

Welcome

Welcome to the Podonk East Middle School Band Program. You are now part of an organization with a long-standing tradition of excellence that is now your duty to uphold. You have seized an amazing opportunity for your personal growth that will develop your personal leadership skills through the study of music performance. Challenging oneself by adopting an attitude of constant self-improvement, service to organization, and persistence toward group and personal goals will continue to impact you throughout your life.

The choice to be in the Podonk band program is one of the most exceptional commitments you will ever make. There is no equivalent or comparable experience to band. You will be joining a performing ensemble that delves deep into the art of music. We will explore the immensely intricate and intellectual challenges of music performance, an amazing art that aims to directly transfer emotion through the acoustic production of sound. Experiences in band include extensive music skill development, opportunity for creative expression, public performance, travel, and development of lifelong friendships. This is all coupled with the dynamics of participation in a student lead organization that thrives on teamwork, goal-based achievement, and pride. Band is challenging, exciting, emotional, physical, rewarding, and exists because of your commitment.

Whether your motivation for being in the band is musical, social, leadership oriented, or simply for fun, YOU are the most integral part in ensuring our band's success. Your hard work, dedication, spirit, enthusiasm, service, clear communication, and constant commitment to the band is crucial to the quality of YOUR band experience. The direction of the band does not reside solely in the hands of the director, instructors, or our student leadership; all members share this responsibility equally.

Thank you for your time, and welcome to the Podonk East Band Program.

Musically yours,

Chad Beebe

Chad Beebe

Our Philosophy

The Podonk East's educational approach is based on the theory that improvement and progress are in direct proportion to the effort expended by the band member, instructor, and family support system. We believe that maximum mental and moral growth is developed from persistent guidance and supervision in a proper environment. We recognize all members are not alike, they do not all have the same abilities. They are individuals with different pasts, experiences, and futures. The success of their training lies in developing pride of accomplishment and a positive outlook rather than negative characteristics that may lead to failure.

These characteristics are often referred to as laziness, nervousness, irresponsibility, and disinterest. In the program, each member associates with other students in an atmosphere of courage, trust, and optimum achievement. Politeness and courtesy become habits, leading to an appreciation of community, respect, discipline, and the good in others.

Fall Semester

During the fall semester, students meet during the day in one of three concert ensembles.

Students are required to be enrolled in one of these classes in order to participate in the marching band. More information can be found about the concert ensembles under the heading "Concert Season". Information about the percussion classes can be found later in this section.

Students participating in other school activities with direct time conflicts should speak with a director as soon as possible to develop a system that allows the student to participate in both activities. Club athletics or other non-school-sponsored activities will not be treated as excused absences.

Percussion

The Percussion class meets during the Fall semester. This ensemble works together toward competitive festivals with the Concert Bands and Percussion Ensemble. All PEMS percussionists will be a part of this class during the Fall semester. All percussionists will then follow the audition guidelines listed below and be moved to one of the concert ensembles for the spring semester.

All-Region

The all region band audition process is a contest designed to improve the individual playing level of the student. The process is one of the most valuable experiences offered all year and all

students in the program are expected to use the process in a way that truly benefits them as individual musicians.

Students will begin the process with a Region Band audition in November. They will participate in the Region Clinic and Concert in late January. All PEMS Band students who earn a chair in a Region band are required to participate in the entire Clinic and Concert.

PEMS students in Wind Ensemble are required to audition for Region. Students in the Concert Band are required to learn the music, participate in the pass off process, participate in the mock audition held in November, and are encouraged to audition for Region. This process is part of the graded pass off process in band classes.

Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble is a contest designed to improve the individual and small group performance level of the students. The experience is one of the most valuable musical opportunities during the entire year and all students are strongly encouraged to participate. This contest will be held in late February or early March at Podonk West High School. Students are responsible for entry fees and will be required to use an accompanist if playing an accompanied solo.

Students in Wind Ensemble and Concert Band are required to perform a solo and participate in a chamber ensemble at the contest. Students who are unable to perform at the contest may perform a solo and or chamber ensemble for the class to fulfill the performance requirement. Any students experiencing financial burden should contact a director as soon as possible. Students should have their solos (purchased original with accompaniment part) in hand before the Holiday

Break in December. Information will be distributed in class in late November with suggested solos and ordering information.

Students enrolled in private lessons may choose any solo deemed appropriate by their teacher and band directors. Students not enrolled in lessons must play a solo listed on the suggested form, or have a director approve the solo. The band department, at a reasonable cost, will provide accompanists for the students. The accompanist fee will cover two 15-minute rehearsals and the performance. Students who miss their scheduled rehearsal time without 2-weeks prior notice will forfeit the rehearsal at no cost to the accompanist. The student may elect to use an accompanist of their choice provided the accompanist's performance experience is commensurate with the PEMS staff accompanists.

All students will be assigned Chamber Ensembles in December. The primary director of each class will assign ensembles based on the best possible musical opportunities of the student. Music commensurate with playing ability will be distributed. Ensembles will not be adapted based upon students' social objectives. Detailed performance information will be distributed in February. Once a student has entered the contest, they are expected to complete the performance. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and the student will receive a zero for his or her grade in this activity.

Spring Semester

In the spring, students meet during the day in one of two concert ensemble classes.

Percussionists become part of the band classes per the same audition guidelines as the winds.

Students are required to be enrolled in one of these classes in order to participate in band related

functions. The color guard members become part of the Winter Guard. Guard members register for the Winter Guard Class.

Concert Bands

The Podunk East Middle School Band is comprised of two concert ensembles designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency, and level of commitment. Participation in band is based on a full year commitment. All ensembles perform regularly and strive towards valuable performance opportunities including Concerts, Festivals, and UIL Contests. Placement for the spring semester will be determined based upon a placement audition as well as the All-Region process and other achievements throughout the fall semester. Students may be moved from one ensemble to another during the year at the discretion of the director. The criterion for placement in our ensembles is the level of proficiency at which the individual student has attained on his/her particular instrument. Students may be reassigned as a reward for exemplary progress, or for reasons that may be damaging to the growth and welfare of the ensemble.

The Wind Ensemble is the top performing concert ensemble in the band program and is open to students in all grades. In order to be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. A student must seriously pursue individual goals on their instrument as well as working diligently toward ensemble goals. Auditioning for All-Region band and playing a solo and ensemble at the PISD solo and ensemble contest is required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

The Concert Band is the second performing concert ensemble and is comprised of students in all four grades. To be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Auditioning for All-Region band and playing a solo and ensemble at the P.I.S.D. solo and ensemble competition is required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged

The Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble that is composed of players from all of the concert bands. Auditions are required for membership. Rehearsals take place before or after school. This ensemble is designed to expose students to the jazz idiom.

Instruments

Each student will be expected to have his or her own instrument. Some students play school owned instruments and are expected to care for them as if they owned that instrument. We are very fortunate that PISD makes the financial commitments necessary to provide professional level instruments to students. No student can play another student's instrument other than his or her own unless given specific permission by a director! Only percussionists can play on the percussion equipment. No exceptions. All instruments are to be stored properly in their case in the designated locker. Percussion instruments may not leave the building unless a band director has given permission. Students that play a school-owned instrument will be required to pay an \$500.00 yearly maintenance fee. The maintenance fee is used to pay for routine maintenance on the instrument but not for damage due to negligence, misuse, or improper care. Any damage other than that caused by normal usage will be assessed to the student. This fee and the

instrument form included at the end of this handbook are due at band registration. Students are expected to have your instrument in working order and all necessary equipment at all rehearsals and performances. If your instrument needs repair, check with a band director before you take it to the repair shop. Music & Arts Centers is one of the district approved repair options. Their address is Music & Arts, 360 E, FM3040 Suite 820, Lewisville, TX 75067.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the single most valuable resource available to music students. The PISD has made a commitment to work with highly qualified private teachers in the area to provide a safe, professional learning opportunity for students. All private teachers go through a fingerprinting/background check and are approved through the Human Resources Department to be on campus. All Private teachers are also interviewed and auditioned before being hired to teach at PEMS. Private lessons are available before and after school as well as during students' band classes. Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all band students. By improving all of the individuals in the band through private instruction, the overall quality of the entire program will continue to improve. Students studying privately take one ½-hour lesson per week. Each ½-hour lesson costs \$18.00. In some instances, students may opt. for a full hour lesson. These lessons need to occur before or after school and cost \$36.00. The band directors award scholarships on a need basis. To be considered, the student should meet privately with Mr. Beebe. Scholarships are available for students studying with approved teachers at PEMS.

Band Hall

The band hall is your band hall. Treat it as your own, with the highest level of upkeep. Please understand that we have 200+ people that operate in this small area daily so we must have strict policies. The band hall must be clean at all times. There is to be absolutely no food, gum, or drink other than water at any time in the band hall. Band detentions will be given for infractions to this rule. If this becomes a continual problem, the student's standing in the band program will be evaluated with a parent or guardian and a principal.

The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only. You are to sit properly in the chair with all four feet of the chair on the floor. Music stands are for holding music only. They are not desks. Any student found to be misusing any band hall equipment would face disciplinary action. These rules are enforced for your safety. Music stands and chairs are to be stored on the provided racks and lined neatly along the wall to the left of the office.

You will be assigned a locker for your instrument at the beginning of each year. You are to use that locker only. Your instrument, music, and flip folder are to be kept in the locker. Other seasonal items such as marching shoes may be kept in the locker only when needed. The lockers are to be kept trash free and in neat order. Books may be kept in lockers during the student's band class only. A student is not to use another person's locker or anything in another person's locker without a band director's consent. Security of lockers can only be guaranteed when they are locked. Students are not to enter the band hall unless it is their assigned band class. This means all materials and lunches for other class periods must be taken with you at the end of your assigned band period. After each marching band performance, all hangers, clothes, and trash are to be removed from the band hall. This is your job, not the janitors or directors. Any clothes,

books, or other items left in the band hall overnight are not the responsibility of the band directors and will be removed from the band hall and donated to charity.

Section Rehearsals

All concert bands will have section rehearsals beginning in the fall and continuing to the end of UIL Contest in April. Sectionals are mandatory! Each student will only be required one hour a week for his or her sectional. Sectionals count as a rehearsal and are an extension of the school day; consequently the PISD attendance policy is in effect. Missing a sectional with an unexcused absence, or missing any sectional with an excused absence and not giving advance notice will result in lowering the student's grade for the grading period.

Rehearsal Conduct

In order to have a successful band program, we must use every minute of rehearsal time wisely. Rehearsals will begin promptly after the tardy bell. At this time, you must be in your seat and have your instrument warmed up and ready to play. Each time a student is tardy to class, PEMS tardy policy will be strictly enforced. Rehearsals are expected to be quiet. If it is marching band or concert band, when a director stops the band there is to be no talking! If a student has trouble being quiet in rehearsal, disciplinary action will be taken. Every student is expected to have a pencil on his or her stand at all times. Marking music helps to learn faster and increases productivity.

Concert Etiquette

All students are expected to stay for the length of the entire concert. Listen and be supportive of all the groups in the band program. Please do not walk around or talk during any performance.

You are to stay seated and quiet when a group is performing. Please enter or leave the auditorium only between pieces or after the group has finished. We ask that everyone cooperate in this important matter.

Pep Rallies

Pep rallies are required performances. All band students must participate in all pep rallies unless a director has given specific permission. When the band plays, all brass players are to stand while woodwind players remain seated. Your behavior in the pep rally is to be the same as your behavior at a football game - exemplary model students.

Stands Behavior

Behaving appropriately in the stands is essential in order to give an outstanding performance.

- Each band member is to remain in their assigned seat during the entire game unless given specific permission from a band director, drum major, or section leader.
- All students sit or stand as a group. Individuals should not be standing or moving around the stands at any time.
- Students must remain in full uniform unless instructed differently by a director.

- All uniform parts are to stay intact, including collars fastened, unless specific permission is given from a band director.
- Only organized playing is allowed. No spontaneous jam sessions.
- You may only play your written part for a particular piece of music.
- You may drink water only in the stands.

Bus Travel

Due to our extensive amount of travel, proper behavior on a bus is mandatory. Students should remain seated with voices to a minimum. Shouting on the bus is not acceptable. Students may use headphones however external speakers are not allowed. Always be courteous to drivers, chaperones and other passengers. Loud, abusive, or otherwise rude behavior will not be tolerated. Do not get out of your seat for any reason while the bus is in motion. Reminder: you must stay in full uniform unless you have permission from a director. Students must follow PISD rules when traveling with the band.

Uniforms

Each student will be issued a uniform for marching band. In some instances, the students will be issued multiple uniforms. The uniforms are to be returned in the condition that they were issued. Students will be charged replacement cost of uniforms that are damaged or lost. \

Costs for damaged or lost uniform parts:

Jacket \$240

Pants \$133

Shako \$60

Shako Box \$12

Garment Bag \$12

Hanger \$5

The uniform has snaps which can assure the proper length; pants hang straight with no break. Do not cut any material off of the uniform! If material has been cut off, the student will be assessed the replacement cost for that garment. When the uniform is not in use, it must be hung up properly. Any uniform that is stored in a different way will be taken up and the student may be responsible for cleaning the uniform. Disciplinary action will also result. Students must remain in full uniform at all times unless a director gives permission to get out of uniform. In uniform means all parts are properly worn and fastened (this procedure will be demonstrated in detail prior to the first performance). The uniforms are to be clean and ready for each performance. The uniforms are washable and may be cleaned by the students. However, please refer to the Uniform Cleaning Instructions as uniform damage will be charged to the student. There is to be absolutely no eating, drinking (other than water), or gum chewing in uniform. Water and booster provided snacks are the only food to be consumed while in uniform.

Band Boosters

We cannot do this without the help of our wonderful parents. When you become involved you will quickly see how Band is quite the microcosm of the “real” world. If you have any skills or experience in virtually any area, we can use your assistance. A simple list of areas we need help

in during a given year: bookkeeping, carpentry, welding, handyman, manual labor, cooking, liaison, translating, data entry, editing, copying, organizing, sewing, public relations, video, truck driving, chaperoning, moving, moving, and of course, moving. Whether it is the beginning of the year during marching band, or towards the end during our band banquet, it is never too late or early to get involved. If you can only help at the event itself, let us know. The more help we get, the better and more efficient our program will be. Meetings will be held every Wednesday at 6 PM in the Podonk East Band Hall.

Band Booster Positions and Descriptions:

President

Oversees all booster activities and keeps the band director up to date on the status of all projects/jobs by regularly communicating with all booster titled volunteers. Recruits, trains, organizes, and secures chaperones/volunteers for all band events. Updates all committee chairs regularly on volunteer status in Charms for each event.

Treasurer

Enters all monetary transactions into Charms Financial database and assists with the band director with money deposits.

Forms Manager

Enters, tracks, and manages all collected student forms in Charms databases.

Fundraising Coordinator

Assists the band director in planning fundraising activities, establishing a budget, filling out required PISD paperwork, & carrying out all efforts to raise funds. Compiles a list of all sponsors for poster and thank you letter distribution.

Sponsorship & Concert Ad Managers

Prepares the concert Ad Program and compiles a list of businesses for acknowledgement. Creates PowerPoint, sets up projector and projects concert advertisements at all concerts.

Uniform Coordinators**Marching**

Assists in fitting all students for marching uniforms and coordinates hemming efforts.

Concert

Assists in fitting all students for concert uniforms and placing orders.

Equipment Coordinator

Directly assists with and coordinates the logistics associated with the moving of all equipment throughout the school year. Community

Public Relations Liaison

Communicates band events and achievements to local press and the community.

Hospitality Coordinator

Solicits food donations from local merchants and band parents for all band events involving special guests, performers, or clinicians. Coordinates the end of the year Band Banquet.

Grading

Grades are based on the student's participation, attendance, responsibility, and the ability to prepare playing assignments punctually and correctly. Each class will follow a syllabus and pass off schedule for each 9-week grading period. Grades will consist of the following percentages: 25% pass off and appropriate preparation of music skills, 25% attendance, 25% daily rehearsal etiquette, and 25% performance.

Emergency Contact Information

Rick Sanchez, Director of Bands

(817) 746-3691 ext. 432

Cell: (214) 837-8439

rick.sanchez@podonkisd.net

BoJack Horseman, Associate Director

(817) 245-8104 ext. 592

Cell: (214) 482-1848

BoJack.horseman@podonkisd.net

Chad Beebe, Director of Percussion Studies

(817) 839-1740 ext. 703

Cell: (849) 849-1839

chad.beebe@podonkisd.net

Calendar

July 31-Aug. 11 Band Camp

Aug. 15-Nov. 9 Begin Weekly afterschool Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals 3:00-4:45pm

Aug.26-Nov.*19 All Home Football Games as per the football Schedule. 5:45pm until the game is over: 9-1, 9-15, 9-22, 10-6, 10-13, 11-3 *Playoffs possible on 11-10 & 11-17*

Sept. 22 Middle School Night & Senior Student/Parent Night

Oct. 7-8 Marching Competition @ Whocares HS Time TBD

Oct. 20 Goomba Drumline Competition Time TBD

Oct. 21-22 Marching Competition @ Fake School Name HS

Oct. 29 Children's Day-Fundraiser

Oct. 30 Homecoming Parade

Nov. 9 Fall Band Concert 7pm. Rehearsal the same day. Food provided.

Nov. 12 All Region

Dec. 5 & 12 Winter Combined Concert Dress Rehearsals

Dec. 5 3:00-4:30 PM & Dec. 12 3:00-5:00 PM.

Dec. 13 & 14 Winter Band Concerts 7pm

Jan. 11 All Area

Jan. 16-May 8 Percussion Ensemble 3:00-4:30pm Tuesday Rehearsals

Feb. 8 Winter Guard Competition

Feb. 10 Solo & Ensemble

Feb. 12-16 TMEA/All State

March 2 Spring Combined Concert Dress Rehearsals

March 3 Spring Concert 7PM.

March 6 UIL

March 19 or 21 State Solo & Ensemble

April 7 Percussion Ensemble Concert

May 11 Band Banquet 5:30 seating, 6:00pm food Fun night of celebration, memories, awards & food.

May 31 Graduation Rehearsal

June 1 Graduation Performance 6:30pm

TBD Spring Trip Possibly during Spring Break.

All Dates are times are subject to change, be sure to always check Charms or contact the band director for clarification.

Podonk East High School Band Student & Parent Band Handbook Acknowledgement & Permission to

Travel Form 2020-2021

*This form must be completed and turned in by Friday, September 1 st or upon entering the band program. A digital copy of this form will be available on our website www.PEHSBand.com & hard copies will be available upon request. *

Band Handbook Acknowledgement (Parent & Student)

By signing this form, we acknowledge that we have read and agree to abide by policies set forth by the Podonk East High School Band Program as stated in the 2020-2021 Podonk East High School Band Handbook. We will do our part to help the band achieve the goals set forth by the band program. We also understand that band is a full year commitment and agree to commit to the Podonk East High School Band Program for the entire 2020-2021 school year. We will support the program by doing our fair share of fundraising throughout the year.

Picture and Video Permission (Parent & Student)

By signing this form, we give permission for digital pictures, audio, and video recordings of my child/self to be posted on the Podonk East High School Band Website/social media platforms and to be released to community publications.

Required Band Activities Permission & Permission to Travel (Parent)

We give our child permission to participate in and travel to all required band activities for the 2020-2021 school year according to the Podonk East High School Band Calendar (please detach and retain) and at: www.PEHSBand.com We also understand that outside of the school day performances and rehearsals are required academic events that count as a grade for the enrolled fine arts course.

Events Requiring Off Campus District Approved Transportation (Busses etc.)

By signing this document, you are giving your child permission to travel for the required events listed below via PISD approved transportation provided by the PEHS Band: October 7-8 Competition (Day trip/possible overnight trip to The Shire) October 21-22 Marching Competition (Day trip/overnight trip to The Moon)

Events Requiring Off Campus Parent Transportation

I also agree to provide transportation for my child to and from the following required local events: All Football Home Games: 9-1, 9-15, 9-22, 10-6, 10-13, 11-3 and possible playoffs possible on 11-10 & 11-17. Drop off and pickup location is PEHS Auditorium Parking Lot.

All Local Parades: Homecoming-Oct. 30, Veterans Day Nov. 11th, and the City Holiday-Dec. 2. Drop off and pickup locations TBD according to parade organizers. Graduation Rehearsal & Performance at PEHS May 31 & June 1. Any currently unplanned band events (i.e. Performing at Union Square for Sunset, Children's Day performance/fundraiser, additional tag days etc.). *Advanced notice will be given. *

Student's Name: _____ Last name, First name (Please print clearly)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____