

# Peaster Band Student Handbook



***Greyhound  
Band***

# **Peaster Band Student Handbook**

Dear Band Students and Family,

Thank you for becoming a member of the Peaster Band Program. We hope that you enjoy the time you spend in band class as well as during your musical experiences outside of school. As music educators we have several goals that are very important to us:

1. Teach the basic fundamentals of playing a musical instrument.
2. Teach students how to set short and long-term goals, as well as how to achieve them.
3. Teach responsibility
4. Teach self-discipline.
5. Build self-confidence.
6. Develop teamwork and leadership among all of our band students.

As we strive to reach our goals, we hope that playing music remains enjoyable to you and everyone you touch with your music. As you progress through your different levels of musicianship, please be aware that it is a lot of hard work. Most of the time it is fun, but occasionally it may be frustrating. All great musicians go through high and low times in their musical development. Always focus on the positive while you find ways to fix the negative. Music should be fun, and we will try our hardest to keep it that way for all involved.

The Peaster Band Program has an open-door policy. If you would ever like to watch your child's class period, you are welcome in the classroom any time. Please make sure that you sign in at the office and that you set up personal conferences with the band directors. We are here to help your child be the best that he or she can be. Communication between students, teachers and parents is very important to us. Do not hesitate to email us whenever you have a question or concern and we will try to do the same in return. We also use ParentSquare, which is quite handy. I will list our email addresses at the end of this page. Any communication with students outside of school will be done via ParentSquare or school email.

Please take the time to read through this handbook completely. We have tried to put as much information in it as possible. We hope that you find this information helpful as your child begins band or continues in the band program. Once again, thank you for choosing to be a part of the Peaster Greyhound Band. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Crowe and Ms. Chaisson

[rcrowe@peaster.net](mailto:rcrowe@peaster.net)

[hchaisson@peaster.net](mailto:hchaisson@peaster.net)

## **PEASTER ISD TARDY POLICY**

**As tardies accumulate the following disciplines will be assigned:**

1st & 2nd Tardy– No Consequence

3rd Tardy – Warning

4th - Call home

5th -10th Tardy –1 lunch detention per tardy

11th 16th – 1 morning or afternoon detention per tardy

(No show when assigned detention = 3 days of detention)

Every tardy at and beyond the 17th tardy = 1 day of ISS

Following the 20th tardy, DAEP placement may be considered for persistent misbehavior/failure to comply with school rules and policies.

## **PEASTER BAND CELL PHONE POLICY**

Cell Phones are to be kept in your backpack or in the designated phone holders throughout the school day.

You are not allowed to keep your phone in your pocket.

If your phone is taken up:

1st – Student can pick up phone after school

2nd - \$15 and student can pick up

3rd - \$15 and Parent must pick up

## **PEASTER BAND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **6th Grade Beginning Band**

The beginning band is open to all students entering 6th grade at Peaster Intermediate School. Beginning classes are offered for flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. Classes will meet during the school day and are scheduled as 3 separate classes. Classes will meet every day.

Any student wishing to be enrolled in the beginning band will need to go through our instrument fitting process before being placed.

Beginning band students are not expected to have prior musical experience. Students will learn basic music theory and will explore how to play a musical instrument. Students will be given several performance opportunities throughout the school year. There is minimal outside school time required with the exception of daily practice and required performances. Please refer to the band calendar for performance dates. All concerts are **required** and considered part of our band curriculum.

### **Symphonic Band – JH Varsity Band**

Symphonic Band is the 7th and 8th grade performance band at Peaster Middle School. Symphonic Band members are required to have a minimum of 1 year of band experience. Symphonic Band students will continue to develop their musical skills as well as learn more advanced techniques and musical concepts. This Varsity group will represent Peaster Middle School at the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest in the spring. Symphonic Band Members will be **required** to attend before or after school sectionals as necessary throughout the year. The symphonic band students are **required** to perform at all concerts, will have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contest, and will have the opportunity to audition for the All-Region Band.

### **Symphonic Winds – High School Varsity Band**

Symphonic Winds is the advanced band at Peaster High School. High School band members are required to have a minimum of one year of band experience. High School Band students will continue to develop their musical skills and will learn more advanced techniques and concepts. This class moves at a fast pace and will require strong practice habits and a high commitment level to the band program. High School Band students are **required** to attend sectionals throughout the year and are expected to audition for the All District and All Region Bands in the fall. The High School Band will represent Peaster High School at the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest in the spring. Students are **required** to perform at all football games, marching contests in October and concerts and will be **required** to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest in the spring. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

### **BAND HALL EXPECTATIONS**

- Do not talk when entering the classroom. This is your time to prepare for class.
- All instruments and music are to be kept in cubbies.
- Treat others with respect at all times.
- Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
- No running, pushing or fighting. Keep your hands to yourself.
- No climbing on or sitting in cubbies. Anyone caught doing so will be required to clean everyone's cubby after school by themselves.
- No drinks, food or gum in the band hall unless approved by a director.
- Students that are not in band are not allowed in the band hall.

