



PRATTVILLE JR. HIGH

BAND HANDBOOK

Band Course Descriptions

Band I (Beginning Band) is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. This course offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality and training in music literacy.

Band II (Eighth Grade Band) is Prattville Jr. High School's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year long course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop fundamental skills introduced in Band I and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievements are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

PRATTVILLE JR. HIGH BAND

Handbook

This handbook has been prepared to help both parents and students better understand what is expected of members of the Prattville Jr. High band program. Please read the information given and return the parent signature page to the directors.

Band Rules and Procedures

In order to have a successful band program, there must be certain rules and procedures we follow. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently is hurting the entire band.

1. Enter the band room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Go to the restroom before class starts.
3. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat. A student will be considered tardy if he/she is not in their seat ready to rehearse when the director steps onto the podium.
4. Students should not play their instruments until given permission to do so. We will all warm-up together.
5. Once class has begun, **NO TALKING IS PERMITTED WITHOUT PERMISSION!!!!**
6. **NO GUM OR CANDY, NO DRINK, NO FOOD ALLOWED IN BAND HALL, except water. All beverages must have a twist top. *Students will lose daily participation points***
7. Please do not throw trash on the band room floor. Pick up after yourself.
8. Do not play another person's instrument. This includes percussion equipment.
9. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others. Respect the equipment that is in the band room: music stands, instruments, markers, etc.
10. Be honest and accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.
11. Be a good citizen. Obey all school rules.

Discipline

Band by its very name suggests oneness, teamwork, ensemble, and great cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal. This all comes at a time in a junior high school student's life when they are striving for individual identity. A very small number of students find that they can't make this kind of sacrifice and become disruptive discipline problems in band class. These students will not be allowed to affect the quality of learning taking place in that class. Continued problems will result in that student being moved into an isolated area with points taken away from his or her grade and/or stronger actions taken.

If discipline problems occur, the following procedure will take place:

First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	Teacher – Student conference/break detention
Third Offense:	Parents/Guardian will be contacted/break detention.
Final Offense:	Office referral
Immediate Office Referral:	Behavior physically harmful to another student Behavior that would damage or destroy property Open Defiance Blatant disrespect

Grading Policies

Students are not graded on how talented they are. They are graded on their class participation, practice reports, playing tests (approx. 2 each 9 weeks), concert attendance, and having proper materials in class each day.

1. **35% - Practice Reports/Daily Grades**

Practice logs are turned in each week, paper form signed by parents or digitally turned in on Schoology using the honor system:

3 hours a week	100 points
2 1/2 hours a week	90 points
2 hours a week	80 points
1 1/2 hours a week	70 points
1 hour a week	60 points
30 minutes a week	55 points

Students will not be penalized if they are too sick to practice or for special circumstances with a notice from their guardian(s), we just ask that you notate that information on the practice log for the week.

Daily Grade - having required materials, instrument, actively participating

2. **65% - Student Assessment/ Playing Tests/Performances** -Students will be notified of "Playing Test" lines and scales in advance of playing them. They will receive a numerical score for these. Chair placement is a privilege based

on classroom performance. Chair placement may also be lost based on poor classroom performance. All performances are for a test grade.

Items needed for class

Students are responsible for the following items each day in class. If students do not have their required items, points will be deducted from their daily grade.

1. Instrument and necessary items (reeds, valve oil, etc.)
2. Black 1" binder and all music and handouts issued to them.
3. Clear sheet protectors
4. Method book
 - Beginning Band - Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
 - Band 2 - Last years book plus Habits for a Successful Middle School Musician (Percussionists need percussion and mallets book - that means they must purchase 2 books)
5. Fold-up wire stand (home practice, after school practice and concerts)
6. **PENCIL** – NO PEN!
7. Water rag to empty spit from instruments

Fundraisers

The band students are asked to participate in our fundraisers. We will do at least 2 fundraisers this year and these funds help provide the students with a fun and active band program. The PJHS Band funds itself, so in order to have fun we must fundraise. Donations are also accepted.

Concert Attendance

Performances (concerts/pep band) are the outcome of instruction, and are considered a mandatory event for the student. There are very few excuses for a student missing a performance.

1. Acute illness (a doctor or hospital excuse should be presented)
2. Death in the family
3. Prior (10 days) permission from the band directors for very unique (once in a lifetime) situations.
4. Participation with another organization of Prattville Junior High School, with prior permission from the band directors.

City League Sports and other activities not connected with the school are not excusable.

Missing a concert without permission will result in the student receiving a failing grade and can hinder their participation in any future events that involve the band.

Field Trip/Music Performance Assessment Guidelines:

In order for students to attend band field trips/Music Performance Assessment students must attend the after school rehearsals and participate actively in class. Students must also not have a discipline referral for behavior (or any other reason) in the band room or at band events/functions. Student participation in any field trips is solely up to the PJHS Band Directors.

Concert Attire

Band I (Beginning Band):

Ladies should wear a nice semi-formal dress (Dressy Sunday type – not contemporary Sunday), skirt or blouse, or nice pantsuit.

Gentlemen should wear nice slacks (khakis are fine), collared shirt and tie.

No denim or tennis shoes are allowed. (Points will be deducted.)

Band II: **DRESS CODE**

All eighth grade band members will need the following:

1. Solid black semi-formal outfit for performances. *Must be in school dress code.
 - a. Black slacks/skirt/dress
 - b. Black button down shirt/blouse
 - c. Black socks or tights
 - d. Black closed toe/closed heel shoes
2. School Cat T-Shirt, blue jeans, closed toe/heel shoes

If any of this is a problem, please let the directors know as soon as possible.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a year-long commitment and will ONLY occur if there is enough interest to build a jazz band. All members of the Jazz Band are selected from the full band on an audition/need. Once selected, they are required to have no unexcused absences to after-school rehearsals and will be removed if they have an unexcused absence from a jazz band rehearsal. Students will be rewarded for a full year of participation.

Locks/ Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker according to the instrument they play. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a **combination** lock to secure their instruments. We can not guarantee that their stuff is safe unless they have a combination lock on their locker. If lockers are not available, band directors will arrange a place to store instruments. Those not in lockers should secure cases with combination locks also.

Tampering with another person's lock, locker, instrument, book bag, etc. will result in the following:

Morning detention
ISS (In School Suspension)
Alternative School

School Instrument Rental

All students using a school owned instrument will pay a **ONE TIME RENTAL FEE** of **\$100.00**. *This is limited to large instruments and tubas.*

At Home Practice

Students cannot expect to progress if they do not practice at home. Instruments should be carried home everyday. If this is a problem, please contact a director. A little practice everyday is better than a lot of practice once a week. Thirty minutes of quality practice time with no interruptions should be sufficient. Parents are encouraged to take part in their child's learning process by encouraging them to play for you and praising them for their accomplishments.

Students must turn in a practice report each week, on which they will record how long they practice each day. These reports are to be signed by the parent / guardian and returned each Monday or the first day back in class for that week. Practice log grading is shown above in the grading policies. Practice log documents can be found at pjhscats.com/band or you can turn in the Digital Practice Log through Schoology.

Director Contact

We, the directors, want to make the band a fun and wonderful experience for your child. We hope that they will not only discover a lifelong outlet of expression for themselves but will also learn the meaning of teamwork and individual work. If there ever seems to be a problem, please feel free to contact us at the Jr. High band room.

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Follow us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pjhsbandcats

Instagram: [@prattville.jhs.band](https://www.instagram.com/prattville.jhs.band)

Fill out the Google Form agreeing to the information in this handbook