may receive a letter or patch for their band senior award. To qualify for a band senior award, the student must:

- A. Be a member of the High School Band for all four years of high school.
- B. Successfully complete his/her senior year in band.
- C. Any student who becomes a TMEA All-State band/orchestra member automatically becomes eligible for a band jacket regardless of grade classification.

**** The senior jacket remains the property of the Plainview Band until the student successfully completes his/her senior year of band. If a student fails to complete his/her senior year in band, the band jacket will be returned undamaged to the Plainview Band.****

XII. SUMMARY

The Plainview Band program represents the largest portion of the student body of any organization in school. Therefore, members of the Plainview Band have a responsibility to the school, the community, the organization, and to themselves to always represent Plainview in a first-class manner. Becoming a winner starts first in the mind, second through actions, and third through actual awards. The Plainview Band has a reputation not only in West Texas, but throughout the state and across the nation for having a "Tradition of Excellence". It is the duty of every member of the band to uphold this tradition to the very best of his/her ability.

PLAINVIEW HIGH SCHOOL BAND

CALENDAR

2009-2010

Aug. 3	Summer Band Begins		
Aug. 15	Uniform Checkout		*SATURDAY*
Aug. 22	March-a-thon		*SATURDAY*
Aug. 24	School Starts		
Aug. 28	Monterey Game--Here	7:30	
Sept. 4	Randall Game--Here	7:30	
Sept. 11	First Responders Concert	7:00	
Sept. 18	Dumas Game—There	7:30	
Sept. 25	Palo Duro Game--There	7:30	
Oct. 2	Pampa Game—Here (homecoming)	7:30	
Oct. 3	DENVER CITY MARCHING FESTIVAL	All Day	*SATURDAY*
Oct. 9	Lake View Game--Here	7:30	
Oct. 10	Plainview/Lubbock Marching Festival	All Day	*SATURDAY*
Oct. 12	Night Rehearsal	7:00-9:00	*MONDAY NIGHT*
Oct. 16	Big Spring Game-There	7:30	
Oct. 17	UIL MARCHING CONTEST-LUBBOCK		*SATURDAY*
Oct. 23	Frenship Game--There	7:30	
Oct. 24	Area Marching Contest—Odessa	All Day	*SATURDAY*
Oct. 30	Hereford Game—Here (parents night)	7:30	
Nov. 2-4	State Marching Contest—San Antonio	TBA	
Nov. 6	Abilene Cooper Game—There	7:30	

*******All November weekends past November 6, 2009 may involve post-district football games including THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND! All band students should be prepared to attend these playoff games. THIS IS MANDATORY--IT IS NOT AN OPTION! *******

Nov. 21	ALL REGION BAND TRYOUTS—Frenship		*SATURDAY*
Nov. 30	High School Christmas Concert--Wayland	6:00	
Dec. 3	Christmas Parade	TBA	*THURSDAY*
Jan. 8-9	Area Band Auditions--Abilene		*SATURDAY*
Jan. 15-16	All-Region Orchestra Clinic/Concert--Abilene		*SATURDAY*
Jan. 29-30	All-Region Band Clinic/Concert—Lubbock		*SATURDAY*
Feb. 20	U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble Contest--Lubbock		*SATURDAY*
Mar. 4	All Region Jazz Auditions-Frenship		*SATURDAY*
Mar. 25	Night Rehearsal	7:00-10:00	*THURSDAY*
Mar. 26-27	All Region Jazz Clinic/Concert-South Plains College		*SATURDAY*
Mar. 30	Pre-UIL Concert--Wayland	7:00	*TUESDAY*
Apr. 7	U.I.L. CONCERT & SIGHT-READING CONTEST-Wayland		*WEDNESDAY*
Apr. 17	Band Banquet		*SATURDAY*
May 4	Jazz Concert—Fair Theater	6:00 p.m.	*TUESDAY*
May 6	High School Spring Concert (Wayland)	7:00 p.m.	*THURSDAY*
May 7	Greater Southwest Music Festival-Amarillo		*FRIDAY*
May 12	Drum Major Color Guard Tryouts		
May 28	Graduation Band		
May 30-June 1	U.I.L. STATE SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST—Austin		

PARENTAL PERMIT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN FIELD TRIPS OR ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS (IN-TOWN OR OUT-OF-TOWN)

Student's Name

School Year

During the school year, we will be taking field trips, participating in athletic events, or taking other school-sponsored trips that involve walking or riding on school district provided transportation. We will let you know more specifically about any of these trips before they actually occur. I agree to allow my child to travel with a group or individuals associated with the Plainview I.S.D.

I realize the school district does not carry medical insurance to cover accidents that may occur such as falling, tripping, etc. I hereby give the school district employees my permission to seek necessary medical assistance, including hospitalization, in the event of any medical emergency involving my child. I understand that I will be notified as to the nature of the emergency as soon as possible. I also give my permission for the doctor or health facility to give any medical and health information to the school nurse.

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Parent or Guardian Signature

Home Phone Number: _____

Work Phone Number: _____

Student Signature (where applicable)

Please complete the following information:
Allergies (including medication):

Other medication currently being taken:

Name of Medical Insurance Company:

Policy Number: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone Number: _____

The sponsors of any student trip should take with them a copy of this form.

I have received a copy of the PISD Band Handbook.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples Of Activities Subject To The UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To And From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades And Other Public Performances
- Instruction And Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above
and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form is to be kept on file by the local school district.