

PRINCETON HIGH SCHOOL

**PANTHER
BAND**

HANDBOOK

**APPROVED BY PISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JULY 2009**

FORWARD

As a member of the Princeton Band Program, you are a part of one of Princeton ISD's most respected organizations. *The success of the Band will depend on the LOYALTY, COOPERATION, and DEDICATION of each and every member.*

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to understand. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your band, school, community, and most importantly - **TO YOURSELF!**

PRINCETON BAND PROGRAM'S PHILOSOPHY

To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.

To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility.

To create in students a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor.

To teach students how to set individual goals and how to accomplish those goals.

To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability.

THE BAND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.

Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of his/her actions.

Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately.

Have the proper respect for those in authority.

Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, and schedules and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.

Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions given for trips.

Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.

Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the Band Program.

Make a real effort to learn and improve daily, to read and play music with insight and expression.

BAND MEMBER RULES

1. Be prepared for rehearsals and on time (instrument, music, pencils, etc).
2. Be prepared for performances and on time (all necessary items).
3. Give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances. Do not disrupt or disturb rehearsals with inappropriate activities.
4. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum is not allowed in the band hall at any time.
5. Play *your* instrument only and no one else's (without director approval).
6. Instrument, case, music, books, etc. should be kept in their proper place before, during, and after rehearsals.
7. Play your instrument in the right way, time, and place.
8. Always conduct yourself with honor and integrity. *Horseplay and pranks are activities that are not allowed.*
9. Absences should be reported in advance, in writing if possible, to be excused. Notification of an absence after an event is excusable only under extreme circumstances, such as an emergency. Excessive absences are unacceptable, and could result in a failing grade, being placed on alternate status, and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Bands discretion).
10. All high school band students are provided a band uniform for performances. Each student is responsible for the upkeep of the uniform. Any damage to the uniform is the responsibility of the student. Students will need to provide the appropriate socks, gloves, marching shoes, an instrument lyre, and a band t-shirt for all marching performances. Male students must provide the appropriate tuxedo shirt, socks, and shoes for all concert performances. Female students must provide the appropriate pantyhose and shoes for their concert performances. Some of these items will be purchased from the band program in August of each year.
11. Always maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member, during the tough times *and* the good times. ***NO ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE PERFECT...BUT EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO GIVE THEIR ALL!***

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times. You are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school, and your school is a representative of your community.

The following infractions are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action and / or removal from the program.

1. Any disrespectful behavior such as foul and or abusive language to anyone.
2. Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsals or performances.
3. Any misuse or abuse of school property and or school facilities.
4. Alcohol, tobacco, or drug use at any time (school activity or otherwise).
5. Any action which dishonors or disgraces the Princeton Band or the school in any way.
6. Other infractions of the rules as stated in the Princeton ISD Student Code of Conduct or as stated in this document.
7. Repeated disregard of Band Member Rules.

The Director of Bands reserves the right to make decisions regarding disciplinary action / removal from the band program.

GRADING

Grades of students in instrumental music classes are based on participation and skill development. The following are areas that students are subject to be graded on.

<u>PARTICIPATION</u>	How the student attends rehearsals and performances, and etiquette on dress, behavior and promptness. How the student shows interest and desire to learn in class. How the student shows respect for instructors, peers, and self. How the student enters and leaves the band hall. How the student maintains his / her instrument, learning materials, and storage area.
SKILL	How the student progresses on his / her instrument (tests). How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance and behavior.

Do not expect a high grade in band if there is a deficiency in any of the above areas. Any student with a reasonable work ethic, and a willingness to respect rules and authority will succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude. Any student lacking in respect or a good work ethic

will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude. Chair placement procedures are at the discretion of the Director of Band.

GUIDELINES FOR AUXILIARY MEMBERS

General: All students auditioning for an auxiliary position in the Princeton Band Program must first supply a letter of acceptance, signed and dated by the student and parent or guardian. No student will be allowed to audition without this letter on file.

Students who are not able to attend all auxiliary rehearsals and performances will not be allowed to participate with these units (for example, volleyball, football, cheerleading, etc.).

Flags: Flags will be chosen by audition. The number of flags will be determined each year by the Director of Bands. Extra rehearsals should be expected and are mandatory. Any student having difficulty attending rehearsals may be removed from the flagline at the Director of Band's discretion. The rehearsal schedule will be approved by the Director of Bands. Flags will be required to purchase a performance and pep rally uniform. The Director of Bands has final authority on all matters concerning the flag uniforms. The program will make every possible consideration to keep the cost of these uniforms as low as possible. All money for these uniforms is due by a date set each year by the Director of Bands.

Drum Majors: Drum Majors will be chosen by audition. The Director of Bands has final authority on all matters concerning the Drum Major uniform. Drum Majors must in no way jeopardize good standing in the band program. Any situation involving a Drum Major which the Director of Bands deems to be a compromise of the program's integrity, can and most likely will result in the immediate dismissal of that Drum Major from his / her duties. In that event, the Director of Bands may use his discretion whether to replace that person or not, and the process by which a replacement will be chosen.

