

# PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This handbook is provided by the Band Director to help YOU, the band parents, know all the things that your band kids should tell you, but might forget...

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## Introduction

This band information and rules manual has been formulated so that each parent and band student will be completely familiar with and develop an understanding of all that we are trying to achieve through the band program at Ponte Vedra High School.

Although some of the rules and regulations may seem rigorous, we ask that you keep in mind that we are here to not only develop a good musical organization, but to **PRODUCE GOOD CITIZENS WITH A STRONG MORAL CHARACTER.**

Every parent and band member should read each page carefully, as each page applies to everyone. I welcome every new parent and student to the Ponte Vedra HS Band Program and welcome back the returning ones!

A large portion of the music program happens after school; therefore, band is classified as a co-curricular activity. There will be after school practices and performances, and these are ***required events***. Our success depends directly upon the hard work and commitment of each student. Parents must be willing to support and encourage their child in meeting this commitment. The rewards for this effort by band members and their parents will quickly become evident by the accomplishments of the band and the individuals in the program.

The following policies, rules, and regulations are presented with the expectations that they will produce a superior band program. With this in mind, it is important that these policies be followed without any reservations. A good band is the result of Attitude, Dedication, Teamwork, and Perseverance. This will all lead to Pride in our organization.

The Ponte Vedra Community is very supportive of music education at all grade levels. Your involvement and dedication will set the foundation for a well-rounded music education program. Thus, the goals, desires, and objectives that we will try to obtain this year will set the starting standards for the next year. The involvement of fine arts/performing arts in our schools is extremely important in creating a well-rounded student. Statistics show that participation in music/performing arts classes increase S.A.T. scores,

organizational skills, leadership abilities, and the ability to communicate and deal with life situations. Music is an important part of your student's curriculum. The fine arts programs in schools are always fighting budget cuts, instructional cuts, and sometimes-entire removal from the school.

Keep the fine arts alive!!!! Your hard work, dedication, and hours spent practicing and rehearsing is far more important to music education than you think!!!!

The Ponte Vedra High Music Program offers a unique opportunity for young people to learn the value of working hard as a team toward worthy goals, in addition to teaching leadership, musicianship, and performance skills. Parents, by becoming actively involved in the booster organization, can share in their child's development in a most rewarding way. Students, by working hard together, can learn the habits of successful people, play a lot of great music, make a lot of friends, generate school pride, and share in a fun experience that will go to new levels of achievement.

Within the last few years this band program has grown to be one of the finest in St. Johns County and the State of Florida. The Jazz Bands performs yearly at the Florida Bandmaster Association District Solo and Ensemble Festival as well as many other various events throughout the community.

The list goes on and on!

All of these achievements are the result of the countless hours of support given by our wonderful Students, Parents, School, and Band Staff.

I'm looking forward to a rewarding and exciting year that is ahead of us. I hope you are as well.

Musically Yours!

*Jermaine L. Reynolds*

Mr. Reynolds

## **HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS**

Achievement of success has many components, but the essential element is a good attitude. In a successful band program, a good attitude involves the following:

1. **WILLINGNESS** to conduct yourself during the rehearsals in a manner which allows learning, growth, and progress by the entire band.
2. **DEDICATION** of enough of your time at home to ensure your skills (Practicing) surpass the minimum required for effective participation in your program.
3. **RESPONSIBILITY** with regard to attendance, punctuality, care of equipment, care and use of the band room, required fund-raisers, and staying on top of your class work in your other academic classes.

The elements of a "Good Attitude" listed above will produce SUCCESS. Success in turn, will produce PRIDE. Pride in your band will take you back to the elements of a good attitude, thus perpetuating success.

***What was acceptable for today is now the foundation for what is expected tomorrow.***

## **OBLIGATIONS**

As a member of the Ponte Vedra High Music Program you will be expected to:

1. Attend Marching Band Camp (Mandatory)
2. Attend all after school/evening rehearsals for your particular ensemble.
3. Attend all scheduled performances for your particular ensemble.
4. Have a **COOPERATIVE & POSITIVE ATTITUDE.**
5. Participate in all fund-raising activities.
6. Participate in WINTER & SPRING CONCERT BAND EVENTS
7. **Pay your fair share in full, or make arrangements with the band booster treasurer.**
8. Practice your instrument or guard equipment at home frequently and strive to be the best that you can be!
9. Be responsible for participating in events that make up part of your grade.
10. Treat each other with respect and dignity. Have Pride in your Band Program and Facility!
11. Make new friends & **HAVE FUN!**
12. General Needs for all students
  - Shoe polish.
  - Cleaning supplies for instruments.
  - Bobby pins and hair spray for color guard or band members.
  - Extra reeds, valve oil, slide grease, tape, etc.
  - Money for food - third quarter, trips, etc.
  - Black socks
  - Highlighter, Flip folder, and Lyre for stand tunes for football games.
  - Practice or/Band Shirt for performances, pep rally, etc.
  - Proper concert attire for performances for Symphonic Band, & Jazz Band.

# **CURRICULUM**

## **INSTRUMENTAL/VISUAL PERFORMING ARTS**

### **PLEASE READ!!!!!!!**

#### **Curriculum Statement of Fact**

All band ensembles (classes) are performance oriented. Therefore, you will participate in performances. These courses are county co-curricular classes. **Your participation at events, concerts, performances, festivals, and practices are required and can affect your grade.** Thus, the term “performing arts class” is a true description of the curriculum. If you know you will miss performances, practices that lead up to an event, and/or concerts then do not enroll in a performing arts class.

**Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band** is a large concert ensemble of the total band program, in which all the habits and concepts of good performance and ensemble playing are established and developed. This band will study and perform FBA Grade III-V literature. This group performs at spring concerts including FBA District Concert Festival. After school rehearsals will also take place in the spring as needed in preparation for FBA district festival and concerts. FROM JANUARY TO MID MARCH there will be after school rehearsals held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Symphonic Band and Mondays and Wednesdays for Wind Ensemble. However, guest clinicians and conductors may only be able to work with the group on other days. Advance notice will be given by the director to the students in order for there to be 100% attendance at these rehearsals. Extensive practicing will be required of the musicians in order to perform the technically demanding literature correctly. Also, this ensemble requires the full formal wear required by all the concert ensembles. The school provides this formal wear. The performer requires proper shirts, shoes, and accessories.

**Ponte Vedra High Jazz Ensemble** The jazz ensemble is made up of students that have the strong interest in jazz studies, applications, and performance. The ensemble will be based on auditions and instrumentation requirements. This ensemble will meet after school once a week throughout the Fall and Spring. The ensemble will participate in miscellaneous events throughout the community and state. Membership will be based on record of participation, reliability, discipline history (behavior), musicianship, desire to learn, flexibility to make rehearsals, etc. The Director of Bands will determine the ensemble instrumentation. Auditions will be announced in the Winter. Improvisation, performing, appreciation, techniques, and skills will be taught as part of the ensemble.

**Marching Band:** meets during and after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Ponte Vedra High “Ocean of Sound” is the most visible, community oriented “extra-curricular activity” in St. Johns County, and most members do participate, realizing that this ensemble is where “the action is” during first semester. The Marching Band performs at most varsity football games, several field show competitions, and parades. In addition, this provides the vehicle for teaching the same teamwork and good work habits that attract other students to athletics. Marching Band members are rewarded for their extra time and dedication to the program!

The “Ocean of Sound” is a STATE RECOGNIZED premier outdoor ensemble of Ponte Vedra High and the St. Johns County community. The reputation of this ensemble is one that upholds the highest standards of musical & visual excellence. Membership can be denied based on behavior problems, severe attitude problems, conflicting extra-curricular activities, non-agreement of rules and policies stated in this handbook, school rules, and county guidelines.

You can be removed from the Marching Band if you do not pay your fair share assessments, fundraise to pay your fees or make arrangements with the treasurer of the band booster group and are a behavior problem. Marching Band is a combination of instrumentalists and Color Guard members that have the common goal to strive to be and do the best they can as a group and as individuals. Marching Band is a TEAM EFFORT!