## **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

- Arrive on time.
  - We will follow the school tardy policy.
- Use the restroom during your passing period.
  - If you do need to use the restroom during class, please raise your hand and let one of the directors know.
- Enter the room quietly and get ready for class.
- Take to your seat:
  - Instrument
  - Music
  - Pencil / Highlighter (in pencil pouch in your binder – place on stand at the start of class)
  - Tuner / microphone clip (7th and 8th grade students)
  - Leave your cases in your band locker or locker area unless you are a flute, oboe or clarinet.
- Do not talk in rehearsal.
- If you have a question, raise your hand and a director will help you.
- At the end of rehearsal push down your stand and pick up your belongings. Leave your area clean for the next class.
- Inappropriate behaviors such as recurrent disruption of class, theft, or bullying will not be tolerated.
- Students who demonstrate consistent disruptive behavior, theft or bullying may be removed from the Peaster band program.

## **BAND CALENDAR**

Students will receive a band calendar at the beginning of the year. Please mark these dates on your calendar at home. **All dates are required unless excused by a director.** More events may be added to the calendar as necessary throughout the year. Updates and additions will be communicated. Students will always receive a letter prior to each event with more detailed information pertaining to that performance. If you have a conflict, please notify a director as soon as possible so that we may make necessary adjustments.

## **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

Students are required to stay at every concert from the first note of the first band until the last note of the last band is played to show their support for their fellow band members. Students are expected to help pick up the setup after the concert, and will be docked a letter grade if they leave early or do not assist in picking up the setup. If students are misbehaving during the

concert they will be asked to sit with their parents for the remainder of the concert. If students do not abide by these expectations, they will be given an F for their concert grade.

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

### **Concert Black**

#### **Boys:**

- Plain black polo or button down shirt
  - No Tshirts
  - No designs
  - A SMALL brand logo in the corner is okay if necessary
- Black slacks/Dress pants
  - No Sweatpants
  - No Jeans
- Black dress shoes
  - NO WHITE ON SHOES
  - Marching Shoes (if you own them) are allowed

#### **Girls:**

- Plain black dress shirt/blouse
  - No low cut shirts
  - No crop tops
  - No tshirts
  - No designs
  - No spaghetti straps, the sleeves must cover your shoulder
    - If necessary wear a sweater over it at all times
- Black Dress Pants OR Long Black Skirt
  - No Jeans
  - No Rips, Tears, or Cuts in Pants
  - No Sweatpants
  - If you choose to wear a black skirt it must fall BELOW the knees and NO shorter
- OR Long Black Dress
  - No low cut dresses
  - Dress must fall BELOW the knees and NO shorter
  - No spaghetti straps, the sleeves must cover your shoulder
    - If necessary wear a sweater over it at all times
- Black Dress Shoes
  - NO WHITE ON SHOES
  - Must be solid black
  - Closed-toed shoes only
    - I DO NOT want to see your toes and neither do the judges
  - If you've never worn heels before, I suggest you wear flats

\*We strongly encourage parents and students to purchase their pants and shoes early in the year. If your child shows up to a concert or performance and is not abiding by the above dress code they will be sent home and given a 0 for the performance.

## GRADING

60% - Participation / Concert Performances

40% - Daily Grades – playing tests, worksheets, practice charts

\*CONCERTS ARE A MAJOR GRADE

**Students are expected to maintain a minimum grade of 70 in all classes to be eligible to participate in any band events.**

**If a student is in ISS, they are not allowed to participate in any band event that day, multiple days in ISS may affect future band participation.**

## BAND CUBBIES

All band students will be assigned a band cubby inside the band hall. This is where students will keep their band instrument and any band supplies. Cubbies are to be kept clean. Students should not use these cubbies for anything other than band equipment and their backpacks.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

***As parents you can be extremely beneficial to your child's success by doing the following things:***

- Insist that your child practice on a regular basis. Daily practice is essential when trying to master a musical instrument.
- Ask your child to play for you often. This teaches them performance skills as well as shows them that you support their music education.
- Praise your child often. Let them know you enjoy their playing and encourage them to keep improving.
- Take your child to local music events such as the symphony, a Broadway show or a concert in the park. There are many free opportunities in the area to hear great music.
- Utilize technology to look up great instrumentalists. Amazing musicians, performances and master classes are literally at your fingertips!
- Attend your child's performances, and stay for the ENTIRE concert (if there's more than just your child's band performing, your child is expected to stay and support the other band's performance as well. Leaving early will result in a lowered grade). The students have worked very hard to put on a great concert. Your attendance is important to all of us! By attending your child's concerts, you are showing them that what they do is important not only to them but to you also.
- Volunteer to help with socials and band events when needed.

