

PVMS Band

Course Disclosure

2014-15

Class: Band

Room: 104

Director: Mr. Lanners

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PREFACE

This handbook has been written for the Pine View Middle School Band Members and their parents with the hope of giving information regarding the purpose, procedures, and activities of the band program. **ALL BAND STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE URGED TO READ THE ENTIRE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH THE POLICIES STATED HEREIN.**

I am very excited about this new year at the Pine View Middle School. Pine View Middle has a reputation of high standards and achievement and I look forward to the continuation of a high quality program. I am sure that the enthusiasm of the students is going to make this a great year.

Course Description

This course provides opportunities for advancement and refinement of musical potential, higher level thinking skills, aesthetic judgment, and nurtures music appreciation. Emphasis will be placed on refining ensemble performance skills, recognition of musical styles and historical periods, the study of literature for band, chamber ensemble performance, and creative development.

The OBJECTIVES of the Pine View Band program are:

1. To provide musical enjoyment for each band member and for those who attend the band's public performances. The amount of fun and satisfaction the student receives from the band will be no greater than the amount of enthusiasm and hard work the student contributes.
2. Develop and reinforce techniques and skills related to playing a musical instrument: tone, articulations, scales, general musicality. Percussionists: rudiments on Snare drum, scales on mallet instruments. Tune your instrument in unison. Sight read rhythm and melody.
3. Develop responsibility through care of instruments, music, and learning own music. Learn to accept responsibility and the natural consequences associated with being a member of the Pine View Middle School Music Department.
4. To learn to work well with others to enhance individual and group progress.

MUSICAL PARTNERSHIP

Parents and home practice are an integral part of success. Music study is a three-way partnership composed of teacher, student, and parents. Each member of the partnership has a responsibility. Parents may become active members of this relationship by providing the following:

1. Patience, in reminding the student to practice daily.
2. Encouragement, when the going is rough. Some things are learned easily, others require repeated application. Parental sympathy and understanding are important.
3. Imagination, in creating a musical atmosphere in the home. This can be accomplished by tuning in to interesting musical programs on radio and television and attending live performances and concerts.

Favorable practice conditions are also important:

1. Schedule a regular practice time.
2. A quiet room, away from noise and distracting activities.
3. Keep instrument in top condition with all necessary equipment.
4. Praise work well done.

Parental supervision on occasion:

1. Remind your child to practice slowly and carefully.
2. Practice in short sections, a few minutes at a time.
3. Practice standing or sitting with good posture.

BAND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Follow all PVMS band rules, as well as all school rules. Learn to accept the consequences of your behavior (positive and negative).
2. Each band student must be personally responsible for his/her own daily supplies (i.e., instrument, pencil, valve oil, reeds, music, etc.).
3. Have the proper respect for those in authority as well as your fellow classmates.
4. Show the proper respect and care for all band equipment, music, and instruments. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPLACING MATERIAL THAT YOU DAMAGE OR DESTROY** (this includes dents in instruments).
5. Regular practice is your responsibility in order to achieve daily progress. Practicing several days a week to reinforce skills is better than practicing for a long time once a week. Student practice or lack of practice will be very evident when playing tests are taken.

Practice for results, not for hours.

6. You are responsible for being at all required concerts and performances. They will constitute a major portion of your band grade.
7. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily. Build a habit of success.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO MAKE CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT, NOT NECESSARILY TO BE THE BEST.

8. It is expected that each student conducts himself/herself properly regarding his/her actions, manners, and dress. Each student should always remember that his or her actions represent the band program, as well as Pine View Middle School. There will be no cell phones, mp3 players or any other device that may cause a distraction in class.

Discipline Plan

1. Verbal Warning
2. Loss of half of participation points
3. Loss of all participation points
4. Schedule a detention time (explained below)
5. On third detention: meeting with administrator, parent, teacher and student.

Detention

After three “strikes” in class, the student will meet with Mr. Lanners at the end of class to schedule a detention. This detention will take place after school of the day of the student’s choice, excluding the day of the infraction. This will give the student time to inform their parents and schedule a pickup from school. On rare occasions, if needed, a detention may be served before school, but it must be scheduled at 6:30AM (due to Jazz Band) and is only to be used as a last resort.

The detention will last exactly 30 minutes. If the scheduled detention is violated, an additional detention must be served (two total). If a student ever has to serve three (3) detentions, a meeting will be scheduled with an administrator, the student, parent, and teacher to evaluate the student’s behavior and future in this performing group.

Equipment

1. Instruments:

The school has limited instruments. It is encouraged that students rent, purchase, or use an instrument from another source if possible.

A musical instrument represents a substantial investment. In order to provide the appropriate maintenance the following equipment is essential:

Flutes - cleaning rag, tuning rod;

Clarinets and Saxophones - at least 4 good reeds at all times (Size 2 to 3 reeds), cleaning swab (used after each playing period), mouthpiece cover, cork grease, reed guard (never leave reeds on your mouthpiece when you are not playing);

Brass - Valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, soft cleaning rag;

Percussion - Mallet Bag, snare drum sticks, yarn mallets, timpani mallets.

Should your instrument be in need of repair, you must always check with Mr. Lanners before taking it to the shop. **Never try to repair the instrument yourself.** All instruments must have a permanent name tag, and **NO ONE SHALL HANDLE OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM/HER!**

2. In-shop Instruments:

Occasionally it may be necessary to place an instrument in the shop for repairs. If this is necessary, please send a note with the student to let Mr. Lanners know the instrument has been taken to the repair shop. The student will not be penalized when an instrument is in the shop when I receive a note.

Students need to take care not to leave instruments unattended in precarious positions (on music stand, which can be easily bumped; on chairs sticking out into aisles; and standing or lying on the floor where someone could knock them over, step on them, or kick them). Instruments cases must not be used as chairs, foot rests, etc, as these uses can impair their ability to protect the instrument inside from damage, dirt, or moisture. Most damage to instruments occurs needlessly from carelessness. Thus, wise students will be careful with the handling and storage of their instruments.

3. Instrument storage bins

Locate the proper shelf for your particular instrument. These shelves shall be used for instrumental and music storage only. Keep them neat and clean! Instrumental students are expected to **take their instruments home every night to practice.**

4. Band room and school equipment

Show respect and pride for your band program by keeping this room neat and clean and respect equipment.

5. Music

Sheet music handed out by Mr. Lanners is the property of PVMS. It is to be taken care of properly. All music must be turned in when requested by Mr. Lanners. If a student loses any music he/she will be charged a replacement fee. Any music not turned in the relatively same condition handed out may be charged small fees also.

6. There is a \$75 a year instrumental rental fee for students who use school instruments. **There is a \$25 rental fee for all percussion players.** Rental money is used to maintain and repair school instruments. These instruments are to be cared for and kept in operating condition by the students. If an instrument needs repair, it should be reported to Mr. Lanners immediately. Damage due to abuse or negligence will be paid for by the student. Students are authorized to play only their assigned instrument. This is intended to prevent accidental damage, and to prolong instrument life. This particularly applies to percussion instruments. If you play a school instrument, it can't be played unless there is a School Instrument Contract signed and the rent paid in the office. Please show the receipt to Mr. Lanners so he can record payments. Any questions please talk to Mr. Lanners.

GRADES

Grades will be posted online, on PowerSchool, a minimum of once a week.

If a student is failing, Mr. Lanners will call, e-mail and/or send a letter to the parents to work for solutions.

Attendance/Participation - 30% of grade

10 points per day.

Band is an active participation class. Students need to be in their seats ready to play.

Points may be lost in the following ways:

No Pencil, No Reeds/Valve Oil, No Music, No Instrument/Lack of Participation, Disruptions.

Practice Charts - 15% of grade

20 Points each

Students are expected to turn in a practice chart every week that shows how much time the students have spent practicing. Each student is expected to practice at least 90 minutes a week. These charts must be signed by a parent and turned in each MONDAY for full credit. They may also be submitted online through the class website. Practicing is so important, especially during the first years of learning an instrument. Practice charts can be obtained in class or online at pvmsmusic.weebly.com, on each class' page.

Performances - 25 % of grade

Marching - 50 points, Concerts - 300 points

Performances are an important part of the educational process. Performances are not optional. If a conflict with a performance occurs, talk to Mr. Lanners immediately and see what can be worked out. It is critical that in a performing organization, Mr. Lanners is informed about conflicts *well in advance*. Excused absences MUST be approved in advance and do not include babysitting or other youth activities, etc. If there is a death in the family which resulted in missing a performance, no make up will be necessary and no grade reduction will be involved. If the student is ill for the performance, a phone call from the parent to Mr. Lanners prior to the concert will be needed to be excused from the performance. If you just forget about a performance, you will have to face the consequences. Make-up is not possible.

Playing Tests – 30% of grade

Weekly tests - 50 points each, Scale tests - 20 points each

Playing tests are a primary method of examination. They will provide the students with definite practice assignments. The material will be covered in class several times prior to a test. Playing tests will be short and concise. Weekly tests will be in small groups of students playing at the same time, each receiving an individual score. Scale tests will be individual tests and taken at the student's own pace.