**You must be in marching band to participate in Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Winter Guard.**

**Color Guard / Indoor Guard** is an after school program offered for color guard students. All guard members are encouraged to be in a performing ensemble class. Studies in dance, choreography, technique in rifle, flag, and saber are taught by professional dance choreographers and color guard instructors. All areas of dance are introduced and studied. Grades will be based on participation, skills tests, vocabulary tests, attendance of rehearsals and performances, and other curriculum requirements. A fair share assessment for being in color guard/winter guard will be required in order to cover the costs of instructional fees, trips, membership fees, contest fees, design and choreography truck and bus rental, props, uniforms, and equipment. Costs for this program go toward trips, instruction, materials, uniforms, etc.

**Non-payment of fair share assessments and trip assessments will result in not performing or participating in the group and/or not receiving awards, medals.**

## **INDOOR PERCUSSION**

Participation in the Indoor Percussion will be open to any percussionist or non-percussionist alike that wants to learn more about percussion. If the desire and dedication is present we will have an Indoor Percussion Ensemble to perform at WGI/FFCC Winter Guard Shows. The schedule will be announced and we will attend approximately 5 shows. Participants in this activity will be required to pay additional fees and will be required to attend after school rehearsals.

## **SOLO & ENSEMBLE**

A festival for Solo and Ensemble groups is offered to the band students. All band students are encouraged to participate. Students prepare for performances in front of judges for rating on individual/group merit and medals may be earned. Students are required to select their own music, as well as arrange for an accompanist (if needed). Students selecting grade 5 or higher music may qualify for state competition and must ensure that their accompanist will be available to attend.

**PRIVATE LESSONS** are encouraged for all students in the band program. Hence, students in this ensemble will greatly benefit from the combination of practicing at home and taking private lessons with a qualified music instructor. Students can fundraise to help pay for private instruction after fair share payments are covered. See Mr. Reynolds if you need help in locating a private instructor.

# **GUIDELINES FOR PONTE VEDRA BANDS**

## **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

During the marching band season, the weekly schedule is as follows. Changes may be indicated on published calendar:

MONDAY: 4:15pm-6:15pm

WEDNESDAY: 3:15pm-5:30pm

FRIDAY: Football Games

SATURDAY: Competitions and Rehearsals on select weekends.

BE EARLY!!!!!! Do not miss rehearsals!!!! Extra rehearsals could be called for Saturday or different days of the week when there is a school related conflict. Saturday rehearsals could be called in preparation of a contest, but hopefully we will be on schedule.

RAIN or WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE!

1(A) FRIDAYS: FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCES: These performances represent your school and community. These performances are mandatory and approved excuses are very rare and they must be brought to the director's attention at least two weeks in advance. Please do not schedule any appointments or commitments on Fridays or game days prior to report time. Traffic is extremely heavy at these times and you will probably get here late if you are running all over town. Do not miss football games for any reasons other than emergencies. Please do not plan trips, vacations, or events on these performance nights.

1(B) CONTEST and FESTIVAL DAYS: These occur in October and November, and you are required as a Marching Band member to attend all Marching Band events. These contests are local and out of county and occur on Saturdays. When you miss an event it creates a hole on the field, a part not played, PLEASE DO NOT PLAN OTHER EVENTS ON THESE DAYS. I understand some Saturdays prior to a contest are SAT and ACT testing days. It may be possible to meet the band after testing happens so that you do not miss a performance. PLAN AHEAD!! ACT and SAT testing dates for next year are already posted on the corresponding testing websites. While every effort has been made to not conflict with testing dates, some cannot be avoided. Plan your calendar early so this does not become an issue.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The St. Johns County School System provides no financial support to the school band programs. The responsibility for meeting the financial needs of our band program falls squarely on the shoulders of the band boosters, parents and students. An amount comes from band and guard fair shares; the rest comes from booster and student fundraising throughout the year. Those who cannot meet the various financial obligations must talk to the band director & band booster treasurer to make other arrangements. No one will be denied participation because of extreme financial hardship, but everyone must help out and participate in fund raising events or booster functions. Arrangements must be made prior with the treasurer of the booster program.

If you or your parents refuse to participate in fundraising or booster activities than you will be jeopardizing fundraising efforts for the entire group!! If fundraising events are a flop due to lack of participation of students and parents, then the offset costs of the booster organization may be null and void. In other words, the band fair share could rise due to lack of fundraising participation and you will be accountable for this increase.

There are **no** refunds if a student decides to quit or any other reason later in the year. Please make sure you are fully on board before committing to the band.

## **STAFF**

Staff members are chosen by the Band Director and are directly responsible to him. Students should accord these instructors the same respect as they would any other adult and faculty member of Ponte Vedra High School. Any problems with a staff member should be relayed directly to the band director, rather than confronting the staff member. In the Marching Band situation, staff members are second only to the Director in the chain of command in handling decision making and communicating with the students.

Other guest clinicians, conductors, band directors are brought in throughout the entire school year to work with the band & guard program. These clinicians are vital to the program to enhance, improve, and educate the students to a higher level of learning.



## **REHEARSAL / PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE**

There are only two missed-practice excuses that will be accepted that will not need prior approval:

1. A death in the family.
2. A sickness, which will cause the student to miss a rehearsal or performance (the student shall email the director and notify him during the school day so arrangements can be made).

In the event that an emergency should arise which would cause you to be absent from or tardy to a rehearsal or performance, you should make every attempt to contact the director and advise him of the situation as soon as possible. After or during school hours you can reach the band room by calling 904-547-7350.

Any other excuses from performances or rehearsals must be in writing and signed by the student's parent(s) or guardian. If you have a personal conflict of importance on a rehearsal or performance date, you will notify the director **IN WRITING AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** of the time you want your request to be considered (CONSIDERED does NOT necessarily mean GRANTED OR HONORED). This will give an alternate ample time to learn your assignment or give the director time to make any adjustments that are necessary. If the director considers your request valid, it will be granted. In making a request, give the director enough information for the situation to be adequately appraised.

- An unexcused absence from rehearsal is a zero for that daily grade, and you will be placed on alternate status if possible. After three such absences, you will be removed from the performing group. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade, and you will be placed on alternate status.
- Alternates and those prohibited from performing must still attend all events in uniform. They are still a member of the organization, and will usually be needed in other capacities - equipment setup, etc.

**WORK OR FAMILY TRIPS ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES –THIS INCLUDES ALL PERFORMANCES, CONTESTS, SECTIONALS AND REHEARSALS. Plan around the dates you are provided because we need every member at every event.**

**Attendance at practices is MANDATORY. Any exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the director.**

- When you join the band, you are making a commitment to the entire group. **Parents, please do not pull your child out of practice, performances or the program to discipline them for problems you are experiencing at home – this will not be an excused absence.** It is unfair to all of those depending on that student.
- A calendar of expected events is on the last page of this book. You will be notified of changes in these dates as far in advance as possible, but due to forces beyond the Director's control they are subject to change. You will be expected to participate and

attend ALL of these **so please plan family trips, etc. around these events.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

***NOTE:***

Anytime an important religious holiday conflicts with the band, the absence will be excused. However, please observe the paragraph above concerning advance notice.

***The following are some reasons that are NOT excused absences:***

- Company comes in town to visit and has not seen you in ages. (We are talking 3 hours of practice folks!)
- Bowling, soccer leagues and club teams that are not Ponte Vedra H.S. athletic sports
- **WORK WILL NEVER BE EXCUSED!!!!** (job: part-time, full-time, any time) Give your employer your band calendar in advance so it will not cause any conflicts down the road. BE RESPONSIBLE. Employers cannot legally penalize you because of a school conflict. Notify the director immediately if this is happening!
- “I have a headache...” (Boo Hoo. Yeah, so do I. Mine is caused by your skipping rehearsal!)
- Private music lessons on the same days.
- Appointments for dentists, doctors, and haircuts need to be made on days other than band rehearsals-except emergencies (not hair).
- Broken instrument, reed, forgot my mouthpiece, broken finger nail, bad hair day, dog ate my music or instrument, I have a big quiz the next morning, etc.

If you think I will say no to your excuse, you are probably right. Thus, do not miss or skip rehearsals or performances. However, I am flexible. There are some exceptions allowed if enough notice is given ahead of time. Weddings, funerals, religious events, such as confirmation, etc. are perfectly excusable. Believe me, there are priorities that take place above band.

***DUE NOTICE IS GIVEN.***

## **RESERVE POLICY**

The PVHS Marching Band is a team effort, and like any team we need to fill every position without any empty spots. This is critical because of two reasons:

1. The listeners and viewers (whether it is mom and dad or a band fan from another school or a judge at a contest) expect the best possible performance. An empty spot detracts from the performance of everyone on the field.
2. The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group. The critical factors of uniformity, balance, precision, spacing, and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences. Marching band members rely on each other for these things as well as psychological support.

In addition, our roster fluctuates because of illness, accident, and students transferring in and out of PVHS. Our competition instrumentation is set in the early spring, and many changes happen between then and Band Camp. Members are re-evaluated for regular and reserve positions at Band Camp as well as throughout the season.

In order to give all members a fair opportunity and still maintain the highest standards of performance, we have established the following **Reserve Policy**:

1. Band members have performance expectations to be met at various deadlines - music memorized, guard routines, marching skills, drill formation positions, etc. These are usually checked by squad leaders and/or staff and called "check-offs".
2. Assuming these skills are learned, **all members march parades and pregame.**
3. In most sections there are a few reserves or alternates that **take turns at performances and rehearsals.** These are usually rookies and occasionally others. If the doubles that share a position are equal in check-offs and ability, they will take turns in performances. If one member is clearly stronger, that person will march the important competitions. Due to the visual nature of the **Color Guard**, doubles are not usually used. Every attempt will be made to include as many performers as possible, pending their level of achievement.

This system has been successful with many different organizations over the years. It has also helped to motivate the members to always do their best and stay on target. The marching skills demanded by the contemporary marching band are very complex, and many times the physical coordination of young members does not mature until their sophomore year. Rookies often "pay their dues" their first year and then become a "regular" in succeeding years. No positions are ever "set in concrete" and many changes occur as the season progresses. Every effort will be made to be as fair as possible and have as many members perform as we can.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Band students who are members of other organizations on campus are to be admired. They have achieved that delicate balance between commitment and casual interest. Students like these are an asset to our organization. However, students who miss band rehearsals due to memberships in other organizations are liabilities. Their absence ultimately leads to lesser quality performances that reflect on their entire ensemble.

In the event that a band member holds membership in another organization which has meeting times that conflict with band rehearsals, **BAND MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE** and is a participation-oriented class. Absence from class (rehearsal) is virtually impossible to make up. Tardiness, early dismissals, and/or absences due to these meetings must be approved and your performing status and grade will reflect any conflict in this area. Exceptions are possible but do require sufficient notice and documentation.

## **TEAM SPORTS MEMBERSHIP**

There are certain types of sports on campus in which a student may participate along with Band. However, this requires the student and the coach to compromise greatly. Absence from band rehearsals and performances due to memberships on sports teams is not excused unless prior approval from the director has been given. The Band will try to do what is fair for all students. Our consideration of these absences is given as a courtesy. Sports are a worthwhile endeavor and the Band endorses its full support to the Athletic Department. However, since Band is a class carrying a grade and granting credit, our cooperation has its limits. Enrolling in a band class and completing all class requirements will count for the Team Sports or Individual Sports class requirement for graduation.

## **INSPECTIONS**

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. These are run by the Drum Major, along with the assistance of the Section Captains and Band Director. Students must make sure before the inspection that they are properly prepared--instrument clean and working, any necessary music and accessories available, and the uniform properly worn. During the inspection, the Section Captains will report any problems to the Drum Major; if they cannot resolve it, it is reported to the band director, who will determine whether or not the student will be allowed to perform. All minor problems reported will be recorded 3rd quarter will be assigned. After the inspection, students may borrow items, if they are available. These items, if borrowed from the band, must be promptly returned following the performance or the replacement cost of the item assessed.

**Note to parents:**

Inspections are held before each football game, competition, and parade. Be sure that your student has cleaned his/her instrument, and has clean gloves and has polished his/her shoes. **Parents are not allowed in the band room during this time except for chaperones and boosters in charge of uniforms.**

**Loss of third quarter privilege will be enforced. NO BAND SHOES, NO PERFORMING! Tennis shoes are not acceptable! If you lose third quarter privileges, you still will be able to get water from the boosters and be able to use the restroom.**

**INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

Most band members are expected to provide their own instruments. In special cases, school owned instruments might be available use. You are to only use equipment rented out, checked out or assigned to you. Using other people's instruments is not allowed unless arrangements were made ahead of time. THIS IS VERY RARE!! Please take care of instruments/equipment assigned to you. Proper maintenance is required at all times. The Storage Room is only to be used for musical purposes, not for your gym clothes or schoolbooks.

**(A) INSTRUMENT AGREEMENT**

School instrumental rental is NOT included in the band fair share assessment. There is an agreement between you and the School Board of St. Johns County that must be signed by the parents and student. It must be returned and signed. Instrument agreements are due by the end of the first week of school.

Brass Instruments— Some mouthpieces are provided, most students will use their own.

Woodwind Instruments--All players will furnish their own mouthpieces and reeds, as needed.

All instruments should be kept clean inside and out, not only for good tone production but also for health reasons. Your assigned instrument is your total responsibility. Anyone not properly maintaining the instrument to which they are assigned, or abusing it, is liable for dismissal from the band program. The parent will be invoiced for the repair.

## **BAND UNIFORMS**

**BAND UNIFORMS** ARE A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND SCHOOL SPIRIT. Each student is fitted for a uniform at the beginning of the school year. Our uniforms are the property of the band program; **Students need to purchase additional items to complete the total uniform: plain (no logos or colors) black crew socks (calf length or higher), black band shoes** (purchased through a representative of the boosters at band camp), **black shoe polish** to maintain appearance, **and black cotton gloves** (also purchased through the band program).

**Color Guard Uniforms** are custom-made, and each year is made to fit the show. The costs are reasonable for these quality outfits. The students and the boosters will maintain these uniforms. They are the property of the boosters and will be determined each year if they will be kept, or sold. These uniforms require great care! They contribute to the overall look of the band and show! We will try to make sure when possible, that there can be some repeat years of use. Undergarments, gloves, accessories are not part of the fair share fees.

**Band Concert & Festival Attire:** The Concert Band and Jazz Band perform in "Black." (Dress Blacks) There are no variations of the dress code. Dress Blacks means formal wear for formal occasions. Concerts are formal and you will look the part. DINKLES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE DRESS SHOES!

**BAND UNIFORM BOOSTERS** are the hard-working volunteers who outfit each student with a uniform, and maintain the uniforms and the uniform room throughout the school year. Students are expected to show respect to these boosters and to maintain their uniforms in the condition in which they are received. There is no way to maintain these expensive uniforms without strict guidelines. Students must adhere to all rules and regulations set forth by the uniform boosters and/or the band director.

**All Parents** are encouraged to purchase a band booster polo shirt. This shirt should be worn at all outdoor band functions so that the student can identify who the band parents are.

### **Uniforms**

1. Students losing uniform parts will pay full price for all parts lost. (An entire band uniform would cost you \$475.00 and up).
2. Fines will be assessed for parts of uniform misplaced or not turned in, in proper order after each use.

*UNIFORMS DO NOT LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS UNLESS YOU ARE IN*

*THEM OR THE BAND DIRECTOR GIVES SPECIAL PERMISSION.*

## **RULES PERTAINING TO THE USE OF UNIFORMS**

Only the uniform boosters, assigned parent helpers, the band director, and specified band officers are permitted in the uniform room.

1. Eating and drinking while in uniform is only allowed during specific times when authorized by the band director.
2. The uniform will always be worn completely and correctly while in public.
3. Show shirts will always be worn under the uniform. No cut off sleeves or tank tops.
4. All band members will dress in the band room for performances, unless announced otherwise.
5. The only jewelry allowed while in uniform is your Class ring, and 1 stud in each ear. No other jewelry will ever be allowed.
6. Adjustments to the uniforms are to be made only by the uniform boosters.
7. All hair must be short enough or secured so that it does not touch the collar of the uniform.
8. Beards, facial hair, basic grooming must be neat and clean while in uniform.
9. No visible body piercings.



