



Band Handbook



Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to begin or continue with your music career! It is proven that students involved in music thrive in other areas of education as well as basic social skills. You have taken an important step in becoming a well-rounded individual!

This handbook was designed for ALL BAND STUDENTS in Pawnee City, and it includes the calendar, grading and expectations, instrument rental, and everything else you need to know to be in band.

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Descriptions

High School Band

- The concert season for High School Band runs from August through May. Concert band meets as a class during the school day and is, therefore, graded on the same academic standards as other classes. **Mandatory performances** include, but are not limited to, a Fall Concert, a Christmas Concert in December, MUDECAS Contest in March, District Music Contest in April, and a Spring Concert. The band also performs at the Memorial Day service after school is dismissed for the year, a performance that involves the NEXT year's 8-12 band members.

High School Pep Band

- The band plays pep band music at EVERY home game. Because 8th graders are in high school band, they will be expected to participate in pep band. IF YOU CAN'T attend a game, all I expect is communication. Call, text, or tell me in class that you can't attend. If you do that the absence won't affect your grade. If you just don't show up, you will receive a zero in the grade book.

High School Marching Band

- **Mandatory performances** for the High School Marching Band include, but are not limited to the Johnson County Fair and the Richardson County Fair. These parades are mandatory and any exceptions need to be made prior to the event. Again, communication is the key. The band also marches in the Pawnee County Fair during the summer.

High School Jazz Band

- Jazz Band rehearses during regular class time. Membership is filled on a voluntary basis, as there is no audition to be accepted into the group.
- Performances include, but are not limited to: a Christmas Concert in December, MUDECAS Contest in March, District Music Contest in April, and a Spring Concert.

7th Graders ONLY

- Marching Band - In 7th grade, marching band is limited to carrying the banner for the High School Marching Band in the Pawnee County Fair Parade, the Johnson County Fair Parade, and the Richardson County Fair Parade. Students who are chosen to march at each parade will wear either red band shirts (provided by the school) OR shirts agreed upon by the director and those chosen. They will also wear similar shorts or pants.

Junior High Band (6th and 7th Graders)

- All 6th and 7th grade students are in a music block that meets during 6th period. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are band days, and Monday and Wednesday are chorus days with Ms. Robison.
- Because students will have so much more full-group practice during band, weekly practice at home might not be required. If I feel a student is struggling to keep up I will send the instrument and music home over a weekend so students can practice, OR I will suggest coming in before school to Band Club so they can practice with me.
- A space will be provided in the band room to store instruments, books, and anything else needed during band. If you own your child's instrument the serial number will be kept on record for insurance purposes.
- The concert season for Junior High Band runs from October through May. Concert band meets as a class during the school day and is, therefore, graded on the same academic standards as other classes. Mandatory performances include, but are not limited to, a Fall Concert, a Christmas Concert in December, a music contest in March or April, and a Spring Middle School Concert.

5th Grade Band

- 5th grade band will take place twice each week from approximately 2:00-2:40. Because we have such a limited time with full-group practice, weekly practicing must be done at home. Please see the expectations listed below as far as grading and practice minutes required.

Grading System

6-12 Band

- 50% daily classroom behavior
- 40% participation in concerts/contests
- 10% playing and written tests

50% daily classroom behavior

This grade includes, but is not limited to, the student's behavior toward the director and other students, and proper clean up of instruments, chairs, and stands.

40% participation, attendance

This portion of the grade includes pep band, concerts, and contest attendance. These performances are required. If a student is ill and the parent calls to excuse them, he/she then has the opportunity to make up for the absence. If the absence is unexcused, the grade earned will be a zero (0%) and the student will not have a chance to make up the grade.

10% playing and written tests

Periodic written tests will be given to challenge memory of terms and definitions, counting, and various other aspects of music.

5th Grade Band

- 50% daily classroom behavior
- 25% playing tests
- 15% practice minutes
- 10% written tests

Daily classroom behavior

This grade includes, but is not limited to, the student's behavior toward the director and other students, as well as whether or not students come to class prepared with their instrument and book. I see students 2 times each week, and they can earn 5 points each day.

Playing tests

Playing tests are given during band class and are assigned randomly.

Concerts and contest performances are recorded as playing tests so attendance is VERY important. Please check the calendar for those dates.

Practice minutes

Having a successful band takes a lot of time and work at home. Practicing is the student's way to exercise a whole new set of muscles that they haven't used before. For this reason, it's important that parents try to make sure that their son/daughter is actually practicing. Students are required to practice 70 minutes each week (10 min each night is the best way to practice), and minutes must be signed by a parent or guardian for the time to count in the grade book.

