

PLEASANT HILL BAND PROGRAM



STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK & SYLLABUS 2018-2019

*Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.*

~PLATO (Ancient Greek Philosopher)

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

~ARISTOTLE (Ancient Greek Philosopher)

*If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician.
I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music.
I see my life in terms of music. . . . I get the most joy in life out of music.*

~ALBERT EINSTEIN (renowned U.S. physicist)

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Welcome to another year of Pleasant Hill music!

I want to begin by thanking everyone for making last year a success for band in Pleasant Hill. My first year directing both the high school and middle groups was a blast. It wouldn't have been possible without the steadfast support of this amazing community and the great attitudes and effort of all the students.

This year is shaping up to be even better. Concert band has quintupled in size (yes, that means five times larger!), Wind Ensemble is seeing new and eager students, and enrollment in Solar Jazz is the largest it's been in years. I'm excited about all of these ensembles as well as introducing a whole new 6th grade class to the joys of instrumental music making.

Being involved with band is a big commitment, so I want to take this opportunity to walk everyone through proper expectations and information, setting us all up for a fun and successful year of music. Please read all the information in this handbook and fill out the forms at the bottom. There are two forms that need to be filled out; the Student Information Form and the Parent/Guardian Form. Please fill out all the information to earn full credit for this first assignment! (Students participating in more than one ensemble just need to fill out the forms once).

If you have any questions or need clarification, please call or email anytime.

It is such an honor and joy to teach your students and see them grow as musicians and people. Thank you again for your continued support and here's to a great year!

Sincerely,

Zac Tendick

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Pleasant Hill Band Program

BAND ENSEMBLES:

There are five band ensembles offered in the Pleasant Hill School District: 6th Grade Beginning Band, Intermediate Concert Band, Advanced Wind Ensemble, and Solar Jazz (advanced jazz band), and the Billie Pep Band.

Beginning Band: This class is made up entirely of 6th graders and is designed to introduce students to playing an instrument. Basic concepts such as quality sound production, fingerings, and music reading and terminology are covered. *Standard of Excellence Book 1* (Red Book) is the method used for this band.

Concert Band: This class is designed for students that can demonstrate proficiency with the material covered in SOE Book 1 and are ready for the next step. Although this group consists mainly of students from Grades 7-8, younger and older students may be accepted with director permission. *Standard of Excellence Book 2* (Blue Book) is the method used for this band.

Wind Ensemble: This ensemble is the top concert band at Pleasant Hill and consists of advanced players in Grades 9-12. Students should be comfortable with all the material presented in SOE Books 1 & 2 as well as some of the skills presented in SOE Book 3. Younger students may be accepted with director permission.

Solar Jazz (director permission): Pleasant Hill's jazz band has a long history and reputation in the northwest music community. Students who are accepted into this group should expect to be held accountable to a higher pace of learning, musicianship, and dedication. A thorough instrumental competency is expected while we focus primarily on style, theory, articulation, phrasing, and improvisation.

Billie Pep Band: This co-curricular group is Pleasant Hill's pep band and performs at assemblies, football, and basketball games. The Pep Band is made up primarily of Wind Ensemble members since we rehearse this music during W.E. class time. However, other students who would like to participate in this group may do so with director permission.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Music classes are unique in that the groups can only succeed to the degree that everyone be an active participant, work well with others, and always give their best efforts.

There are four general expectations:

- 1) **Be on time** – be in your seat, ready to play, at the beginning of class
- 2) **Come prepared** – with your instrument, music, and pencil. Students should have the music learned before rehearsal.
- 3) **Stay on task** - play, listen, talk when appropriate.
- 4) **Show respect** - to school property, equipment, fellow students, and the teacher.

ON TIME - Students are considered on-time if they are in their seat and ready to play by the time class begins. If not, students are considered tardy. Tardiness interrupts the beginning of important class activities, such as

warm-ups and announcements, and is disruptive to the class. As a result, tardiness can make it difficult to complete the daily rehearsal goals. When all students are ready to play at the beginning of class it is much easier to achieve a successful rehearsal.

COME PREPARED – Preparation is a key element for success in the band program. There are three items that students need to have for every class session: their instrument, their music, and a pencil (always on the music stand). In addition, students need to come to rehearsal already having learned, or at least worked on, their individual music. Band rehearsals are designed to put all the different parts together to create music, not to work on individual parts. Adequate preparation is an important factor in student and ensemble success.

STAYING ON TASK – There is always a lot of ground to cover in any band rehearsal. It is important that students stay focused on playing and learning. Listening is an integral component of this process. Talking should be kept to a minimum during rehearsals. If there is a question or comment that is important to the group, students should raise their hand and wait to be called on before speaking.

RESPECT – Respect for property, and for others, is a core expectation in the band program. Musical instruments and equipment are expensive and need to always be treated with care. Personal property is never to be borrowed or used without explicit permission from the owner. School equipment must last for many years and can be easily damaged by carelessness or neglect. Students (and parents) will be responsible for damage done to school property that is due to carelessness or neglect. Repairs due to normal use are covered by the band program.

Respect for others is equally important in the band program. Music must always be a positive environment where students are encouraging one another and learning together. Learning an instrument is a difficult task and can often result in frustration and disappointment. Comments need to always be positive and supportive. Negative or derogatory comments, even if joking, will not be tolerated.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

Food, gum, or beverages other than water are not permitted in the band room except by permission of the director. The only acceptable beverage container is a clear container with a twistable lid.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Phones, tablets, gaming devices, and other electronic devices are not allowed in class. Unauthorized use of such equipment will result in the confiscation of that device for the remainder of the school day. Students can pick up their devices in the office at the end of the day. Repeat offenses may be referred to the office.

PERFORMANCES

Performances at concerts and festivals are the culmination of all our hard work and a major part of student grades (100 points). Missing points due to an absence from a performance will usually result in a decrease of one full letter grade, unless these points are made up via extra credit by the student. **It is the student's responsibility to make up these points.** Every musician is important to having a successful performance so an absence by any member results in frustration, disappointment, and tension among other members. It is extremely important that every member is at every performance and does their part to help the group reach its' potential.

Occasionally there may be absences for a performance that are unavoidable such as weddings, family reunions, funerals, etc. In these instances, please contact the director at least 2 weeks in advance so that a substitute may be found and extra credit arrangements discussed. Sporting events, hunting/fishing trips, outside work, vacations, inability to find a ride, or other non-emergencies are not considered to be acceptable excuses. Extra-curricular activities such as clubs and sports performances are also not acceptable. In cases of sudden illness, or an accident, please call the director's office or cell phone immediately and leave a message.

If a student has an unexcused absence from school on the day of a performance, they **may** not be allowed to perform that same day with their group. Permission for the performance is at the discretion of the director. Skipping school on the day of a performance or dress rehearsal is not acceptable and very unfair to the group.

All students are needed and expected to help clean up school concerts. Students will be assigned to specific groups and given tasks that help everyone get home at a reasonable time. Parents and community members are also welcome to help as well.

BAND TRIPS (Grades 7-12)

Throughout the year bands may travel to various concerts, performances, and music festivals. These activities are an extension of classroom learning (co-curricular) and considered by the school to be field trips. Festival dates that are definite are placed on the performance schedule in the fall so that students and parents can plan accordingly. Tentative festivals and events that are on the schedule will have a question mark by the date. If the performance moves from tentative to definite a notification will be emailed via a schedule update. Please add these to your calendar.

Field trips are often day-long events and it is the expectation that students attend these field trips in their entirety. If circumstances arise that prevent full participation please contact the director as soon as possible.

Occasionally there may be a nominal charge for participation in a field trip or other activity. If there is a financial concern for these charges please inform the director. Scholarships are available on a limited basis for these requests.

