

Pearland JH East Band Handbook



2024-2025
Pearland JH East
Band Information Packet



The Pearland ISD Fine Arts programs have a proud history of accomplishments. It is our responsibility to build upon these successes and set higher standards for this year and for the future at Pearland JH East. We are privileged to have parents, teachers, administration, and a school board who are committed toward having a quality music education program in Pearland ISD.

This packet of information is designed to inform you about the goals, opportunities, and student/parent information which will result in a successful band program in the years to come.

As a member of the PJH-East Band, you are expected to take pride in its accomplishments, and dedicate yourself to the band's current and future success.

Our educational goals are to develop competent musical performers, promote music appreciation, train future high school band members, enhance the development of responsibility as a citizen, and foster good self-discipline in members of the PJH-East Bands.

Band provides a recreational goal by offering the opportunity for worthwhile use of leisure time, for an emotional outlet, and for social activity with a family of long-lasting friends. You represent an outstanding school and community who are very proud and interested in your achievements. Your actions must be exemplary both in and out of the PJH-East Band.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wren

Tyler Hensley

Brant Pembleton

PJH East Band Directors

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PJH East & AMS Band Website:

<https://bit.ly/pjheastband>

High School Band Website:

www.pearlandband.org

PJH East Band Principles

The Pearland JH East Band Program is based on more than just musical excellence. We take great pride not only in how well we perform as musicians, but more importantly, in the way in which we conduct ourselves on a daily basis, both in and out of the band classroom or stage. It is in the way we treat ourselves and others, both in and out of our band family, which makes the Pearland JH East Band Program the best that it can be.

There are several key guidelines we try to live by that facilitate these values:

1. **Attitude** – “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you choose to react to it.” Approaching every situation with the proper mindset can dramatically affect the outcome.
2. **Be Proactive** – Think and plan ahead always. Do not wait to be told how to do things you already know how to do. Do not let life take you by surprise. Try to anticipate events and circumstances and prepare for them in advance.
3. **Commitment** – The ability to begin a task or concept and follow through until its full completion. This often means fighting through frustration, difficult times or momentary distractions to reach a worthwhile goal.
4. **Generosity** – Share the talents you have been given unselfishly with others. This often refers to monetary donations, but it also is simply taking time out of your day to help another person. Who did you go “out of your way” for today.
5. **Integrity** – Always do the right thing in every situation – even if it isn’t the easy choice. What decisions do you make when you are by yourself?
6. **Judgment** – The ability to decide what is important and what is not. Do not waste energy on situations beyond your control, but don’t use this as a cop-out for situations that you could positively affect with effort.
7. **Respect** – Treat others in a kind and caring way. “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”
8. **Responsibility** – The ability to respond to every situation with your own choice. Evaluate yourself honestly, and always strive for improvement. Push yourself to do the best in all you do.
9. **Trust** – The ability to believe in and depend upon a person’s character. Trust is an essential element in any meaningful relationship. With every interaction trust is gained or lost. Make sure you build trust with as many people as possible through all human contact.
10. **Walk the Talk** – Actions speak louder than words. Don’t be hypocritical. If you say you are going to take care of something, make sure it gets done. If you offer help to others, make sure you have taken your own advice.

Through positive attitudes and actions, we try to affect the world around us in the most productive and helpful way possible. Through music, we hope to bring enjoyment to those for whom we perform. This is one of the truest rewards for the diligent work of all of the students, private lesson teachers and directors at Pearland Junior High East.

Student Characteristics:

- Make good and well-thought-out decisions
- Find enjoyment in working diligently and intelligently
- Set high standards for themselves with regard to conduct
- Treat each other with sincere respect and encourage each other to be successful members of a team
- Put the group and others ahead of themselves
- Set the standard with regards to maturity, enjoyment and energy
- Develop great practice and study habits while mastering the fundamentals of their instruments
- Know when to ask for help
- Know when to offer help
- Show respect to all adults, teachers, clinicians, volunteers, chaperones, etc.
- Learn to communicate effectively and appropriately

Director Characteristics:

- Obvious commitment to the students
- Communicate goals, expectations and visions clearly
- Reward positive habits, behaviors, accomplishments and actions in a timely manner
- Follow through on commitments personally, academically and musically
- Provide a wealth of information in a simple and motivational manner
- Time commitment to individuals
- Commitment to planning and goal-setting
- Ability to help students reach their goals in the appropriate manner
- Understanding of students, their needs, interests and motivational types
- Communicate with parents regarding student success and individual needs through e-mail, phone calls and personal communication
- Display the ability to learn and better themselves as people, musicians and teachers
- Ability to ask for help when needed

Environmental Characteristics:

- Calm and pleasing atmosphere
- "Air" of success throughout the band hall
- Organized and clean
- Inspirational and motivational
- Open door policy
- Fun place to hang out where there is an awareness of environment and instruction taking place
- Family-like atmosphere
- Safe and supportive environment for all students, teachers and staff

Teaching Objectives for PJH East Band Students

I Will...

- Learn and use good posture while playing
- Learn the correct method for breathing (wind instruments)
- Learn and use the correct embouchure while playing (wind instruments)
- Learn and use correct hand position
- Learn and use correct technique for percussion playing (percussion only)
- Learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
- Learn various rhythmic notations and the counting system
- Learn and understand the musical terms and symbols necessary for the performing
- Work to develop discriminatory listening skills
- Work to develop successful home practice routines
- Work to promote social development through large group interaction
- Work to develop personal and social self-discipline
- Work to prepare to advance to the high school band program

BAND EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will follow all rules and policies stated in the PISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, as well as in the Pearland JH East Student Handbook. **Remember that students represent the PJH East Band program, our school, our school district, community, and their parents.**
2. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc. will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
3. Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the band activity as well as permanent removal from the band program. This will be at the discretion of the band directors. This applies to the actions of all students and student leaders in both public and private events.
4. A student that consistently receives school detention or receives any form of severe punishment including ISS, school suspension, etc. may be permanently removed from the band program, at the discretion of the band directors. **A student may not participate in any PJH East Band event or activity while in ISS, serving school suspension, or attending ALA.**
5. Respect the band hall structure, furniture, and electrical equipment. Writing on the dry-erase board, music stands, risers, and/or chairs is **strictly prohibited**. Do not touch the metronome, tuner, or other electronics for any reason, unless instructed by a director.
6. Students enter and exit the band hall, stage, and fine arts hallway quietly.
7. For your safety and to protect your instrument, absolutely NO gum or candy is allowed in the band hall. It is a dangerous choking hazard to have ANYTHING in your mouth while playing a wind instrument. The ingredients in gum and candy cause short and long-term damage to all instruments. Playing a school owned instrument with anything in your mouth will have serious consequences.
8. Refrain from eating or drinking any food or beverage (except water) in the band hall.
9. Only percussionists have permission to touch the percussion equipment or be in the percussion room/area unless otherwise instructed by a band director.
10. Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his/her permission. This expectation carries outside of the band hall as well.
11. For your protection, as well as for practice, your instrument should be taken home every day.
12. Show up early, with all required materials, and be picked up on time from all band functions. Failure to do so may result in not being able to participate in future functions.
13. Students must be in the room when the tardy bell rings. They need to be ready to go in their chair within 60 seconds after the tardy bell.
14. Only band students are allowed in the band hall. DO NOT let your non-band friends enter. This rule is to safeguard our band members and equipment. If you see someone you do not recognize as a band member, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.

Through membership in an organization, a PJH-East Band Member represents the band program in every action that he or she makes. **All band members are expected to behave with the utmost character and as leaders in every endeavor.**

Consequences for misbehavior:

1. Warning.
2. Conference with director.
3. Conference with director and parent contact.
4. Restorative Behavior Assignment/Lunch Detention.
5. After School Detention/Office Referral.
6. Exclusion from Band Events or Activities.
7. Serious offenses will be dealt with as outlined in the PISD Student Code of Conduct.
8. Serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral and may result in removal from the band program.

Rewards for good behavior:

1. Positive comment and/or note to the student.
2. Positive comment and/or note to the parent.
3. Prizes and Privileges.
4. Performance Opportunities.

