

**Plattsmouth High School Band
2018-2019 Handbook**

PHS Bands Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the Plattsmouth High School Bands to promote an environment that lends itself to the creation of well-rounded student musicians and responsible student citizens. Participation in the PHS bands is open to any member of the district in grades 9-12. Music is a vital part of a well-rounded education, and is treated as such in our program. Each student is different and has different needs and abilities; therefore, every effort will be made to instruct students both on a group and an individual level. The instructor will do their very best to reach each student and to help them gain in the fullest understanding of music possible. Every student plays an important part of each group, and no single person is more important than another. The students, however, also have a responsibility to the program and its instructor. A person must want to learn in order to be taught. Therefore, the students will be expected to be mature, disciplined and dedicated to the improvement of their own musical skills, as well as the quality of the ensemble they are in. Students are expected to take ownership of their role in the program to promote a positive, respectful environment for all students, both in band and out. Participating in a performing ensemble is a group effort, and students will be expected to perform their role to the best of their ability. When a positive environment is created in which everyone is working toward the same goal, that is how excellence can be achieved.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and events. Any absence must be cleared with the band director before it is approved. Any absence that is not previously approved with the director will count as an unexcused absence and will affect the student's grade. Work will not be considered an excused absence for missing a performance or a rehearsal. Conflicts with other school activities should be communicated to the director and to the staff member in charge of the other school activity. We will do our best to make sure that the student is able to make it to both events, or to the more important of the two events.

The three reasons a student may be excused from a performance are:

- 1) Illness, and a doctor's note is required.
- 2) Family Emergency, an e-mail regarding the emergency is required.
- 3) Death in the family

Other situations may be considered on a case-by case basis. Performances are the main reason for being in a performing arts group, and they function as tests or exams do in other classes. If multiple performances are missed, the student may no longer be allowed to participate. Bands need to work together as a group, and when members cannot be relied upon to attend, it affects the whole group.

Grading Policy

The grades for each class will be based on many criteria. Playing tests, memorization tests for marching band, written tests, attendance, daily preparation, class participation, promptness, attitude, effort and behavior, are all examples of what will be included in assigning grades. Playing tests and memorization tests will be done fairly and consistently and will represent the student's output as closely as possible. Ten points will be given each day for attendance and participation in rehearsals. Points will be deducted if students refuse to participate, do not have necessary equipment, (unless that equipment is missing for a reason approved by the director,) or for disruptive rehearsal behavior. The breakdown of grade percentages is as follows:

Attendance and participation in rehearsals: 15%

Playing/memorization tests, attendance and participation in performances: 85%

Drug and Alcohol Policy

This policy is very clear cut and will be strictly enforced. See PHS Student Handbook. If this policy is violated at a school-sponsored function, the student will be turned over to the administration, who will call the parents to come pick up the student and take them home. The policy is the same for the use of all tobacco products. Refer to Board Policies.

Marching Band Curriculum

Marching Band is available to all band students in all grades. The group will perform at all home football games: in the stands and at halftime. Other performances include the Cass County Fair, Harvest Festival Parades, marching invitationals and contests, and other scheduled performances on a year-to-year basis. Punctuality will be imperative and tardiness will affect the semester grade. The marching band is a very important aspect of not only the Band program, but the entire school environment. One of the main purposes of the band is to represent Plattsmouth High School at school and community functions. It is also a major spirit group for athletic events and adds a great deal to the climate of the contest. Attendance will be taken in the band room. We will march to the stadium as a group and prepare for pregame. The band will play during time outs, at half-time and after the game. The band will stay throughout the entire game. During the third quarter of the game students will be allowed to go to the restroom and to get food and drinks, but must be back in their seats with two minutes remaining in the third quarter. Spirit Squad/Band Members will march with the band as long as the cheerleaders are not performing at the same time the band is performing. They will not be expected to sit with the band during the game.

Extra Rehearsals

Starting August 21st, we will have rehearsals every Thursday and Friday at 7 AM. Starting on September 10th we will have rehearsals on Monday nights from 7pm-9pm. These rehearsals are mandatory, and attendance is expected.

Marching Band Chain of Command

The key to a smoothly run organization is a structured chain of command in which everyone knows their duties and are competent to fulfill their job responsibilities. The following is a list describing the chain of command.

1. Band Director
2. Assistant Director and Staff
3. Drum Majors
4. Section Leaders
5. Section Members

Marching Band Leadership

Leadership Roles are decided at the end of each school year for the next year through an interview and audition process. Leaders are expected to be exemplary members of the band, showing technical skill, musicianship, and the personal traits that one would expect of a leader. Our leadership team must be a force of positivity and help the students work harder toward achieving excellence. Leaders may be promoted or demoted as needs require. Leadership team members that stop showing excellence in any of the three areas expected of them risk removal from the leadership team.

Band Camp

Attendance at Band Camp is mandatory for all marching band members. If a student misses more than one day in a row of band camp, they may not be eligible to march with the band. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. If your student must be absent from band camp, contact the band director as soon as possible.

Fees

\$40 Uniform Fee	Covers TWO t-shirts and full uniform dry cleaning
\$50 Instrument Rental Fee	Covers rental fee for school instruments at \$25/semester
\$85 Activity Fee	Paid by all activity/athletic students.
\$40 for NEW shoes	If you would like to own and keep your marching shoes.

Fees in bold must be paid by all students. If you are eligible for a fee waiver, you can have the activity fee, instrument rental fee, and shoe rental waived (if shoes available). Fee waiver applications can be picked up at the Administration Building. All fees must be paid in cash unless paid online through infinitecampus. **No checks will be accepted.**

Uniforms

We wear summer uniforms during the hotter portions of our year and full uniform as it cools down. Full uniforms will be fitted during band camp.

Our summer uniform will be the current band t-shirt and khaki shorts. Blue t-shirts will be worn as our summer uniform. White t-shirts will be worn at competitions under our Full Uniform. The roster will be printed on the back with a theme design on front. The total fee for BOTH t-shirts are included in the band

fee. The complete summer uniform is the blue show shirt, khaki shorts, ankle-length white socks, and as-white-of-tennis-shoes-as-you-can-get-them.

When in full uniform, students should wear the white show shirt and tall black socks.

Concert Band

This group meets for the last quarter in the first semester and the entire second semester. A certain amount of technical development will be undertaken; however, most rehearsals will be to prepare the ensemble for performance. Composers, musical styles, historical aspects of music and music theory will also be covered during these quarters. The group will perform one concert in the fall and two concerts in the spring, play for graduation and participate in the District music contest. Grades will be based on playing and written tests as well as daily preparation and participation.

Jazz Band

The PHS Jazz Band meets during second hour during both semesters. Technical development may be covered somewhat in rehearsals, but most rehearsals are meant to prepare the ensemble for performance. Playing of different styles will be covered in this group, ranging from jazz, funk, blues, disco, latin, samba, to other genres. This group performs once in the fall and at two concerts in the spring, as well as at District music contest and the pancake feed fundraiser. Grades will be based on playing and written tests as well as daily preparation and participation.

Honor Bands

Students are encouraged to audition for many honor bands, including the Wayne State Honor Band, NMEA All State, and others. Students are expected to prepare their own audition materials, or to request audition materials from the director. All audition fees must be paid by the students.

Drumline/Battery

Auditions for Drumline are held in May. Any student is eligible to audition. Members are expected to attend an extra week of band camp, held the week before band camp. Participation is at the director's discretion, based on the audition process.

Color Guard

Color Guard auditions are held in May. Any student in band is eligible to audition. Members are expected to attend an extra week of camp, held the week before band camp. Participation is at the director's discretion, based on the audition process. For other information, see the Color Guard Handbook.

Marching Band Events

7/23 – 7/26	Drumline/Pit/Flag Camp @ 9am – 3pm
*7/27	Leadership Camp @ 9am – 3pm
7/30	Freshmen Camp @ 8am – 4pm
7/31 – 8/3	Full Band Camp @ 8am – 4pm
8/6 – 8/9	Full Band Camp @ 8am – 4pm
8/10	Full Band Camp @ 8am – 12am
8/10	Band Camp Exhibition/Drill Down @ 7pm
8/11	Cass County Fair @ 2pm – 6pm
8/31	Home Football – Report @ 6:00pm
9/7	Harvest Festival Parade @ 11:45am – 2:30pm
9/8	Harvest Festival Parade @ 4:45 pm – 8 pm
9/14	Home Football - Report @ 6:15pm (8th Grade Band Day)
9/21	Home Football - Report @ 6:15pm
9/22	Titan Marching Contest (All Day)
10/5	Home Football - Report @ 6:15pm (Homecoming)
10/6	Bennington Marching Festival (All Day)
10/12	Home Football - Report @ 6:15pm
10/13	LPS Marching Contest (All Day)
10/19	Home Football - Report @ 6:15pm
10/20	NSBA State Marching Contest (All Day)

Pep Band Events (not including Football/Basketball Games)

9/6	Volleyball Band - Report @ 5:45pm
9/11	Volleyball Band - Report @ 5:45pm
10/16	Volleyball Band - Report @ 5:45pm
10/25	Volleyball Band - Report @ 5:45pm
10/30	Volleyball Band - Report @ 5:45pm

Concert Band Events

12/17	High School Christmas Concert @ 7pm
2/16	Elkhorn Band Olympics - All Day (For 9 th -10 th Only)
2/25	8 th – 12 th Band Concert @ 7pm
4/12-13	District Music Contest @ All Day
5/6	High School Band Concert @ 7pm
5/11	Commencement (9 th – 11 th Only)
5/13	Fine Arts Banquet @ 6pm

Jazz Band Events (Only if in Jazz Band)

12/21	Tentative Jazz Tour Date
2/23	UNO Jazz Fest @ All Day
4/12-13	District Music Contest @ All Day
4/14	Pancake Feed Fundraiser @ 9am – 1pm
4/26-4/27	NSBA Jazz Fest @ TBA
5/6	High School Band Concert @ 7pm