Sometimes, our groups are requested to perform at various community events throughout the year and these events may or may not be known in advance. Students will be notified as soon as possible for these additional events. If the number of students unable to participate in a community performance compromises the quality of the group's performance, the event may be canceled.

EXTENDED BAND TRIPS

Extended band (field) trips are those trips which involve multiple days or nights. They will often require a fee to be paid and/or stay these night(s) out of town. It is expected that band members participate in these types of required festivals unless there is sufficient notice given beforehand. The required dates and cost of these extended trips will be published in advance. A letter will be sent to all participating students of this event notifying parent(s)/guardian(s) of the dates students will be missing school and the approximate cost of the trip. This letter must be signed and returned by parent(s)/guardian(s). Fund raising is often a significant part of the financial considerations for these extended trips.

FUNDRAISING & FEES

Student fees for band may include (but are not limited to):

- outfits
- instrument rental
- instrument repair
- food/snacks on trips
- special events or concerts
- lost or damaged music
- extended festival trips

Various fundraisers are offered throughout the year to help offset these costs.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

The school owns several instruments for student use and rental. School-owned instruments rent for \$75-\$100 per school year. There may be a limited number of common instruments for school rental but rental is based on availability and/or financial need. If interested in a school instrument please contact the director for more information.

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC ACCOUNT (IMA's)

Every band student at the high school level (6-12) has an account through the school office known as an IMA. This account can be used for payment of music-related fees such as outfits, field trips, extended field trips, etc. Funds for this account come from fundraising activities and student/parent contributions. Funds continue to accumulate throughout a student's attendance at Pleasant Hill. Upon graduation, or leaving Pleasant Hill, any unused IMA funds will be forfeited to the joint IMA account, with the exception of personal funds contributed by students or parents.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Students are expected to wear the correct attire to every performance, as determined by each group and the director. Information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year regarding the cost of these outfits. Every effort is made to ensure that the outfits are affordable, yet professional and stage-appropriate. Please inform the director if you need financial assistance with the cost of the outfits. Scholarships are available on a limited basis for these requests. Payments are due prior to the uniforms/outfits being ordered. Students may be denied participation in a performance (and/or lose points) if not wearing the correct attire.

CALENDAR

An event calendar or schedule listing band performances and other activities will be distributed to students and emailed to parents at the beginning of each school year. Please note that all events/times may be subject to change. The calendar will be updated throughout the year as new events are added, tentative events are confirmed, or times/dates change. These updated schedules will also be emailed to parents and guardians.

PLEASANT HILL JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Pleasant Hill Invitational Jazz Festival (PHIJF) is a HUGE event and the major fundraiser that supports the Pleasant Hill Music Department. **We all parents and families volunteering in some capacity to help fill over 200 volunteer positions needed for a successful festival.** Festival proceeds are used to repair instruments, buy music and supplies, pay festival fees, purchase software and other equipment, and fund scholarships.

The PHIJF is traditionally the third Saturday in April every year and is the largest jazz festival of its type in the entire Northwest. Over 45 different schools attend with around 2,000 participants, parents, and other visitors on our campus for this one-day event. Setup for the festival is on the two preceding days.

Included in the Student Information Form is the opportunity to sign up for various jazz festival duties. (There are also positions available on the executive committee for those who would like to help plan and organize this event.) A volunteer will be contacting you prior to the festival to confirm or request you fill a 2-hour volunteer position. Volunteers are granted full access to all festival activities, including clinics and entry into the Showcase Concert. Once you experience this festival, you'll understand why people talk about this jazz festival for years to come!

FRIENDS OF PLEASANT HILL MUSIC (FPHM)

The Friends of Pleasant Hill Music organization is a band booster group of parents (grades 6-12), alumni, and community members designed to support and give input to the Pleasant Hill band program. This group meets throughout the year to discuss items such as field trips, festivals, fundraising, equipment needs, advocacy, and other items to create a successful band program. Membership in this organization is a great way to support your

students' musical education and to make sure that Pleasant Hill's program remains strong. Please consider becoming an Ensemble Representative; it's a great way to be involved.

GRADING POLICY

Participation Points

Each week every student is awarded participation points that are there's to keep or forfeit, based on their behavior and involvement during class. Disruptive behavior such as excessive talking, playing out of turn, and an unwillingness to participate can all result in loss of participation points.

Practice Records

Students in **Beginning Band** and **Concert Band** are required to practice their instrument and music outside of class time, each week. Students will pick up a practice record sheet each week and record their practice, indicating specifically what they practiced and for how long. Practice records are due on the first school day of each week.

Competency and performance tests

Students in **Concert Band**, **Wind Ensemble**, and **Solar Jazz** will periodically perform performance tests to evaluate their progress. These tests will be based on relevant material that we are studying and performing throughout the year. Students will be notified well in advance of these tests in order to prepare properly.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is offered throughout the year to every student and includes but is not limited to: participation in Pep Band, concert reviews, attendance at music clinics, band camps, seminars, music reports and projects, band room help, honor band participation, etc. If your student is in need of extra credit, let me know and we will find something for them to do!

Cleanliness

Keeping a tidy band room is essential to the ongoing success of our program. Many items are used during band such as sheet music, folders, music stands, percussion mallets, pencils, oil bottles, reeds, etc. Learning to be a musician also means learning proper etiquette of maintenance, cleanliness, and respect of our shared environment in the band room. Participation points will be deducted for misplaced and improperly stored items left/found in the band room and instrument storage room.

DIRECTOR EVALUATION

Even though there are intangibles such as attitude that are difficult to grade, students need to remember that the most important ingredient for success in band is a positive attitude. Negative attitudes and disrespectful behavior hurts the group and causes distraction for other students. Repeated tardiness or absences, lack of preparation, excessive talking, distracting behavior, and disrespect towards director, students, or facilities are not conducive to a successful program and may result in a conference with the director. If the behavior continues, school administration and parents will be notified and to plan the next steps together.

PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-19 Band Student Information

Please take a moment to fill out the following information. This information will not be shared with anyone but will allow me to communicate important information about concerts, rehearsals, and special events. Thank you for your help! (Please print)

Student Name: _____

<i>Check all that apply:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind Ensemble
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pep Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar Jazz	

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mom's email: _____ Mom's cell: _____

Dad's email: _____ Dad's cell: _____

Student's email: _____ Student's cell: _____

Communication preference? Email Send hard copy with student

Do you have high-speed internet? Yes No

Pleasant Hill's annual Jazz Festival is our music department's major source of funding for buying music, repairing and purchasing instruments, renting buses, and paying festival and competition fees. This year the festival is Saturday, April 21st. It takes many volunteers, parents and community members for the festival to be successful. Please help us by signing up for one of the assignment(s) below:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campus security | <input type="checkbox"/> Cashier | <input type="checkbox"/> Door monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food service | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything! |

The "Friends of Pleasant Hill Music (FPHM)" booster group is an opportunity to support your student's musical education. We meet just once per month. Would you be interested?

- Yes, I am interested! No, not at this time.

Mom's (or guardian) signature: _____

Dad's (or guardian) signature: _____

Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to another great year!

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

Each student's first graded assignment is to get this information home to parents and back to school by the required deadline (25 points). Please make sure that you and your student have read through the packet and fully understand its contents. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me so that we can clear up any misunderstandings.

Please check one (or more):

- I have received the band information and have no questions at this time.
- I have received the band information and will call or email to clear up any questions or concerns.
- I would like to be a chaperone and/or driver for one or more activities this year.
- I would like more information on becoming a member of the Jazz Festival Executive Committee.

Student Name (Please print)

Student Name (Signature)

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)

Date

E-mail Address

Best phone number to reach you