**Sacrifice Honesty Attitude Reliable Kind Strive**

# **A GUIDE TO STUDENT AND CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Traveling anywhere with a large and diverse group of individuals is a tremendous undertaking under any circumstances. When that group has the added responsibility of representing a school and community, it is truly humbling. The Ponte Vedra High School Band Program has built a reputation over the years based on pride, class, and excellence. This guide is designed to assist current and future members of the Ponte Vedra family in maintaining and building upon that reputation.

## **A. GENERAL PRECEPTS**

1. The first and most important precept for all Ponte Vedra members is very simple: YOU ARE ALWAYS PERFORMING. Every action and comment you make impacts the band for better or worse. While there are times to be formal and times to "lighten up", there is never a time for any band member or supporter to discredit the band, school, or community by his/her words or deeds. Such actions not only damage our reputation, they also pull down our level of performance. Only if we all stay focused on doing our part to continue building Ponte Vedra High's reputation will we come close to achieving our potential.
2. Standards for behavior are designed to ensure that band members will be properly focused on creating the finest possible performance and further enhance the reputation of the Ponte Vedra "Ocean of Sound."
3. The fundamental reason for chaperones is to assist the band members, director, and staff in staying focused on creating the finest possible performance by providing support, protection, and reminders of the standards for behavior.
4. The responsibility for maintaining our standards for performance and behavior ultimately rests on each individual band member, chaperone, and supporter. Those who cannot accept that responsibility hurt the band. Student misbehavior should be stopped by other students before a chaperone ever notices!

The guidelines that follow deal with the application of these general precepts. The first section covers student and chaperone responsibilities in general. The next two sections give specific guidelines for various common situations, and the final section gives procedures for dealing with misconduct.

## **B. GENERAL STANDARDS FOR BEHAVIOR**

These apply at all times, in all situations.

1. All St. Johns County School Board rules and policies are always in effect whenever and wherever the band is together, including weekend performances, trips, and other events outside of school hours. Members and chaperones will always be informed of specific exceptions to specific rules for specific events. Members of the band are representing their school and community. Audiences formulate their opinions of the organization and the school by your actions and conduct at each performance. Therefore, any student who disregards the above is liable for dismissal from the performance and subsequent infractions will result in dismissal from the band.
2. The State and FSMA require a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to be maintained by all students participating in and competing in school-related activities.
3. All Ponte Vedra High Band members and boosters are expected to be courteous and polite at all times:
  - a) Loud, rude, or obnoxious behavior is never acceptable.
  - b) Vulgar or profane language is not acceptable. ZERO TOLERANCE!!!
  - c) Negative comments about other performers, bands, or schools are unacceptable at any time, even if the other group should initiate such comments. This includes text messages, emails, and any social media. We are a first class organization! We think before we act!!
4. Any and all public displays of affection are unacceptable when in uniform. Out of uniform, public displays of affection should be limited. This applies any time students are with the band.
5. Horseplay of any kind is inappropriate. NEVER run while in uniform.
6. Gum chewing is unacceptable at any rehearsal or performance.
7. Uniforms (marching, parade, concert) will always be worn completely and properly while in public (refer to uniform regulations).
8. All equipment and other items are to be treated with proper care, and all areas are to be kept neat and clean. Use only the equipment and instruments that are assigned to you.
9. Follow all directions given by an appropriate authority quickly and courteously.

## **GENERAL BAND RULES**

All policies relating to bands, student's behavior and conduct shall be strictly enforced. Any student defying the above shall be subject to immediate dismissal from all performing bands.

1. All rehearsals will start and end on time, even if the director is not there yet.
2. After the first two weeks of school, all extra rehearsals will be with a two-week notification. Please allow some flexibility.
3. Mondays and Wednesdays are to be set aside for rehearsals through the fall.
4. The online band calendar is The Law when it comes to the band schedule.
5. All scheduled rehearsals and performances are mandatory.
6. Detentions, loss of third quarter break, or clean-up work around the band room can be issued for any music, instruments, or uniforms left out in the band room or not properly put away.
7. Attendance will be **STRICTLY** enforced! Follow excused absence guidelines.
8. All band members will be responsible for maintaining the band room in good order. Practice uniforms, shoes and other personal items shall be removed from the room following use. The band room is something to be proud of and to be treated in like manner. This band room is not a locker! **Stay out of other people's instrument cases.**
9. No food, gum, candy, drinks, soda will be allowed in the Band Room or other rooms of the music facility.

## **Chaperones**

Chaperones are a tremendous support to the band director and staff on trips.

The band director is responsible for the students during every minute of every band rehearsal, event or trip, especially in terms of liability. The Band Booster Chaperones are “in charge” and assist the director on trips during non-performance times. This allows the director and staff to have some “time off” to relax. This is especially important on longer trips.

## **Chaperone Guidelines**

Your help is greatly appreciated by the directors, staff and boosters. You are an important part of the band team and we truly could not make trips without your support.

- Please arrive 15 minutes before the assigned student arrival time. Report to the Head Chaperone for bus assignment and any other duties. Get the bus list at this time.
- You are in charge of the band members at all times except when the band is in rehearsal, in uniform or otherwise with the staff. At those times you are free to go and relax, although make sure you are available should something arise.
- Students should wait outside the bus until told when to enter. Generally, seniors load first, juniors next, etc. Take attendance from the bus list as they enter. This will also give you a chance to meet the students. Count the number of students on your bus.
- Once the trip begins, future attendance will usually be taken on the bus. A head count will suffice, if you are sure that all the students on your bus are assigned to your bus.
- The Head Chaperone will check with all buses to make sure that all students are accounted for and ready to leave.
- Everyone has a different approach to handling behavior and discipline but we would like to keep some uniformity in the chaperones approach. Please take a positive approach in working with the students. They are basically good kids and usually respond well to a polite but firm directive.
- The Rules for Band Trips are on the next page. Please insist that they are followed. Bus Rules are usually posted and include staying seated and keeping arms inside windows if open. Seek the assistance of the older students and leaders in setting a good example.
- Chaperones of course must follow the same rules as students including no smoking or drinking, even if out of sight.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the Head Chaperone or band director if you have any questions.

**Thank you so much for helping!**

## **Band Booster Organization**

A supportive band booster organization is an essential element of a successful band program.

### **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the Band Boosters Association is to act as a support group for the total band program. This includes the Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Winter Guard, Winter Percussion Ensemble and all other ensembles and activities of the band program.

### **Purpose**

The Band Boosters Association exists to provide moral, logistical and financial support for the total band program. The membership is open to all parents and guardians of band members. There are general meetings held monthly, as required by the Constitution and By-laws.

**Moral support** – The most important function of the boosters is to provide encouragement to the band members individually at home and collectively at rehearsals and performances. Booster/parent attendance at concerts, competitions and events is very important to the band members.

**Organizational support** – The band program and the marching band, in particular, need a large amount of adult assistance for uniform management, chaperones, equipment, truck and transportation needs, food support on trips, communications, public relations and many other duties and functions.

**Financial** - The Boosters sponsor numerous fund raising events each year and provide substantial support to the band program.

## **BAND/SPORTS PHYSICAL EXAM**

A physical exam is NOW required to participate in the marching band. The exam can be from the same year if one was already done earlier in the year. There have been students on whom parents did not declare any medical conditions, which lead to treating students that needed medical attention. Thus, the physical is a safeguard for the program, your child, and for people treating students in a medical emergency. Marching Band is a MUSICAL SPORT and requires athlete-like conditioning. The activity is not dangerous, exhausting, etc. However, when a medical emergency arises, booster parents and the director want to make sure your child is being treated properly. Sports Physicals are available during the summer at announced times at local medical centers and hospitals for a small fee.

## 2020 Tentative Football Schedule

**Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Oakleaf High School  
Home (Kick Off Classic)

**Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**  
PV vs Nease HS  
Away

**Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Zephyrhills HS  
Home

**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Palatka HS  
Home

**Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Pedro Menendez HS  
Home

**Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Matanzas HS  
Homecoming

**Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
PV vs Bartram Trail HS  
Away

**Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
PV vs St. Augustine HS  
Away

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
PV vs Creekside HS  
Home

*Competition dates are not posted yet. Mr. Reynolds will send an updated schedule once competitions are posted.*