



## **POCAHONTAS BANDS**

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[www.pocahontasband.org](http://www.pocahontasband.org)

### **GRADING POLICIES**

#### **2016-2017 School Year**

7th Grade Band - 3rd Period

8th Grade Band - 4th Period

JR Beginning Band - 2nd 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 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 points per week). Participation grades are weighted twice during the calendar week before a major performance.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC GRADES**

Scheduled Performances - 200 pts

All-Region Tryouts - 200 pts (Required for 8th Grade Band)

Various Playing Assessments throughout the year - TBA (usually 100 pts)

2nd Nine-Weeks Scale & Etude Project - 1500 pts (*specific info on this will be sent home later*)

Other grades as assigned

### **ABSENCES**

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](http://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.

## UNIFORMS

- Football game uniforms will consist of your PJHS Band t-shirt, clean (no-holes) blue jeans, and clean athletic shoes.
- Concert uniforms will consist of nicer-than-school-day clothes. No jeans, athletic shoes, shorts, flip flops, etc. At minimum, a pair of khakis and a shirt with a color should be worn. Ladies - if you choose to wear a skirt or dress, make sure that it covers your knees while you are seated in front of the audience.
- 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 after the performances.
- Failure to follow any of the above guidelines will result in a lowering of your grade for the event.

## PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES

We feel strongly that younger students should be able to participate in various activities while being a band member. We do our best to work with other clubs and organizations so that students can find where their passions are.

On Thursday night JR Football games, some students are involved in multiple groups.

- 7th grade football players, volleyball players and cheerleaders are expected to participate in their game, and then join the band in the stands afterwards.
- 8th grade football players and volleyball players are not expected to play in the band during the games, but are expected to play with the band at pep rallies and other events. (Students will be allowed to participate with their other team if they are featured during the pep rally.)

## **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).

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

# JUNIOR HIGH BANDS

## PARENT RESPONSE FORM / RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**EASY "A"! This form is worth 100 points, and is due Friday, August 21.  
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 Junior High 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.*

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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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: @jrband1617 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](http://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