JAZZ BAND

A jazz studies class is offered to any high school band student wishing to explore this area of musicianship. These students are expected to maximize their musical potential through performance and refining their playing skills. This group performs several concerts each year, not all of them are during the school day. Grades are based on participation only. Students are accepted into this class by audition, or Director of Band's discretion.

STUDENT CONTEST ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for band contests will be paid by the band program. If a student is entered in a contest at their request and later decides not to perform, that student will be responsible for re-paying that fee back to the band program.

BAND TRAVEL

Full instructions will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to the performance destination with the band on school approved transportation. Students may be allowed to ride home from a performance with their parent if the parent signs the student out at the performance. *Students will not be allowed to leave with anyone but their own parent* unless arrangements are made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director. Only music players with headphones will be allowed on the buses.

Band Trips: Traditionally, the high school band attends a major festival / performance every two years. The cost of the trip is the responsibility of the students. Fundraisers are provided to help defer the cost of these trips. The cost to each student can range from \$300 to \$600. The students are encouraged to begin saving funds as soon as their 8th grade year. *Examples of past band trips are: Winter Park, Colorado...Orlando, Florida...Chicago, Illinois...and Washington D. C.* Band parent chaperones are considered and chosen based on their participation in the Band Booster Organization and the ability to pay for their trip.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All graduating band seniors are eligible for college scholarship money. Students do not have to pursue a music degree to qualify. Nearly all of our students who seek a scholarship are offered great discounts on tuition, out-of-state fee waivers, along with the once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the excitement and camaraderie of being in a college band. Students need to take the initiative to start the process of auditioning and applying for the scholarship by contacting the music department at the desired college. The Director of Bands at Princeton High School will assist each student as needed.

Princeton Band Scholarship: At the annual high school band banquet, held each spring, the Princeton Band Scholarships are awarded to graduating band senior who will be attending college. These scholarships will be used to further the student's education no matter what field of study said student is pursuing.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND BANQUET

The Princeton High School Band Banquet is an occasion to celebrate the year's accomplishments. We welcome all current band students, their families, and friends to join us in these festivities. The banquet usually consists of a meal, an awards presentation/band video presentation, and a dance. Tickets are available from the high school Band office and the cost of the banquet is kept to a minimum by generous support from the Princeton Band Booster Organization and Princeton ISD. *Students who have been removed from the band program or have voluntarily removed themselves from the high school band are not allowed to attend.*

BAND LETTER JACKET POLICY

Princeton High School can award one letter jacket to students who meet the lettering criteria for a high school organization. Once a student is awarded a letter jacket by an organization, no other organization may duplicate that award.

To receive a letter jacket from the Princeton High School Band, a student must meet both of the following criteria in the same school year:

1. Audition for the ATSSB or TMEA All Region Band

and

2. Receive a 1st Division on a Class 1 or 2 solo at the UIL Region 25 Solo & Ensemble Contest.

Students who are awarded a letter jacket will receive the jacket, a letter, and a band emblem for the letter. Any other patches or decorations for the jacket must be purchased by the student. Ordering of letter jackets will be at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

PRINCETON BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

All band parents are encouraged to become a member of the Princeton Band Booster Organization. This organization is the support group for the band program. The Booster's responsibilities are to service the band program through fund raising and other support as requested by the Director of Bands. Everything this organization does is for the students. The Band Booster Organization does not participate in policy making or implementation within the Princeton Band Program. The Director of Bands serves in an advisory role to better guide the Band Booster Organization on the needs of the program.

Parents who have students participating in the high school band are expected to be ACTIVE Band Boosters. Band Booster meetings are held every second Monday or Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the high school band hall. Check the Band website (www.princetonband.org) for the exact dates.

SUMMATION

Participation in the Princeton Band Program is dependent upon effort and a true desire to succeed.

The guidelines stated in this handbook are easy to understand. The Director of Bands and the administration of the Princeton Independent School District feel that these rules are fair, just, and are in the best interest of the overall band program, school, and each individual who participates. The final decision is yours. There is no place for weakness and complacency in this Band.

The Princeton Band Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

PRINCETON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

My child and I have read the Princeton ISD Band Handbook and understand fully the content contained and the spirit of intent by which it is written. We also understand that if at any time, and for any reason, my child can not follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the Director of Bands, classroom teachers, or school administration, he / she will be subject to consequences as stated in this handbook, as well as the Princeton High School Code of Conduct and the Princeton Independent School District Extracurricular Activities Handbook.

Furthermore, I acknowledge the accomplishments of the Princeton Band Program and realize the duties and responsibility my child assumes as a member of this outstanding school organization.

We acknowledge our intent to contribute positively, as parent and student, to the Princeton Band Program.

Parent / Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Student signature _____ Date _____