Miscellaneous Assignments - 10% of grade

Points Vary

Includes, but is not limited to the following: Turning in parent/guardian signed papers, listening activities, music theory worksheets, etc.

My job is to help you succeed.

EXTRA CREDIT:

--Extra credit may be earned for attending almost any type of concert. Points for concerts will vary. To earn your points, turn in a program from the concert with your name on it. I will do my best to keep you informed of upcoming concerts in the community.

--You can also earn extra credit by taking private lessons from a qualified instructor

--You can also earn extra credit for extra practice time up to double.

Tardy Policy

Students must be inside the band room when the tardy bell sounds. Any student still in the hallway after the bell will be counted as tardy. Students will be given 2-3 minutes to prepare for class (put instrument together, get music, warm-up etc.) Roll will be taken each day as soon as the director begins the warm-up portion of the rehearsal. Any student not in their seat at that time will be counted as tardy.

Class Rules

1. Respect! Talking while the teacher is working is prohibited without permission
2. Come prepared on time (music, pencil, instrument)
3. No food, soda, or gum. Your instruments were not built to handle these items
4. NO ONE has permission to handle any of the band equipment that has not been assigned to them.
5. When anyone is on the podium, give them your *undivided* attention
6. Responsibility. Put all cases, music, folders, sticks, mallets, etc.. away after each rehearsal. Do not leave music on your stand. Do your part to keep the Band room as neat as possible.

Grading Scale:

A 93%-100%	A- 90%-92%
B+ 87%-89%	B 83%-86%
B- 80%-82%	C+ 77 %-79%
C 73%-76%	C- 70%-72%
D+ 67%-69%	D 63%-66%
D- 60%-63%	F 59% and below

Citizenship: Determined based on work ethic, which includes the attitude of the student, respectful behavior, and work habits.

H – Honors – Assignments turned in; no unexcused tardies; exemplary behavior

S – Satisfactory – Most assignments turned in; 1-2 tardies; good behavior

N – Needs Improvement – Incomplete work; 3 tardies; behavior needs improvement

U – Unsatisfactory – Incomplete work; 4 or more tardies; unacceptable behavior

Concert Attire

For most concerts, students will be asked to wear full length jean pants with no rips and a black Pine View Middle Music Shirt. The shirts will be purchased through the finance office and are \$8.

The SUPAF concert will have more formal dress attire. Boys will have a white, button up collared shirt, black slacks, black shoes and socks. Girls need a white blouse, black skirt or dress pants, black socks or nylons and black closed toed shoes.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the band director and the parent is essential. Last minute “discoveries” are very annoying for parents. The most efficient method of communication between director and parents is email. These emails are very important as they contain important information regarding upcoming performances, rehearsals, or other relevant matters.

We will also be using a text message service called Remind101. Information on this free service will be emailed to parents and is available on our website, pvmsmusic.weebly.com.

General Information

CARE OF THE BUILDING

Band members are to keep the band room clean. Keep the chairs and music stands in place. Never walk past an overturned music stand without picking it up.

The directors' desk, etc. is private and students should not be in or around.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The single most important factor in the development of a championship band program is the development of the individual player. There are some opportunities in the Pine View area for students to take private lessons. Lessons often are 30 minutes once a week. Rates depend upon the private teacher. The amount of individual attention your director can give is greatly limited by the number of students he must teach. All students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Careers related to band:

Music teacher, music therapist, music publisher, copyright expert, graphic artist, audio technician, music critic, audiologist, studio musician, church musician, pit musician, composer, arranger, music store owner, sales representative for instruments, talent agent, concert promoter, acoustical engineer, keyboard tuner, studio designer, concert hall architect.

Students please go over this course disclosure with your parents/guardians and have them sign and return this bottom portion to Mr. Lanners. Parents, if there are any questions please feel free to contact me.

It is due AUGUST 18, 2014. It is worth 20 points!!!

EXPECTED COSTS FOR YEAR please pay the fees that apply to you as soon as possible.

School Band Instrument Rental - \$75

Percussion Instrument Rental – all percussion players - \$25

Band Shirt (if needed) - \$8

Tentative Band Schedule

The following list of performances are scheduled and required for students to attend. Official times and information will be sent out as the event approaches.

September 13 - Lion's Roundup Rodeo Parade

October 4 - Jazz - St. George Marathon

November 11 - Veteran's Day Parade

December 9 - Band Christmas Concert

May 12 - Band Spring Concert

PVMS Band

We have read and understood this disclosure statement. We agree to the policies outlined in this document. We understand and agree to attend all required performances on the Tentative Band Schedule. We agree to be on time and dressed appropriately for each performance.

Student Name Printed

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature