

2021-2022

Band of Pirates

Student Handbook



<http://www.porterridgeband.org/>

Emmanuel Ross

Emmanuel.Ross@ucps.k12.nc.us

Stephanie Tomberlin

Stephanie.Tomberlin@ucps.k12.nc.us

Patrick Foray

Patrick.Foray@ucps.k12.nc.us

Directors Cell: (704) 729-4509

WELCOME

The start of a new semester is an exciting event for any student. Each new semester brings with it a new set of goals. As with any school year, our expectation for the band program is set to a new standard as we continue building a world-class band program. The Band of Pirates is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music and dance education. This class provides a number of performance opportunities for the student in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through the playing of an instrument, the use of body movement, or spinning of equipment by the student. As a member of the band program, group effort and cooperation is necessary to a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

Ninth graders may find band in high school to be unlike band in middle school. However, this organization is one that a student may grow and flourish in all of the days that they attend. Band is a great experience only made greater by the amount of hard work put into it. **Band at Porter Ridge High School is about personal commitment, hard work, and mature behavior.** These are the benchmarks by which we measure our success. They will be the expectation for all members of the Porter Ridge Band Program. All band students, band parents and families are asked to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook.

The Porter Ridge High School Band Handbook is designed to serve as an operational guide and syllabus for the students, parents, administration and band directors. This handbook will be a systematic approach to the teaching and organization of the high school band program designed to help avoid costly delays and loss of time due to the lack of awareness of policy and procedure. **Whenever questions arise, please consult the handbook.** If your question is not answered, please contact Mr. Ross, Mrs. Tomberlin, or Ms. Cook at Porter Ridge High School. Please keep this handbook in a BLACK NOTEBOOK along with marching band music, concert band music and other handouts that concern band activities.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

<https://nafme.org/wp-content/files/2014/11/2014-Music-Standards-Ensemble-Strand.pdf>

- Develop a proper concept of a characteristic tone on a specific instrument.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the meter signatures, key signatures, rhythms and other musical notation necessary to perform appropriate grade level music.
- Develop and perform all 12 major scales and a chromatic scale.
- Percussionist must have knowledge not only of scales, but also the 26 basic rudiments.
- Develop and demonstrate fundamental knowledge of intonation.
- Develop and demonstrate a basic knowledge of the parts, mechanics, care and cleaning of the instrument.
- Demonstrate knowledge of music theory and be able to notate music.
- Demonstrate a sense of personal discipline.

EXPECTATIONS

As we have expectations for students, there are certain things that you should be able to expect from us as teachers. We will strive to be **FIRM AND CONSISTENT** in our expectations for each student and for the band. We will be **FAIR** in establishing and enforcing policies and procedures. We are **COMMITTED** to helping each student grow and become better. We will continue to work to become better teachers by listening. We will always communicate **HONESTLY** with you about performance, attitude and behavior. We are **INTERESTED** in you as a person. We enjoy getting to know you, your families and friends. Procedures and rules are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the Porter Ridge Band Program run smoothly. We want to make sure all students have a safe, positive, and successful experience in band. Please do not ask for exceptions to rules. At times modifications of procedure may be warranted. When these situations occur, a director will make modifications on a case by case basis.

Membership in any organization requires a definite commitment from its stakeholders. Successful band programs require thousands of hours of work from each student. It is important for students to understand the necessity of time management. Students should take caution when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. Although it is very admirable to be involved in many different activities, it is wrong for any organization to lower its standards because you have overcommitted yourself. Making wise choices based on your time, talents, and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. Please make sure you budget your time wisely as your contribution to the Porter Ridge Band program is paramount.

Student expectations for encouraging a fun and safe atmosphere are as follows:

- Take responsibility for yourself and actions. Apologize when it is appropriate.
- Communicate honestly and respectfully with your peers, directors, and any other adults associated with the band of pirates.
- Understand the need for practice and make time for it.
- Bring materials to class (instrument, pencil, book, music, notebook); be ready to perform.
- Understand that becoming a good musician is a process that takes time and dedication.
- Always be on time for class, rehearsals and performances. If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late.
- Realize the impact your individual attitudes, actions, and performances will have on the group.
- Think before you act.
- Remember who you are and what you are representing. Take pride in yourself, your band and your school.
- Any time you are acting as an audience, please remember to respond as you would like an audience to respond while you are performing.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE

- Students arrive at the appropriate time to class.
- Students will meet on the field in sections by 5 minutes after the bell to warm-up visually and musically, weather permitting. During concert band students should be seated and ready to begin rehearsal 5 minutes after the bell.
- Students should raise their hand during rehearsal for permission to speak or permission to leave their seat. Do not raise your hand when the director's hands are raised for playing.
- Students should return all instruments to their assigned storage areas, put away appropriately in cases, once they are finished playing for the day.
- Students should keep the band room clean and neat at all times. Please be careful not to track dirt, mud or grass into the room.
- When class ends, a director will dismiss you, not the bell. You will typically be dismissed from rehearsal 3-5 minutes before the bell rings so that you can pack up and make it to your next class.
- There should be no cellphone use during class unless specifically instructed. This includes communication with parents.
- Do not play out of turn.
- There is to be no candy, gum, food or drink except water in the band room.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Pass-Offs: 25%

PERFORMANCES/Weekly Rehearsals: 40%

EVALUATIONS: 35%

WEEKLY REHEARSAL

Getting seated quietly on time with required materials, along with daily preparation and cooperation in achieving daily class objectives, will be considered major factors in grading class participation. More than in any other subject, one student can have a great effect upon the progress of an entire band class or section. Those who have a negative influence on the rehearsal environment will have it reflected in their grade. Any time a student does not play their instrument in class; points will be deducted from the participation grade. Points will be deducted from the students weekly rehearsal grade if items are not present daily:

- Black Notebook
- **Music:** All students will be provided one copy of music. Please take care of this copy so that we are not wasteful. Student librarians can assist any student who has music needs, please do not ask directors for additional copies. Student librarians will only make copies outside of rehearsal times. Marching band show music will be available on the website and students should print their own copies if needed.
- Pencil
- Instrument with all working parts

The only acceptable reason for a child to not have an instrument in class is that it is in the repair shop. A note from the shop **MUST BE PROVIDED** to the directors. These are very easy to obtain and all shops will provide an excuse note if asked for one. Please understand the need for all students to play every day we have band class. The success of the Porter Ridge Band program depends on students who are equipped for success. The only way to accomplish this is by having all students participate every day in class. Repeat offenses may result in one of the following:

- Call/email to parent or guardian
- Parent/guardian conference
- Suspension from performances (which will adversely affect grading)
- Office referral
- Dismissal from band program

*Students holding leadership positions will have their leadership duties averaged into their rehearsal technique and attendance grades.

PERFORMANCES

Each Porter Ridge Band Student will be required to be at all marching band, concert band, and jazz band performances. These performances represent our school and sometimes they are the first time people are introduced to our program. It is for this reason that all students are to be in attendance. The Porter Ridge Band Program is designed to educate not only students, but also audiences about music, and therefore must be geared towards performing. We are the most visible group within the school; therefore we must be represented 100% at all times. If a student misses a performance without a valid explanation or an acceptable pre-approved

notification, then the performance grade will be a 0 in the grade book. Attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on the student's grade. Band is a participation/performance-based course. Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted.

Communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The directors should know about any conflicts at least 3 weeks prior to the event in question. All absences from out-of-school events (after school rehearsals, performances, etc) must be submitted through Email and directors will follow up from that database only. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. Note: Even if the director is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved/excused.

Missing multiple performances/practices in the semester will result in the automatic failure of the class/grading period. Excused absences include:

- Extreme personal illness with doctor's note (or absence from school)
- Family health emergencies verified by family
- Positive Covid-19 test or instructions to quarantine
- Approved academic and PRHS sport conflicts
- *Required* religious observances (Christmas, Easter, Rosh Hashanah, Seventh Day Adventist observances)
- Extra-curricular PRHS sponsored conflicts approved by director in advance

Excused absences do not include, but are not limited to:

- Minor illness or injury
- Non-verified family emergencies
- Non-school related sporting events or conflicts
- Elective non-curricular activities (I.e. youth rallies, pageant rehearsals, travel sports not sanctioned by Union County Schools and Porter Ridge High School)
- Shopping trips, elective family trips not related to an emergency

Students are expected to travel to and from all performances with the band. However, due to the pandemic students may opt to travel to and from a performance with a parent, students should present their plans to the directors (NOT bus chaperones) 1 week prior to departing PRHS. ONLY PARENTS are allowed to travel with their students to and from an off campus location. When leaving, students must sign out with a director (NOT a parent chaperone) before leaving. Failure to do so will be considered "skipping" as if during the school day and will be handled according to the PRHS student handbook guidelines.

EVALUATIONS and PASS-OFFS

Students are expected to play in front of their peers in class during a playing evaluation (there are no exceptions to this rule). Playing evaluations consist of scales, sheet music or

memorization tests. Playing evaluations also encourage the student to become more familiar with playing in front of an audience. This is a vital part of a student's musical education. Students who are absent the day of testing, or have an instrument in the repair shop will be given the opportunity to complete the missed evaluation during the next class period they attend, or have their instrument. It is the student's responsibility to make up their test; make arrangements to complete missed tests at the director's convenience. Students who miss assignments for any reason will be given a grade of '0' until the assignment is made up. If a student disrupts the class (talking, getting up out of seat without permission, etc...) while another student is testing, they will receive an automatic zero on the test. Students will be instructed on these practices every time an evaluation is held. Any student caught snickering or teasing other students during an evaluation or any other situation in class will be dealt with in a serious manner. Evaluations may be announced or may come without warning to the student.

Scales and rudiments are a vital part of becoming a superior musician. All scales and rudiments must be passed off by the spring exam period in order to continue in band for the next school year. Students should take advantage of the ample amount of class time provided to complete pass-offs.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS:

12 major scales, 1 chromatic and 13 rudiments

FACILITIES

- **Band Room:** Band members are to keep the band room clean and neat.
- **Instrument Storage Room:** To be used for instrument storage only. All other items are to be kept in the student's school locker. Keep the storage rooms clean and neat. Instruments are to be put in their cases with cases - closed and latched - while in the storage room.
- **Director's Office and Library:** The director's office is private and for directors only. Please knock before entering. No students should be in the office without permission. The library is in the director's office.
- **Uniform Storage Room:** This room is storage for all band uniforms and booster items. It may also double as a practice room only when instructed.
- **Guard Storage Room:** To be used for guard equipment storage only, not for personal items. To be used by guard members only. Guard members are responsible for keeping this room clean and organized at all times. Abuse will result in loss of privileges.
- **Tuba Storage Room:** To be used for tubas/sousaphones and immediate accessories only. To be used only by tuba players, and not for personal items or use. Tuba players are responsible for keeping this room clean and organized at all times. Abuse will result in loss of privileges.
- **Percussion Storage Room:** To be used for percussion equipment only. To be used by percussionists only, not for personal items or use. Percussionists are responsible for keeping this room (and the Aux Box) clean and organized at all times. Abuse will result in loss of privileges.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

It is every band member's responsibility to show the utmost care for all band equipment. The band rooms are not play areas and should be treated with the utmost respect. **All students using school owned instruments are responsible for any damages accrued under their care.** Students are responsible for their own instrumental accessories such as valve oil, reeds, slide cream, or cork grease.

ATTIRE

All marching band events will be done in approved spirit wear (usually band shirt, band shorts, band shoes, and approved spirit accessories) or the marching band uniform in whole or in part. No jewelry will be worn with the marching band uniform. Hair must not touch the neck of the uniform (long hair must be worn in a tight bun inside of the hat during marching band performances). Band uniforms must be worn with long black socks. Guard students must have appropriate undergarments for dancing. Hair must be a neutral color, neat, and done to performance level and style. Character makeup must be worn at all performances and done in the approved Band of Pirates official style, as it is also a part of the uniform. Before performances there will be a brief uniform inspection. Not being in acceptable dress at any function may result in the student not being allowed to perform, as they are not prepared.

Concerts are formal events and students should present themselves appropriately. It is required for all students to be in attendance at concerts. In order to ensure the best possible appearance during performances, the following formal concert dress has been established. Please make plans now to acquire these items:

- **Black dress pants or Floor length skirt/dress (no jeans, yoga pants, or leggings)**
- **Black, long-sleeved, button-down shirt or blouse (no prints, minimal lace)**
- **Black shoes and black socks/hosiery**
- **Black tie (Optional – if no tie, undershirt must be black as well)**

GENERAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Uniforms must be turned in by the student to which it is issued and that student only. The program acknowledges that there are some late nights, however, uniforms are very expensive and need to be handed in by the student that particular uniform was checked out to. Failure to turn in your own uniform will result in the reduction of that performance grade. Repeat offenses will result in suspension from performances and ultimately a class II violation referral resulting administrative action.*

- *Just because you give notice does not mean your absence will be approved. It may still negatively influence your grade.*
- *There are several means of communication provided in this syllabus. Absence information given by third party will not be accepted. "Calling in" third party will also be considered as missing an event without prior approval.*

*****Please sign and return contract on the following page*****

PORTER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Band Contract

I _____ have thoroughly read the information in this handbook.
(student name)

I will be held responsible for all the policies and procedures of the Porter Ridge High School Band program and will do my best to uphold the standards set forth in this handbook. I will do my part to take on the personal responsibility to help my band improve. This includes being present and on time, all of the time, always having my materials and having a positive attitude in all that I do.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

I _____ have thoroughly read the information in this handbook.
(parent name)

I understand that my child will be held responsible for all policies and procedures of the Porter Ridge High School Band program, and he or she will do his or her best part to uphold the standards set forth in this handbook. I understand and will encourage my child to do his or her part in taking on the personal responsibility to help the band improve.

I understand that attendance is very important and will make arrangements for my student to be present and on time for all events. _____ (initial)

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____