

Pebblebrook High School



Band Program Handbook

2009-2010

Director of Bands – Eulas Kirtdoll

Associate Director – Jarius Thomas

Band Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the high school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him or herself or to make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and effort of fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest student is one who improved through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong but must be able to stand for principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performances.
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music.
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives and musical experiences.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop esprit de corps.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

Band Curriculum

Wind Symphony

The Wind Ensemble is the primary performing organization in the instrumental music department during the winter and spring. The wind symphony will be comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to play grade 4 and 5 literature.

Symphonic Band

The symphonic band is comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to perform grade 3 literature.

Marching Band

Membership in the marching band requires strenuous physical exercise and the ability to play difficult literature encountered in the activity. All students enrolled in the band program are required to march with the exception of students outside of the program, who are eligible to audition for the color guard. The marching band performs in the fall.

Jazz Ambassadors

Students may elect to audition for the jazz ambassadors. The jazz ambassadors play for community events and perform throughout the year. Jazz band is held both semesters.

Chamber Music Society

During the fall and spring, chamber ensembles will be formed. ALL band members will be encouraged to perform in a chamber ensemble. Possible groups are woodwind quintet, brass quintet, saxophone quartet, horn ensemble, trombone quartet, low brass ensemble, flute choir, clarinet choir, percussion ensemble, and additional small groups. There will be a chamber concert in the spring and opportunities for performance at the solo and ensemble festival.

Jade

Female students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our marching auxiliary unit. The color guard is an extension of the winter dance program and is sponsored and instructed by Lateria Jordan. Auditions are usually held in April.

Percussion Ensemble

All percussionists in the band program are enrolled in the percussion ensemble class. Students learn basic fundamentals on all the percussion instruments and explore many styles and genres. The class is taught by Jarius Thomas.

Symphonic Camp

The symphonic camp is two days of intensive training with a recognized clinician. It will be held at Pebblebrook High School with a camp concert to be held at its conclusion.

Leadership Workshop

The leadership workshop prepares students to become effective leaders within the band program and beyond. Students are encouraged to attend a leadership workshop by Tim Lautzenheiser. The workshop is required of all students who wish to be considered for leadership.

Summer Instruction

There are many nationally known summer institutes for instrumental instruction. Some of the best are Brevard Music Center, Sewanee, Interlochen Arts Camp, Aspen Summer Music Program, Kinhaven, Keystone Brass Institute and Tanglewood. There are also regional summer music camps at local universities.

Private Lessons

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual attention as opposed to being on in a class of more than fifty. A recent survey of students in the all-state band revealed that approximately 80 percent of the students in band study privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment, and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment with the instrument. The band director will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher.

All-State

All students are encouraged to audition for All State. Auditions are held in December.

Merit System

After-school practice (personal or scheduled)	2 points
Private lessons -	2 points per lesson
All State Band Audition	4 points
All-state member	6 points
District Honor Band	4 Points
Solo and ensemble participations	2 points per event
Leadership workshop	2 points
Jazz Ambassadors	2 points per reh.
Outside Clinics	2 Points

**The top twelve individuals will attend the merit dinner at the end of each semester.*

Demerits

Excessive talking	10 points
Unexcused missed rehearsal	20 points
Tardiness	2 points per ten min.
Missing materials/no instrument	10 points
Missed performance	40 points

*Students will make up unexcused absences by doing one hour of supervised practice per absence.

Tardiness to Marching Band

*Students will make up their tardiness at the conclusion of rehearsal.

Sitting Third Quarter

During marching season, students will sit during the third quarter of football games for the following reasons:

- Failure to pass=off music by the allotted deadline
- More than one unexcused rehearsal or tardy per week
- Any infraction of disrespect.

The director is responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of the merit and demerit system and may hold a student out of a performance.

Attendance Policy

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records, e.g., illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.

Performance no shows! The student will receive 40 demerits and a lowering of one letter grade on his or her report card.

For *all* absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- The director must be notified in advance.
- An absentee request form must be filled out and on file
- For illness, a parental note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with director as well-please call the band room. 770-819-2521 ext 283.
- In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the band answering machine with a follow-up personal call.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!

The mere filing of an absentee request form does not constitute approval. The above policy is cut and dry in regard to what is excused.

Conflicts with Band

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so arrangement can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a situation that should only happen once, the student will need to consult with the director about possible alternatives. Students should have a calendar and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band director to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are remind that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts with performances must be resolved in favor of band participation. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

Grading Policy

Duties of the Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time-on time is late.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
- There should no excess playing (e.g. horsing around on the instrument), only good solid material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of the rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight-have musical expectations.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for him or herself. Any misconduct cast a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who discredits the organization by his or her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip shall be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include the chance to go on trips. This decision will be at the director's discretion.

Parents' Responsibility to the Band

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies set within and that any questions are to be directed to the

band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices his or her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

How Parents Can Help

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band, contact the band director. If it is a fund-raising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with the booster club president.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case; get a metronome!
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check to make sure students have their instruments.
- If the student is absent, make sure his or her folder gets to school if the student shares it with someone.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and competitions.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.

Students' Responsibility to the Band

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. These expectations coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

To Ourselves

You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be overestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is always available for your guidance and encouragement—just ask!

To the School

The school district provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. The band booster club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our community.

To Music

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of the culture. No one expects you to be virtuoso musicians, only to do the very best you can. The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10 percent of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90 percent. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish act solely for the benefit of the individual. Respect each other. If there are any conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" implies that we are banded together without divisions.

Financial Obligations

Each band student is assessed a dollar amount determined by the budgeted needs of the band for that year divided by the number of band members. The band fees for marching band 2009 are \$555. The payment schedule is listed below:

- 1st Payment: July 1 = \$141
- 2nd Payment: July 13 = \$138
- 3rd Payment: July 27 = \$138
- 4th Payment: Aug. 3 = \$138

Concert Band fees due date:

Oct. 2 = \$85

*All members of band class are required to pay the concert band fees.

Rules and Procedures

- Shoes and socks must be worn at all times for outside practices.
- Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal or in the band room.
- Each band member must respect his or her uniform and wear it properly at all times.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the band room.
- No hats or sunglasses are allowed to be worn inside the building.
- Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin on time.
- Respected authority the others, including their personal property.
- A band member will wear no exposed jewelry while in uniform; civilian clothes must be tasteful.

- Drinking and drugs are strictly prohibited. All school district policies regarding such are in force during any band activity.
- All school rules, including no smoking, will be enforced.
- Students are required to remain with the band after games and will be dismissed as a group.
- Young adults shall not damage property or equipment.
- Fund-raising materials will be collected in the safe (GARY) in the band office. Be sure to include your name, the dollar amount, and the activity on the outside of the envelope.
- If you share a folder and are absent, make sure it gets to the school.

Marching Band Camp

- Band camp is held from July 27- July 31 at Pebblebrook High School from 9am-7pm.
- Attendance is mandatory
- Students are not allowed to leave the campus unless the student's parent comes to the school and speaks with one of the directors. No calls!
- Lunch is provided

Marching Band Practice

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation preventing this, an excuse form must be requested and filled out *beforehand*. After-school rehearsal will be on Monday-Friday from 3:45-6:00 starting on the first day of school. Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:45-6:00 starting the week after the first game. If a student is absent from school on the day of an after-school rehearsal, this does not automatically excuse the student for that afternoon. Someone must contact the band director at the band office. Do not leave a message with a student.

Alternates

Some of the most important members of the marching band are the alternates. Due to absence of others and the inability of some to work on their parts, it is necessary to fill these spots with alternates. Alternate members must be enthusiastic and willing to learn new material at a rapid pace. Alternates are critical to our success! The chances of an alternate working his or her way into a spot are very good if that alternate participates, works hard, learns the music, and does it with a good attitude.

The following policy will be used: The marching routine will be written for a set number of positions. Spot assignments will be assigned by the band director based on attendance, preparation, attitude, behavior, and music pass-offs.

Uniform

The marching band will wear the following uniform:

- Band Tee Shirt
- Hat
- Jogging Suit
- White Shoes

The Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band will wear the following uniform:

- Boys – Black Tuxedo/White Tuxedo Shirt and Black Bow Tie
- Girls – Black Dress

Inspection

Prior to a few performances of the band, all band members will stand inspection. Any member who does not pass inspection will not participate in the given performance.

Band members will be checked on the following:

- Cleaned Uniforms
- Cleaned polished shoes
- Hair correctly worn – all hair will be up off of the collar at all performances
- Cleaned, lubricated instruments

Do not get your ears pierced during marching band season!

Football Games

- Report time for all games will be announced on each Thursday prior to the game.
- Students must wear the full uniform.
- For home games, students will be dismissed following the announcements in the band room.
- For away games, students may ride home with another individual, but the band director must have a note signed by the parents prior to departure, and said person must make contact with the director at dismissal time. Parents must also contact the director prior to dismissal.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at attention.
When you have class it shows – when you don't, it *shouts!*
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their section. Any stand music will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by the director.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands. The band will be given water after halftime. The band will be given a break after halftime. Students must be back in their seats at the time designated by the band director.
- All Members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student leaves the band diction, another student must accompany him or her and both must have permission for the director.

Traveling

- If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is too loud!
- There will be no hanging out of or talking out of bus windows.
- Please lower the volume of your voice considerably when entering towns or stadiums. This is for your safety, is courteous to the bus driver, and is an act of class.
- Please keep the bus clean; pick up after yourselves, and always thank the chaperones and driver.

In Hotels Situations

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges, including lost room keys.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- All school will be enforced on trips.
- All students should realize any personal desires may have to put aside for the duration of the trip in order to facilitate large group control and management.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with severely.
- Profanity is not a part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Band members are expected to be at the place, at the right time, ready to go.

Competitions

Competitions are special events in which we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. We are there to do our best-not to win. If we do our best, everything will take of itself. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure, and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band. Students may use the band phone to call following a trip. Parents, please come immediately when called.

Concert Band Auditions

Both in November and May there will be auditions to determine chair or band placement. Auditions will be announced well in advance and will consist of scales, technique, a required solo, sight-reading, tone, and range. In some cases, a student on a brass instrument with a higher score may be put on a lower part to achieve balance or to allow a younger student to develop his or her range. If this is the case, the student will be informed of the reason for this or her placement.

Classroom Procedures

- You must be in the storage room or in your seat when the bell rings; a downbeat will be given three minutes after the bell. During the three minutes beforehand you should move to your seat; obtain music, a music stand, and a pencil; and begin warming up for the day's rehearsal. Make sure you have extra reeds. Announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class and will also be written on the board.
- Talking will not be tolerated during a rehearsal.
- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!
- If you must leave your seat for any reason, please ask first. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes.
- In your individual warm-up, it is important to practice long tones, lip slurs, scales, and that day's assignment on a daily basis.

Materials Needed for Class

Each student should have the following items in class every day:

- A sharpened pencil
- Instrument (sticks, mallets)
- Music and folder
- At least three reeds (clarinets and saxophones) and water bottles (trombones)
- At least two reeds (oboes and bassoon) and water canisters for soaking

From time to time during the school year you will receive a materials grade. If you have all the items listed above, you will receive a daily grade of an A. Your grade will be lowered one letter for each item you are missing, but students will be given two days to bring in any missing items. The easiest way to avoid this is to have everything you need at all times. After the second day, the letter grade may be lowered.

Scholarships

There are a wide variety of scholarships available for both music majors and non-music majors on the collegiate level. Many universities grant partial scholarships or a one-time scholarship to students who simply agree to play in an ensemble, and some will waive out-of-state tuition. Ask for information in the band office, and we will do all that we can to help in your future endeavors.

Use of the Band Facility

Band Room

The use of band facilities before, and after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **No outside students are permitted in the band room**, except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, e.g. throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion and Jade equipment is off limits to anyone not

specifically designated to use them. There will be no storing of personal items-the band room is not a locker!

Instrument Rooms

The instrument rooms are specifically for the storage of instruments. They are not hang out spots or areas for congestion. Once entering on of the instruments rooms, you should quickly remove your instrument from case and report to your seat. Only tuba players should enter the tuba room. Only percussionist should enter the percussion room.

Library, Band Office, Phone

The library is private and is to be used only by the library staff. Material may be checked out through the librarian; this includes solos, ensemble pieces, and etude books. The band office is private and is not to be entered by any student without permission from the director or a staff member. All students should keep in mind that this is a place of business. If the door is shut, knock first. Telephone use should be kept to a minimum and is not for personal use. **Ask permission before using the phone.**

Practice

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be fun unless you practice. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: *“Perfect practice makes perfect!”*

Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have a non-boomy place of practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on *pianissimo*)
- Use our daily warm-up and think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full-tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- “I will start with ___ minutes and increase to ___.”
- Practice sight-reading

Letters, Chevrons, and Stars

Students who qualify will receive a letter by meeting the following requirements:

- Have a 90 percent or above (average) in band
- Pass off all required material
- Be in band for two years; the letter will be received at the end of sophomore year

- Attend all performances unless extenuating circumstances prevail.
- Have no major disciplinary actions taken against them.
- Have no outstanding financial obligations
- Complete two hours of volunteer work in the band room or two hours of extra middle school help.