



POCAHONTAS BANDS

2312 Stadium Drive
Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455
T 870 892 4573 x3050
F 870 892 8857
www.pocahontasband.org

GRADING POLICIES

2016-2017 School Year

High School Band - 7th period

PARTICIPATION

Each student will receive a daily participation grade in addition to other academic work. This grade will be worth 10 points per rehearsal (50-70 points per week).

Students will receive their entire credit, unless the following occur:

- 1) Absence from rehearsal for any reason (including illness & excused absences).
- 2) Behavior issues in the band room, whether in or out of rehearsal.
- 3) Misuse of equipment, sheet music, or any band property.
- 4) Failure to be responsible for items issued to the student.
- 5) Student not being prepared for class (supplies, preparation of music, etc.)

Students who only occasionally lose their daily points won't notice a difference in their grade. However, students who continually miss, or consistently have trouble with the other criteria will notice a significant impact on their grade. Please note that in extreme cases where a student commits several infractions on the same day, more points may be taken from other daily grades.

Students may earn back the points by turning in documented practice time (signed by parents for home practice or by the directors for at-school practice outside of class). The rate will be 4 points per hour of practice that is turned in. Additionally, there will be some other opportunities for bonus points to help offset instances where students must miss.

The rationale behind this policy is simple. Students who miss rehearsal negatively affect the entire band. While there are times that students must miss, they can make up for their absence by practicing what they missed, and receive credit for their efforts.

These extra points will be added at the end of the nine-week period. Participation grades will be combined per week (50-70 points per week). Participation grades are weighted twice during the calendar week before a major performance.

Please remember that we have a signed "Commitment to Excellence" contract on file for each member.

OTHER ACADEMIC GRADES

Scheduled Performances - 200 pts

All-Region Tryouts - 200 pts

Various Playing Assessments throughout the year - TBA (usually 200 pts)

1st Nine Weeks Marching Show Memorization Project - 1100 pts

2nd Nine-Weeks Scale & Etude Project - 1500 pts

3rd Nine-Week Project - 100 pts per test

Other grades as assigned

ABSENCES

It is important that everyone be at every rehearsal and performance. Please make routine medical and other appointments at times that will allow you to be at the band room during 7th period and after school, particularly within two weeks of a performance.

If you must miss a performance, your parent/guardian must notify the director BEFORE the event. Only personal illness, family emergency or other extreme circumstances will be considered excused. Any form of communication is ok, as long as it is from the parent/guardian and arrives prior to the event.

Unexcused absences from a performance will result in a zero grade for the performance. Multiple absences will result in removal from the band program. Because every performance is a team effort, excused absences will result in a 90% grade for the performance.

HOME PRACTICE

While no practice sheet is required for this class, you are expected to have your music and materials prepared and ready to contribute to the group's success.

The band website is www.pocahontasband.org. The band calendar is on the home page.

Check it often. It is regularly updated and will contain the most current information.

THE RULES

- School rules are always in effect at any band event, on or off campus.
- No gum in the band room, regardless of time of day.
- Put a pencil in your instrument case or folder so it's available every day.
- Have your music and equipment ready for class, and put them away correctly after class. (latch cases, cover percussion equipment, etc.)
- The band room is open during non-rehearsal times IF you have permission to be there, and are actively practicing your instrument, or have permission to do something else.
- The old band room is available for your use if you ask permission to be in there. You don't automatically have permission unless your class is meeting in there.
- The directors' office is not a public place. Knock on the door and wait to be invited in. If you're not invited in, something important is going on, and you should try again later.
- You do not have permission to go to the bathroom or to get a drink during rehearsal.
- Cell phones are not allowed unless the director has specifically allowed their use. Using them during inappropriate times will result in your phone being confiscated.
- The band rooms are off limits to non-band students. Ask your friends to wait at the door.
- Read the board when you arrive. Use that information to be prepared to begin rehearsal on time, and with the proper equipment.
- Take care of getting supplies, oiling valves, getting water, using the bathroom, etc., before class begins. You'll notice that we allow you an extra three or four minutes before counting you tardy.
- Keep us informed of special situations or schedule conflicts. It is YOUR responsibility to communicate with us. We take responsibility for communicating with you.

TRAVEL

- EVERYONE rides the bus to events. Students may be released only to their parents, who must sign them out when they leave. Exceptions to this rule must be approved (in advance) by bringing a note from your parent explaining the situation, and naming the individual who will be responsible for you. The note must include the date of the event. The note must be signed by your principal before bringing it to the band directors.
- The transportation department works very well with us, and relaxes a few of the policies unless we abuse the privilege. We allow some food and drink on the bus. Drinks must be in plastic bottles with screw-on tops. Food must be easily handled - no ice cream, nachos, or anything that could potentially drip or spill. In the event something is spilled, clean it up immediately. As much as we travel, we certainly don't want to lose this privilege.
- Respect your fellow bus riders. Electronic devices are welcome, but noise is not. Use headphones or turn off the volume. Group singing is a no-no. The concept is that as we travel, we don't want to stress each other out and having resentment regarding listening to unwanted noise.
- At the end of the trips, officers (and others who take pride in our reputation) will go through each bus and make sure we have left no trash or mess of any kind. Since the drivers allow us some leeway with the food policy, we're certainly not going to expect them to clean up after us.
- The vast majority of our travels have us returning to Pocahontas after dark. Your shoes, socks, instrument cases, electronics, etc., are black. Keep up with them; you are responsible if you leave items on the bus - they tend to get confiscated by the bus garage.
- The driver is the "captain of the ship." He/she is responsible for the safe travel of our group. Always follow the directions of the driver - they are not negotiable.
- Make sure your travel outfit is dress-code appropriate.
- Bus seating sign-ups occur just before call time. Once your name is on the list, you are assigned. Do not scratch out any names or make changes. Write legibly. If there are issues with this, the band directors will assign seats alphabetically to save time getting on the road.
- Safe travel is a priority. Stay seated. Keep your belongings out of the aisles. Keep the noise down to avoid distracting the driver.
- Unless we are experiencing an emergency, no one exits the bus until being released by a band director. There is almost always new information that needs to be announced before we split up.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