GRADING POLICY

Examples of: Daily Grades 40%

1. Rehearsal Performance
2. Weekly Practice Records
3. Daily Playing grades
4. Music Theory/Rhythm Assignments

Examples of: Major Test Grades 60%

1. Playing test given either in class or in sectionals.
2. Sectional Rehearsal Performance
3. All Performances – attendance required

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in the PJH East Band Program includes out-side-of-school time commitments. These rehearsals and performances are considered Co-Curricular by PISD and the TEA state board of education and therefore subject to our classroom grading policy. Most before/after school rehearsals and performances are major grades for the band class. Therefore, attendance cannot be excused for non Co-Curricular events, such as campus clubs, tutorials, and off-campus sports. All PJH East sports conflicts are the responsibility of the student to communicate to the directors/coaches and every attempt to work around major conflicts will be made. However, notification after an event is missed because a student was attending a sporting event or practice will be considered an unexcused absence. **ALL ABSENCES from any band rehearsal, practice, or performance must be made up in order to be eligible for remaining performances and competitions for that term/semester. Multiple absences, excused or unexcused, from rehearsals or performances will result in the loss of eligibility for all competitive events for the remainder of the school year.**

Excused Absence

Extreme “emergency” absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. The student will need to speak with a band director in advance to obtain the necessary clearance. **Appointments, tutorials, etc. will not be counted as an excused absence.** Extreme personal illness requiring professional medical attention, death in the family, and serious problems may be considered as an excused absence so long as there is an open line of communication from the student and/or parent. **Special note: Students will generally be responsible for ONE weekly section rehearsal. Thus, students will have ample days for tutorials, doctor’s appointments, etc.** Students are expected to make up the missed rehearsal time or performance at the instruction of the band director. PLEASE NOTE: Out-of-town trips or vacations are not counted as excused absences. **A missed rehearsal or performance that is not made up in the allotted time will result in a grade of zero and loss of eligibility to perform in the remaining performances and competitions for that term/semester. Multiple absences excused or unexcused from rehearsals or performances will result in the loss of eligibility for all competitive events for the remainder of the school year.**

Unexcused Absence

In addition to a student not notifying and obtaining clearance from the director in advance for an absence, appointments, tutorials, etc. will be counted as unexcused. Students are expected to make up the missed event time at the instruction of the band director. In most cases, the exact lesson plan or performance cannot be recreated. (Example: A student that misses a full band rehearsal where the band worked on specific ensemble concepts in fundamentals or in the music literature the exact lesson cannot be made up). It is of vital importance to the success of our band program that every effort is made to attend all rehearsals and performances. Please note that a student may lose his/her chair placement, part assignment, or position in the band for such absences. In order to regain participation eligibility, make-up assignments for unexcused absences must be completed in the allotted time and will only receive partial credit for the original assignment. Depending on the event missed, a student may also be required to complete band volunteer service time to regain participation eligibility. **A missed rehearsal or performance that is not made up in the allotted time will result in a grade of zero and loss of eligibility to perform in the remaining performances and competitions for that term/semester. Multiple absences, excused or unexcused, from rehearsals or performances will result in the loss of eligibility for all competitive events for the remainder of the school year.**

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

The band students at PJH-East take great pride in their accomplishments, and public performances are the culmination of an enormous amount of hard work. Students are required to be at all performances. We understand there are circumstances beyond your control such as sickness or a death in the family. In these events, try to contact a director. An unexcused or unexplainable absence from a performance demonstrates a lack of dependability in accepting the responsibility of group membership. Hopefully, you will see the value in performing and enjoy the experience! Every effort will be made on our part to inform you **well in advance** of upcoming performances. At the start of the school year, parents sign a FERPA form which releases or does not release the right to publish a child’s name. Band concert programs must comply with these forms.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

“No Pass No Play” Texas State Law

Band students are ineligible (suspended from participating in extra-curricular activities) for a nine weeks period immediately following a period in which they earn a grade of 69 or less. All **off campus** events are considered **extra-curricular**, except UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation. Band rehearsal, sectionals, and on-campus concerts are an extension of the classroom and are required attendance by a band student unless otherwise specified. Students who are not eligible may not attend social events. All students have a responsibility to pass all classes and be eligible for band performances and contests. Students failing classes place an unwelcome burden upon the other students in the band and the band director to compensate for their absence from an important event. **ALL STUDENTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN OUR SUCCESS!**

REQUIRED ATTIRE FOR PERFORMANCES

There will be a designated style of proper concert (or contest) attire that each band member will be required to wear. This will most likely be our “formal black” uniform. The black uniform includes: black tuxedo shirt, black closed toe shoes (not athletic shoes), tall black socks / hose, and black pants (traditional zip-up, button black dress pants – please avoid faded black, dark blue or denim material). Further details will be given in a separate letter concerning 7th / 8th graders’ formal attire. It is vitally important to look proud and uniform and project a positive first impression for the audience of judges. We spend too much time and effort working towards a performance to ruin it in the “mind’s eye” by dressing in a sloppy manner. There are also performances / events throughout the year where bands will be wearing PJH-East band t-shirts.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Practicing is the single most important factor in the development of your playing skills. It is important for students to come to class having practiced their parts adequately so that they can make a positive contribution to the entire ensemble. All members of performing organizations will put forth the effort and time necessary in practicing their individual parts to be successful.

HOME PRACTICE

The PJH-East Bands can only perform as well as the individual performers prepare their music through careful and regular home practice. Practice should include thorough warm up, scale practice, private lesson preparation, band music, and music theory study. Parents can help by encouraging regular practice and provide a place and time that will not disturb other family members or impair the concentration of the band student. Having to “practice outside or in the garage” or “practice softly” will result in serious problems that are difficult to correct. We recommend that students own music stands, metronome apps, and tuner apps for proper playing and good habits at home. (Many smart phones and devices have inexpensive downloadable apps.) Students may also make arrangements to practice individually in the band hall practice rooms before or after school hours. The band hall is open for this convenience. If a student chooses to stay in the band hall before or after school, they must be practicing and remain in the band hall until dismissed. Students violating this procedure will lose their before and after school practice privileges.

EXTRA FULL BAND REHEARSALS

We realize that most band students are involved in other important activities in addition to band. Extra rehearsals are an extension of the classroom learning and vitally important to the success of the group. Directors work to schedule these rehearsals around athletics and other elective events. The students will be informed well in advance of any extra rehearsals. Students are required to attend.

FIELD TRIPS

In the event that a field trip takes a student out of another teacher’s class, it is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments prior to the trip and turn them in (on time) to the teacher. Field trips during the school day are kept to an extreme minimum. As a member of the PJH-East Band Program, you are a distinguished individual representing your band, school, family, and community. It is expected that each member follow PJH-East guidelines with regards to behavior on every event that takes us off our campus. Let your actions represent the best of what this band represents. Each field trip has different requirements concerning behavior and eligibility status. A more specific and detailed letter will be given before each trip.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS – PISD POLICY

All students playing a school owned instrument are required to pay a \$50 rental fee for each semester. This fee will cover annual cleaning and upkeep. **Each student is financially responsible for any damage incurred during the time that the instrument is checked out to them.** See your homeowner's insurance policy for what is covered.

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS

After the beginner year, students are placed in a larger band class with a variety of instruments. It becomes necessary to meet with students who play the same instrument (outside of the band class) – these practices are called ***sectionals***. Sectionals are **Co-Curricular** or an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Band students are required to attend one sectional rehearsal per week, held either before or after school. During sectionals, attention is given to the following:

- specific skills of that instrument
- music fundamentals
- chair tests and pass-off tests
- practicing music needing additional work
- individual attention towards solos and ensembles

Students are encouraged to arrive early in order not to miss very important information that pertains to their particular instrument. Since 7th and 8th graders are not in small classes anymore, sectionals really help them improve as individuals. Sectionals assist students in understanding what and how to practice. Students are notified of the sectional well in advance to avoid conflicts. We work with the PJH-East Athletic Department to coordinate band and sports so that students may participate in both activities. However, sectionals will be scheduled at the discretion of the band director either before or after school. In order to be eligible for performances and competitions, all students must attend their regularly scheduled section rehearsal with their instrument group. **Multiple absences, excused or unexcused from section rehearsals will result in the loss of eligibility for all competitive events for the remainder of the school year or a student being moved down to a different band.** A student with multiple absences (excused or unexcused) must make-up section rehearsals for partial or full grade credit recovery but will not recover eligibility for performances or competitions. In the spring semester, students and parents will sign a commitment contract for participation in competitive events.

*****Very Important Note Regarding Section Rehearsals*****

*Section rehearsals are **Co-Curricular, meaning they are required and graded.** Every effort will be taken to make the day and time convenient for all students. **Attendance at all required section rehearsals is mandatory and will be a major part of the band grade. Clubs, tutorials and non-Pearland JH East athletics will not be considered excused absences.***

Private Lessons

This is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Houston area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

1. Private lessons are optional unless a student has been issued a school owned instrument or placed in the top performing band.
2. Private lessons are an expectation of students who are utilizing SCHOOL OWNED instruments.
3. Private lessons are an expectation of students in the HONORS Band. (Please communicate any concerns with the directors, we are happy to help with scheduling and financial issues.)
4. Students in SYMPHONIC and CONCERT Bands are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to take individualized private instruction, especially if the student wishes for advancement of personal skill set and more competitive opportunities.
5. Lesson instructors are provided by the district and go through a background check.
6. Lessons will be given weekly, and payment is made directly to the instructor

Region Band

1. ALL HONORS BAND students will learn the audition music for the Region Band Auditions.
2. HONORS BAND and any other students choosing to participate must attend region band sectionals and help sessions to be eligible to audition for the Region Band.
3. HONORS BAND students will be graded during the 1st semester on preparation for this event.
4. Any person who has earned a spot will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.)
5. Region Band Auditions are generally held on the SATURDAY of the first weekend of November. Please see calendar for the date to avoid schedule conflicts. Participation in Region Band Auditions is the conclusion of a three month long project and vitally important to individual student growth and the success of the band program.

It is quite an honor to be selected to the Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

“STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS”

When students reach a more advanced playing level, parents may consider the purchase of a “step-up” instrument for your child. This is a more professional model that is designed for advanced music levels and creates ease of playing the full range of the instrument. The tone quality is a more mature sound. These instruments can last a student throughout their middle school, high school, and college careers. In a lot of situations, students keep their “beginner” instrument for the outside marching band environment. If you have questions or are planning on taking this step toward a higher-level instrument, PLEASE CONTACT THE BAND DIRECTORS. We can give you information on music companies and their representatives that can give you the best price for your instrument. PLEASE LET US HELP YOU.

BRACES / ORTHODONTICS

Braces are a fact of life for many students. The directors ask the parents to please keep us up to date with dental plans involving your child’s teeth. Braces may affect your child’s playing to a degree for a short time and we, as teachers, need to prepare for that with your child. Please keep your child’s performance schedule in mind when arranging the appointments for getting braces. Braces should not go on during the six weeks before UIL contest, Solo Contest, or Region Band. The best time for braces is during the summer or during the winter holiday. Your children work far too hard and too long on perfecting their music to have to struggle with their “new” mouth. Please give us time to help them through so they feel good about their playing and can be successful.

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

If damage occurs to a school owned instrument, please notify a director immediately. School owned instruments may only be repaired at approved music repair shops. If your instrument is in need of repair, please ask a director for advice on where and how to fix it. We will help protect your investment and money. Many repairs are an easy fix for the band directors and will save you time and money.

Band Fees and Costs Information Page

<u>General Band Fee – All Band Students</u> <u>ALL BAND STUDENTS</u> (Includes band binder, classroom supplies, music, contest/clinician fees and the <u>band spirit t-shirt</u>)	<u>PRICE</u> \$35.00
<u>Tuxedo Shirt – All Band Students</u> This is a white formal tuxedo style dress shirt <u>Required</u> for all formal performances	\$20.00
<u>Region Band Audition Fee – Honors Band Students</u> Required for Honors Band Students Optional for Symphonic/Concert Band Students	\$12.00
<u>IR Fee – School Owned Instruments Students Only</u> Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor/Bari Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion: <u>Required for school instrument use</u>	\$50.00 (Fall) \$50.00 (Spring)
<i>Additional Costs Information:</i> <i>(Other possible yearly expense, some costs not listed)</i>	
<u>Piano Accompanist Fee</u> Fee for Woodwind and Brass players performing a Solo	\$25.00 – 35.00+
<u>Instrument Supplies</u> (Valve Oil, Cork Grease, Reeds, Swabs)	\$3.00 - \$30.00+
<u>Private Lessons</u> Highly Recommended for Student Success	\$30.00 (Per Week)
<u>Spring Trip</u> Optional trip in April/May	\$50.00 - \$60.00
<u>Additional Formal Uniform Purchases</u> Black Dress Pants/Tuxedo Pants Black Dress Shoes and Socks	\$30.00 - \$50.00+ \$30.00 - \$60.00+