If you plan on volunteering with the band at any point in the school year (field trips, football games, etc.) please go to the following link and fill out the volunteer form:

[Volunteer Form](#)

## **PRACTICE TIME IN THE BAND HALL**

- JH & HS students may practice in the band hall before and after school providing there are no scheduled sectionals taking place.
- You must ask permission to use a practice room.
- Percussionists must play on pads or mallets only. Please ask for permission to play on other instruments.
- If you are not a percussionist you MAY NOT touch the percussion equipment. Any student found touching this equipment will be given an initial warning. Any incident afterwards will result in a call home and in loss of practice privileges.
- Inappropriate conduct or behavior will result in loss of practice privileges.

## **PRACTICE TIPS**

- Try to schedule a time every day to practice.
- Practice someplace quiet and free of distraction.
- Always practice in front of a mirror.
- Use a metronome often.
- Set daily goals and weekly goals.
- Always use correct posture and hand position.
- Practice in small segments – 15 minutes here – 15 minutes there
- Isolate difficult passages and practice them slowly.
- It is better to play slow and accurate than fast and sloppy
- Stay positive! Not everything will be easy. If you are getting frustrated, take a break and come back to it another time.
- Always strive for your best sound.
- Always end your practice session playing something fun that you enjoy playing.
- Play for others as often as possible. Play for your family, church, dog or anyone that will listen!
- BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons will be available to students throughout the school year. Private lessons are an opportunity for your child to receive one on one attention with a professional musician who specializes on that specific instrument. Lessons are not required but are highly recommended. Please contact Ms. Chaisson for more information or visit the following link:

[Private Lesson Instructor Contact Info](#)



## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School owned instruments will be assigned to students based on availability.

School provided instruments are: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium and Tuba

There is a \$50 non-refundable school usage fee for students playing on a school provided instrument. This fee does not cover repair due to negligence during the school year. Students are responsible for any repairs necessary during the school year.

## SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIPS

- Students must follow all school rules and dress code.
- Students will represent the Peaster Band by being respectful and polite at all times.
- Students must follow all bus rules.
- Students must ride school transportation to and from an event unless approved by a director via the attached [Google Form](#) no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure.
- The directors have the right to revoke the field trip privileges based on classroom discipline issues.

## SECTIONALS / EXTRA REHEARSALS

Sectionals and extra rehearsals will be scheduled as needed throughout the school year. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and concerts are required unless excused by a director. We try very hard to schedule sectionals and rehearsals around other events and activities in the school year such as athletics, cheerleading, student council, etc. In the event of a conflict, students are expected to communicate clearly with their director. Parents are also encouraged to communicate conflicts via email or a note.

**Beginning Band** has no rehearsals scheduled outside of the school day. All full band rehearsals will be held during school hours close to our performance dates.

**Symphonic Band** is split into two periods during the school day. We will have Advisory class together, this class period will include all JH band students, even those performing in the High School Ensemble. Advisory class the first half of the year will be used to focus on fundamentals, balance, and All Region audition music. The second half of the year this class will be used as a UIL full band rehearsal. After Advisory class, the students involved in HS band will leave, and everyone else will stay for the remainder of rehearsal. Symphonic Band students will have scheduled before school sectionals to work on parts of the music that may be a bit more challenging. Students are **required** to attend these before school sectionals unless a conflict is otherwise communicated with Ms. Chaisson. Failure to attend these sectionals will result in a

lowered grade. Additional after school rehearsals will be scheduled if necessary. Sectional schedules will be sent home in advance.

Symphonic Band Sectional Times  
Morning Sectionals – 7:15 - 7:45 am (Arrive no later than 7:10 am)  
Mondays & Wednesdays - Brass  
Tuesdays & Thursdays - Woodwinds & Horns

## **INSTRUMENT / SUPPLIES / REEDS**

### **\*\*Required Material\*\***

Foundations for Superior Performance Warm-Ups & Technique for Band  
by Richard Williams & Jeff King (7th-12th Grade)

Essential Elements Book 1 (6th-8th Grade)

**\*\* Students must purchase their own book for their specific instrument if they do not already own one. They are \$8.95 on Amazon. We use this book in class EVERY DAY, so it is essential that your child has one to be successful in band class.\*\***

### **Recommended Instrument List**

Being prepared as a musician for class and practice with necessary supplies is a major part of our teaching at Peaster. There are many local DFW music stores and internet suppliers that offer great prices. I have listed the most commonly needed supplies below. Feel free to call or email us if you are not sure what to order and we can guide you in the right direction.

#### **MOST COMMON REEDS:**

- VanDoren Clarinet Reeds, Traditional - Box of 10 - Need to know strength – Most students play on a 3
  - Beginners will start on a 2 ½ reed
- VanDoren Bass Clarinet Reeds - Box of 5 - Need to know strength – Most students play on a 3
- VanDoren Alto Sax Reeds – Box of 10 - Need to know strength – Most students play on a 3
  - Beginners will start on a 2 ½ reed
- VanDoren Tenor Sax Reeds – Box of 5 – Need to know strength – Most students play on a 3
- VanDoren Bari Sax Reeds - Box of 5 – Need to know strength – Most students play on a 3
- Oboe Reed – PURCHASE FROM YOUR LESSON INSTRUCTOR IF POSSIBLE

- Store bought: Leshler - Soft, Medium Soft, or Medium
- Beginners play on Soft at first then slowly graduate to Medium Soft and Medium
- Bassoon Reed – PURCHASE FROM YOUR LESSON INSTRUCTOR IF POSSIBLE
  - Store bought: Leshler - Soft, Medium Soft or Medium
  - Beginners play on Soft at first then slowly graduate to Medium Soft and Medium

### **MOST COMMON BRASS ACCESSORIES**

Valve Oil - Al Cass or Blue Juice  
Rotor Oil – Hetman

### **OTHER COMMON ACCESSORIES FOR BOTH WOODWIND AND BRASS**

Polishing Cloth – Giardinelli – Specify Woodwind or brass  
Instrument Swab (Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Oboe and Bassoon)  
Reed Guard (Clarinet, Bass Clarinet and Saxophones) – La Voz Sax Neck Cleaner  
Cork Grease

## **INSTRUMENT RENTAL / REPAIR / MUSIC STORES**

**\*\*Students must rent or buy their own instrument through one of these stores unless they play a specialty instrument. Students using a school owned instrument will be charged a \$50 rental fee for the year to cover maintenance costs for the instrument.\*\***

N – Tune Music  
10450 E Bankhead Hwy  
Aledo, TX 76008  
(817) 441-9003  
[www.ntunemusic.com](http://www.ntunemusic.com)

The Bandwagon Music Store & Repair  
100 E Felix St S  
Fort Worth, TX 76115  
(817)-583-0001  
[www.thebandwagonmusicstore.com](http://www.thebandwagonmusicstore.com)

Music and Arts  
2301 Porter Creek Dr. Ste 219  
Tehama Ridge, TX. 76177  
817-306-4554  
[www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)

Bells Music Shop – Keller Location  
536 Keller Pkwy.  
Keller, TX. 76248  
817-337-7900  
[www.bellsmusicshop.com](http://www.bellsmusicshop.com)

Bell's Music Shop – Haslet Location  
13325 US Hwy. 287  
Fort Worth, TX. 76179  
682-291-6407  
[www.bellsmusicshop.com](http://www.bellsmusicshop.com)

Lonestar Percussion  
10611 Control Place  
Dallas, TX. 75238  
1-214-340-0835 1-866-792-0143  
[www.lonestarpercussion.com](http://www.lonestarpercussion.com)

## **SHEET MUSIC / BOOKS**

JW Pepper Music  
7459 Airport Freeway  
Richland Hills, TX 76118  
(817) 589-5980  
[www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com)

Pender's Music Company  
314 S. Elm  
Denton, Texas 76201  
Denton area: (940) 382-7124  
toll-free: (800) 772-5918  
[www.penders.com](http://www.penders.com)

# **Peaster Band Student Contract**

By signing this document, this signifies that you and your child have read and agreed to the expectations and consequences as listed in our handbook. If you have any questions about our handbook please reach out to Ms. Chaisson or Mr. Crowe prior to signing this contract. This page must be signed and returned to Ms. Chaisson by **August 20th, 2024.**

**If this contract is not returned, your student will be removed from band class.**

I agree to all expectations, consequences, and conditions listed in the Peaster Band Student Handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have read and discussed the Peaster Band Student Handbook with my child.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_