- Uniforms will remain at the band room and checked out for each performance. Be sure to arrive early enough for performances to check your uniform out and change clothes.
- You will be issued a clean uniform, and the entire set will be cleaned at least one other time during the season. Uniforms that become excessively soiled (as defined by the directors) will be cleaned, and the cost will be charged to the student.
- You will wear crew-length (or longer) black socks with your uniform. If you don't have them, we will charge you \$5 a pair to get them from us.
- Students are welcome to check out their uniforms and have them cleaned at their own expense anytime they wish. Be sure to obtain permission before taking your uniform from the band room.
- There will be no eating, nor will there be drinking of anything but clear liquids in uniform until the main performance is complete. After the performance, there are no restrictions, but take care to avoid dripping or spilling food onto the uniform.
- Uniforms are to be tidy and hung on assigned hangers when not in use.
- Students are financially responsible for their own shoes, socks and t-shirts. Wind players must also have a pair of clean gloves for performances. Your first pair will be issued free, and you will be charged \$4 per pair afterwards.
- No jewelry is worn while in uniform. This includes new piercings. Any facial hair (including sideburns) must be trimmed and tidy. Makeup and hair colors are to be conservative (as defined by the directors). If you must "express yourself," please wait until the end of the season.
- Any hair that touches the collar of the jacket must be put up inside the hat.
- Failure to follow any of the above guidelines will result in a lowering of your grade for the event.

While in uniform, you are an extremely visible representative of our band, school, and community. Watch your manners and protect our image.

BAND BOOSTERS

The purpose of the boosters is to help fund the program. This is done through the concession stand at home football games.

We will be asking for volunteer signups soon. We hope you'll help us help all of the students in the program, grades 6-12.

We ask that each family work in the concession stand at least once during the season.

The money raised through concessions pays for many band-related expenses for students at all levels and in all bands. We are dependent on this income to help pay for region and state registration fees, overnight travel, supplies, awards, and allows students to pay discounted prices on their supplies, t-shirts, and other expenses.

We also use this money to provide reeds, valve oil, and other instrument supplies without asking students to pay.

As you know, students who use a school-owned instrument are charged a \$45 per year maintenance fee. However, this fee is waived when a student's parent works two events at the concession stand (excluding the Redskin Classic).

Colorguard members also pay a \$20 fee to help offset the costs of purchasing equipment, supplies and uniforms.

Thank you, parents, in advance, for your help!

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

PARENT RESPONSE FORM / RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EASY "A"! This form is worth 100 points, and is due Friday, August 19.
Students will not be allowed to participate in the band program if this form is not signed and returned.

We have received the policies and expectations of the 2016-2017 High School Bands. I have read and understand what is expected of me, including, but not limited to:

*Grading Policies
School-Owned Instrument Fees
Uniform Guidelines
Attendance Requirements*

I understand that my attendance and effort affect the performance of others, and that my band grade counts towards my overall grade point average.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

EASY "A"! This form is worth 100 points, and is due Friday, August 19.
Students will not be allowed to participate in the band program if this form is not signed and returned.

We use several methods of electronic communication: Email, Website, and Facebook groups are active and used often. We also use REMIND as another communication tool. REMIND is a texting app that allows a group text to be sent to those subscribing to it. To subscribe, text this message: @hsb16-17 to the phone number 81010.

We expect to be able to communicate with you through electronic means.

Important information is sent via email to the addresses you provide. Please provide the email address you'll check most often. When an important email is sent, we will send a message via REMIND to alert you to check your email. We'll also post an alert on the appropriate Facebook group, as well as on the band website.

Our website is www.pocahontasband.org. The site is updated frequently. Coming events are listed on the home page. Suggestion: hit "refresh" when you visit the page. Sometimes, updates are made so often that many browsers don't keep up. Refreshing the page will update it for you.

We maintain two Facebook groups. THE POCAHONTAS BANDS is open to current students of the band program and their parents. The group 2016-2017 POCAHONTAS HS BAND is only open to High School members their parents, and members of staff. Click to join, and you will be added.

It is vital that we have a working email address for your family. Please provide the addresses below. Make sure the entire address is legible!

Student Email _____

Mom (adult female) Email _____

Dad (adult male) Email _____

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature