



## **Piedmont Band Handbook 2023-2024**

### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the Piedmont Band!!! The purpose of this handbook is to inform you with all aspects of our band programs. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with its contents. Many of the questions you may have concerning your student's band experience will be found in this handbook. With the policies and procedures of this handbook, our band program can run smoothly and efficiently. PDMS Band Program prides itself on creating a welcoming environment. Through participation in band, students will learn discipline, perseverance, and teamwork skills, all while making something beautiful and having fun! We are very excited to be on this journey with you and your students. For more information, please visit the band website at [pdmsband.org](http://pdmsband.org)

### **Meet the Teachers**

**Ms. Helms** studied Music Education at Wingate University. This is her second year at Piedmont. Her primary instrument is the clarinet. She enjoys amusement parks, crime shows, and making music and memories.

**Mr. Lukac** studied Music Education at Wingate University. He has been at Piedmont since 1999. Trumpet is his primary instrument. He loves his 2 kids, his dog Blue, Disney, and making incredible memories with all his students.

### **Homework Assignments**

This category on grading will vary from grade level to grade level as well as from grading period to grading period. We will sometimes have written assignments for the students to do. Examples of the types of assignments you may see: music theory worksheets, reflection assignments, research assignments.

Also included in this category is a notebook grade. The students have a great deal of things to focus on during the day and we want to make life as easy as possible for them so we have them keep everything they need for band in their notebook or case. See below for the list of required materials for the class. We check to make sure students

have the items necessary to be successful in band class. There will be at least 1 notebook grade per grading period. The notebook should be neat and have the following items in this order:

- Blank paper
- Divider labeled Notes
- Divider labeled Music (Sheet protectors go in this section)
- Divider labeled Worksheets/Written Work
- Divider labeled Other

### **Classroom Rules & Expectations**

- Work hard and have fun
  - Working hard and having fun is listed together as the number one rule because there must be a balance. If we only have fun, no work will get done. If we only work hard; we will not have any fun.
- Respect yourself, your classmates, and your instructors
  - Respect includes not talking over each other. We have a zero tolerance policy for bullying.
- Follow directions the first time they are given
- It is the student's responsibility to make up any assignment and contact Ms. Helms for any questions or makeup work. This includes actively checking Canvas and email for announcements and assignments.
- Only play your instrument or speak when prompted
- If it does not belong to you, do not touch it. (Examples: Percussion, An instrument that belongs to someone else, another person, etc. )
- No gum, food, or drinks other than water in the band room.
- Have your pencil, binder, instrument, instrument maintenance supplies, and any other necessary materials with you at the beginning of each class period.
- Each student is expected to be in attendance for every mandatory band event.
- Students are expected to practice **100 minutes a week** which is about 20 minutes a day Monday through Friday
- It is your responsibility to care for your instrument.
- Any school-owned property is to be taken care of and returned in the condition it was loaned to you. (Example: Instrument, music, instrument maintenance supplies)
- Each student is expected to adhere to the dress code for performances.

## Dress Code

Concert attire is concert black (white button-up shirts allowed). All performances require concert attire unless otherwise stated by Ms. Helms or Mr. Lukac

<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b>
Black or White collared shirt or blouse Black dress pants Black skirt/dress <b>with black tights</b> Black Dress Shoes/Flats(1" heels or lower)	Jeans(even black jeans) Low necklines Dresses/Skirts without wearing tights underneath Anything with prints or not fully black Leggings Tennis shoes or sandals Clothing with tears or holes Sweat clothes/workout attire Exceptionally high heels or open toe shoes T-shirts

## Technology

- Cellphones and laptops are not permitted during instruction and rehearsal unless otherwise specified by Ms. Helms or Mr. Lukac.
- The day after concert is a 'free block' for students. Students may use cellphones, laptops, and smaller video game devices (ex: Nintendo Switch, Nintendo DS, GameBoy, PSP, etc) . This rule only applies for the days following concerts and for that block only. Ms. Helms and Mr. Lukac are not responsible for damages, lost, or stolen items and will not be willing to hold them for you. Other teachers do reserve the right to confiscate or give a write up if you are on the device without their permission. Ms. Helms and Mr. Lukac also reserve the right to take away the 'free block' due to misbehavior.

## Grading Policy

Participation 10%

Written Assignments (Includes Notebook) 20%

Tests/Quizzes 30%

Performances 40%

**\*\*Late work will receive a 5 point reduction per day it's late\*\***

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

We require EACH student to have the following items:

Instrument

Method book (See below for your grade level)

BLACK 1" three-ring binder (it must be black and NO bigger than 1")

Clear sheet protectors (about 10 in the binder—will show example in class)

Pencil

Notebook Dividers (4)

### **Brass**

Valve oil for trumpets, baritones and tubas

Slide CREAM (do not get grease or liquid)- Trombones

### **Woodwinds**

Cleaning Kit

Reeds- once you are down to 3 reeds- ORDER More!

### **PERCUSSION students:**

Stick Bag

Drum Sticks (Vic Firth SD1 General)

Bell Mallets

Marimba Mallets (yarn mallet)

Timpani mallets

### **Students must have all materials no later than September 15**

6th Grade students are expected to purchase a method book for band. This book is their personal band book. These books will be used on a daily basis in class (most homework will come from these books). The book needed is *Traditions of Excellence* Book 1 (red book) by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin. Books can be purchased through the Piedmont Band or through Music & Arts. If purchasing through Piedmont please make checks out to Piedmont Band Boosters. Book cost \$14 (listed for 12.99 but rounded up to cover shipping and tax). Money must be turned in by September 8.

## **Calendar**

\*\*\* If any of the dates are changed due to unforeseen circumstances, the students and parents/guardians will be notified immediately.\*\*\*

**8th Grade Night #1-** 8th Grade Only— September 15 – Piedmont HS– 5pm Call Time

**8th Grade Night #2** 8th Grade Only— October 20 – Piedmont HS– 5pm Call Time

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert-** December 7–Call Time 6:30pm– Concert begins 7pm– PHS Auditorium

**HS concert-** December 12– 7pm– PHS Auditorium (extra credit offered)

**Instrument Auditions-** 6th Grade Only– December 12–3:30-4:30– PdMS Band Room

**All District Auditions-** Selected 7th & 8th Grade Only– January 13 (Snow Date Jan.20) Porter Ridge HS.

**All District Band Clinic-** Select Students Only– Jan. 26-27– Stuart W. Cramer HS– Overnight Trip

**6<sup>th</sup> grade First Concert**– Feb. 20 - Call time 6:30pm– Concert begins 7pm– PHS Auditorium

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade MPA-ish Concert**–Feb. 29–Call time6:30– Concert begins 7pm–PHS Auditorium

**HS Concert (extra credit available)**–March 12– 7pm

**8th Grade Field Trip**– April 19 Carowinds Festival of Music

**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spring concert**– May 9 - Call time 6:30– Concert begins 7pm

**8<sup>th</sup> and HS concert**– May 21 – Call Time 6:30– Concert begins 7pm

Band is a performance-based class, so all concerts are required for every student. ***Failure to attend the performance will result in an automatic 0 for the missed performance!!*** All performances will be announced prior to the actual date, letters will be sent home, and will be posted on the band website, [www.pdmsband.org](http://www.pdmsband.org) Not all dates apply to all students! Please pay attention and read the descriptions of the events to find out what applies to you. Please put ALL dates for your student/grade level on your calendar now as to avoid conflicts

## **Event Description**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Night** – Recruitment effort by the Piedmont HS Band program. Students will observe a high school football game from the band's point of view. Students will sit with the band and play pep tunes during the game, watch half time, and in general be treated like a HS band member. The students will receive free admission to the game.

**Winter Concert** – 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will perform in the Auditorium. THIS IS REQUIRED OF 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> BAND STUDENTS.

**All-District Audition** – Competition against other students in the same grade levels in our 10 county area to receive a spot in the All-District Honors Band. Must know scales (memorized), solo, and sight-reading. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders only.

**All-District Band** – Two day intensive band clinic held for students who auditioned and made the all-district band. **Overnight trip** to Belmont, NC.

**County Band** – All students interested in performing in the county honor band, should first audition for ALL-DISTRICT BAND. Students who completed a successful All-District audition will take precedence over students who did not. Students will be chosen to participate in County band by the band directors.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade first concert**- This is the first opportunity to hear the wonderful sounds coming from these young musicians!

**“Piedmont-only” MPA Preview Concert** – Pre-MPA evening concert held at the Piedmont High School Auditorium to prepare us to go to MPA. Required for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> only.

**Spring Concert** – Evening concert, last concert of the year for Piedmont Middle Students.

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE BAND ROOM BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

I have read and understand the policies set forth by the Band Directors for the 2023-2024 school year.

Parent Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware of the given concert dates and realize that they may change, and I am aware of the dress code policy for concert band. Parent Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the requirements and rules for band for the next school year.

\_\_\_\_\_

(student name...PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_

(student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(parent signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(PHONE #)

\_\_\_\_\_

(PARENT EMAIL)