10% playing and written tests

Tests will be given on and off throughout the school year to make sure students are learning and remembering the terms we use everyday in class.

Mrs. Veleba's Contact Information

School phone: 402-852-2988
Cell phone: 402-335-0447

School email: aveleba@pawneecityschool.net
Home email: anneveleba@yahoo.com

Classroom Expectations

The band room is used as a rehearsal setting and a classroom throughout the day. Students are expected to treat the room with respect. Equipment stored in the band room is to be handled only by the owner or renter of the instrument – tampering and theft will NOT be tolerated!

Only drummers are allowed to play the percussion instruments and only the band director has the authority to grant other students that permission.

Food, pop, and gum are not permitted in the band room. This is for the protection of the room and the musical equipment. Water bottles are permitted but may be removed if they cause a distraction.

Contest Entries

High School

- Any High School Band student is welcomed to take an entry (solo or small group) to MUDECAS Contest and District Music Contest. Practicing for these contests will be done either before or after school.

8th Graders

- Any 8th graders wanting to take a solo to contest must perform at the HTRS Contest in March/April. 8th graders are not allowed to perform solos at MUDECAS or at the District Music Contest. They can, however, be a part of a small group (duet, trio, etc.).

Elementary and Junior High Band

- Each year HTRS School hosts a band contest for students in grades 5-8. Students are not required to perform solos or in small groups, but all 6th and 7th graders in band will be a part of the Concert Band entry.
- Each student in 5th, 6th, and 7th grade band has the opportunity to perform a solo or in small groups for contest. These groups begin working in January (or earlier) to prepare for contest and for the Spring Recital the night of the Spring Concert.
- **** NEW **** Because I am limited to such a small number of entries at contest, students will have to audition to be able to attend this year. A qualified judge from outside the school district will be brought in for this audition. Anyone not chosen to perform at contest will still play on a recital before the Spring Concert in May.

Uniform

High School Band

The Senior High band will have three different uniforms: one for Memorial Day, one for summer parades, and one for concerts and contests. Students will wear khaki PANTS, the red band polo (provided by the Fine Arts Boosters), and black band shoes (provided by the school) for the Memorial Day service. Our marching uniform for the summer will include the red polo shirt, black shorts, and comfortable tennis shoes.

For the Richardson County Fair, as well as for concerts and contests, students will wear the regular band uniform. The only things provided by students are the **LONG** black socks.

Junior High Band

Everyone in Junior High Band will wear khaki pants or black dress pants for their concerts and contest. The shirt will be a nice dress shirt. (An exception to this “uniform” would be for the Christmas concert where girls could wear skirts or dresses AS LONG AS they come below the knee when they are sitting.)

Please plan ahead when it comes to the band “uniform.” Children grow, so the pants you have now might not fit when the first concert rolls around.

5th Grade Band

The 5th graders might perform with the Junior High Band throughout the year and will need to be prepared with the same “uniform.” Band students will all wear khaki pants or black dress pants for concerts and for contest. The shirt will be a nice dress shirt. (An exception to this “uniform” would be for the Christmas concert where girls could wear skirts or dresses AS LONG AS they come below the knee when they are sitting.)

Awards

High School Band

- Awards are presented at the Fine Arts Banquet each year. Band awards include, but are not limited to: Outstanding Senior Marcher, Outstanding Underclassman Marcher, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Outstanding Underclassman in Jazz Band, John Philip Sousa Band Award, Outstanding Concert Band Musician (one for each grade), Band Letter (100 pts.), Band Key (130 pts.), and contest awards.

Elementary and Junior High Band

- Awards include, but are not limited to: Outstanding Junior High Musician (one or two for each grade) and contest awards.

Lettering

High School Concert Band

Students can earn letter points by attending various activities throughout the school year. Activities that are required are concerts, contests and pep band performances at every home ball game. **Students with an unexcused absence from concerts, contests, or parades will automatically lose their band letter, even if they still have enough points.**

100 points are required to letter in concert band. 130 points are required to earn a band key. Below are the activities and the points possible:

Graduation – 5 pts

Memorial Day – 10 pts

2 County Fair practices – 5 pts (2 pts for only 1 practice)

Pawnee County Fair Parade– 10 pts

Johnson County Fair Parade – 10 pts
Richardson Co. Fair Parade – 5 pts
Home FB games – 2 pts each night
Home VB games – 2 pts each night
Home BBB games – 2 pts each night
Home GBB games – 2 pts each night
Drum Major/Section leader – 5 pts
Extra pep bands (Tournaments) – 2 pts each (max. 10 pts.)
Conference band – 5 pts
Community band member – 5 pts
3 Concerts – 10 pts each
MUDECAS and District Music Contests – 10 pts each
Solo/Ensemble to contest – 5 pts
Superior rating – 3 pts
Excellent rating – 2 pts
Audition for an Honor Band – 5 pts each
Honor band selection – 5 pts
Give lessons/Accompany – 2 pts
Perform outside of school – 2 pts
Play TAPS – 1 pt
Concert review – 5 pts
Switch instruments at the request of the director – 5 pts /semester
Director assistance – Points will be awarded at the discretion of the director

High School Jazz Band

Earning a jazz band letter is VERY easy. What I want from Jazz Band members is communication. They need to call or text if they are going to miss a performance. If they call or text me I will excuse the absence.

Financial Obligations

Supplies

****NEW** Due to the rising cost of supplies (reeds, oil, cork grease) the school will not be providing these items for free. Students will need to purchase what they need for their instrument. Items can be purchased through the band office.**

Rent waiver: If your family qualifies for free/reduced lunches, you have the opportunity to have your band fees waived. Just check the appropriate box on the back of the free/reduced lunch form to qualify. **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE ASK IN THE OFFICE WHEN YOU RETURN YOUR FORM.**

Instrument Rental – Non-Percussion students

Students renting instruments from the school are required to pay the \$50.00 yearly rental fee. This fee goes toward any repairs that are needed throughout the school year. If repair totals exceed the \$50.00 and the repairs are due to neglect, the student is responsible for the amount above and beyond the rent already paid.

Instrument Rental – Percussion students

Percussion students must pay a \$25.00 yearly rental fee. This fee goes toward the maintenance of the percussion instruments and purchase of drumheads. Additional fines will be assessed in the event of damage or loss as a result of a student's misuse.

Fine Arts Booster Organization

A. Fine Arts Boosters Mission Statement

The Fine Arts Booster Organization is a parent organization designed to support the fine arts programs and their directors. The primary goal is to show appreciation to the students that are a part of the Fine Arts Programs in Pawnee City School. Emphasis is on helping to establish and maintain a positive arts program that is active in the community. Fine Arts boosters strive to bring public awareness and appreciation to arts education in the public schools.

Fine Arts Boosters membership consists of parents of all arts students from grades 7-12. Officers are volunteers from the membership: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Class Sponsors (one from each class). Anyone wishing to fill one of these positions must speak up and let the current president know if you are interested.

B. Fund Raising

Our main activity is concessions for football, volleyball, and basketball, which are manned by parents of music students. (The track concession stand was turned over to Mr. Jacobs; classes will be allowed to run this concession stand for their fundraiser.) Parents work one concession night for each child they have in the arts unless we host extra games.

C. Use of Music Booster Funds

- Uniforms purchased in 1996 (\$30,000)
- Band trips – last one in May of 2014
- Choir robes (\$3,000)
- Band equipment (stereo, sound system, drum major ladders, etc.)
- Uniform cleaning (\$400-500 each time)
- Various treats throughout the year
- Scholarships for individual student trips, in state and out of state, including registration fees for Class C All-State band auditions.

Calendar of Events

Fri., Aug. 10	Pawnee County Fair – 6:00
Sun., Aug. 20	Johnson County Fair – 4:30-9:30
Fri., Sept. 15	Richardson County Fair – 10-2:00
Mon., Oct. 9	Fall Concert – 5-12 Band and 6-12 Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 10	Veteran’s Day Program – 10:00 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 3	Vespers (Christmas) – 5-12 Band and 6-12 Choir – 3:00 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 15	Conference Band Clinic (select HS students) – at Lewiston
Tues., March 20	MUDECAS Contest at Sterling
Thurs., April 12	Spring HIGH SCHOOL Concert – 8-12 Band and Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Thurs., April 19	District Music Contest at JCC
Tues., May 1	Spring MIDDLE SCHOOL Concert – 5-7 Band and 6-7 Choir 7:00 p.m.
Sat., May 12	Graduation – 2:00 p.m.
Mon., May 28	Memorial Day celebration – 11:00 a.m.
TBA	HTRS Elementary/Junior High band contest

High School Band students, plan on playing in the pep band at every home game. If you **cannot** attend, you need to let me know **PRIOR** to the game. If communication isn’t made, you will receive a zero in the grade book for that performance.

Events listed in **bold** print are required **BAND** concerts/contests.

Please post this calendar on your refrigerator at home. Attendance is very important for our performances to be their absolute best.