

# **Pocahontas Junior High Bands**

Grading Policies 2008–2009

Junior Varsity Band – 3rd Period  
Junior Concert Band – 5th Period  
Junior Beginning Band – 7th Period

## **Points Possible**

50 Practice Sheets (per week)  
100 Scheduled Performances (point value subject to change)  
100 All–Region Tryouts (required for JVB, strongly encouraged for JCB)  
100 Solo/Ensemble Performance  
100 Playing Tests  
1000 Second Nine–Weeks Project (scales and etudes)  
TBA Third Nine–Weeks Project (musical terms)  
TBA Various Assignments

## **Bonus Points (merits)**

Making All–Region Band  
Earning Solo/Ensemble Medal  
Parents in Attendance at Booster Meetings  
Practice Time Above What is Required

## **Minus Points (demerits)**

Turning Paperwork in Past Deadlines (–10 per day late)  
Chewing Gum in the Band Room (–30 per occurrence)  
Leaving Equipment or Music Out (–25 per occurrence)  
Tardiness  
Not Having Necessary Materials for Rehearsal  
Improper Use of Equipment or Music  
Failure to Follow Instructions  
Inappropriate Behavior

## **Grades**

Grades are figured by totaling the number of acquired points, subtracting demerits, adding merits, and dividing by total possible points to arrive at a percentage. Letter grades are assigned according to the Pocahontas School District grading policies.

## **Eligibility**

The Arkansas Activities Association governs all inter-school activities and their events. AAA rules state that any junior high student participating in a competitive event must maintain a passing grade (no Fs) in at least four academic classes. Breaking this rule potentially disqualifies the entire school district from all competitive events.

## **PROJECTS**

As part of our effort to continue raising the excellence level of our bands, we complete two academic projects. While not overly demanding, these projects make up a huge portion of the grade. Students are allowed several weeks to complete the projects, and we STRONGLY SUGGEST that these projects not get put off until the last minute.

### **Second Nine Weeks: All-Region Material**

Wind and Percussion players must pass off a series of scales during the second nine weeks. Percussionists will also have to pass off a series of drum rudiments. These must all be played from memory, and accurately. This portion of the project is worth 500 points.

All students must pass off five etudes listed by the ASBOA as audition material for JR High All-Region Tryouts. These etudes do not have to be memorized, nor do they have to be fully prepared. The idea is for the director(s) to assist the students in preparing the music, so we want to hear them early to avoid bad habits from developing. Each etude is worth 100 points.

Lessons will be available during the second nine weeks before school, at lunch, or after school.

### Third Nine Weeks: Musical Terms

Students will be tested over a series of essential musical terms. The project will begin with a pretest, which will not count towards the grade. If a student scores 80% or better on this pretest, they will be exempt from the project.

After the pretest, students will be given a study guide and will begin a series of tests over them. When a student earns a 90% or higher on a test, they will have finished the project. Otherwise, they will take another test on the same material. This procedure continues until all students have earned a 90% or higher on the tests.

This project could be worth between 300 and 1300 points, depending on how many tests have to be given. Students who pass early will have a clear advantage, since their "A" will carry over to each successive test.

There is no project for the fourth nine weeks.

### **HOME PRACTICE**

Each junior high student is required to turn in 100 minutes of practice per week. Each minute is worth 1/2 a point, for a total of 50 points per week.

Band is an academic subject, and must follow course frameworks as prescribed by the Arkansas Department of Education. These practice sheets are considered homework, and are extremely important to your child's progress.

Please note: Any time turned in that is OVER the required practice time will earn students extra credit (1/2 point per minute). This is a great way to make up for any time missed in other weeks.

Ironically, most students who have lowered grades due to practice sheets actually did practice, but never turned in the sheet. Please help us encourage your child to develop responsibility for turning these in.

Forms are due on Monday, but we accept them on Tuesday or Wednesday. We do not accept them after Wednesday.

When a student fails to turn in a practice sheet, they will have a "strike." Three strikes in a row will result in removal from the program. However, all strikes are cleared when a sheet is turned in.

## **Uniforms**

The JR High uniform for football games will be a T-shirt that will be ordered through the band. Students will pay \$13 for the shirts, and will be allowed to keep them at the end of the season. If your family is unable to pay for this fee right away, please contact Mrs. Marlin or Mr. Riley so that a solution can be worked out.

In addition to this shirt, students will wear blue jeans, white socks, and CLEAN tennis shoes.

While in uniform, you are an extremely visible representative of our band, school and community. Watch your manners and protect our image.

Home football games are required performances, and will count as a grade.

For concerts, students will wear dress clothes – no jeans, t-shirts, or white socks. Girls who choose to wear skirts must make sure that the skirt covers them well while seated.

## **Expectations for Junior High Students**

During your junior high years, you are expected to make a real effort towards improving on your instrument and being a positive influence on your fellow band members. It is necessary for you to understand the importance of:

- Being able to play the scales or rudiments for your instrument.
- Making sure you can pat your foot while you play, and perform with the correct posture.
- Taking care of instrument and knowing how to maintain it.
- Making a real effort towards making all-region and earning a medal at solo/ensemble.
- Being responsible for your part and the success of the entire team.
- Being responsible for your home practice and turning in your practice sheet.

## **Absences**

If you must miss a performance, the director must be notified BEFORE the event. Only personal illness, family emergency or other extreme circumstances will be considered excused.

Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the performance. Habitual unexcused absences will result in removal from the band program. Because every performance is a team effort, excused absences will result in a 90% grade for the performance.

## **Membership Guidelines and Expectations**

- School rules apply at any band event, on or off campus.
- No gum in the band room.
- Put your equipment and music away after class.
- The band room is off limits at lunch and before school unless you are actively practicing your instrument or have prior permission to do something else. The old band room is off limits at all times unless you have permission to be in there.
- The director's office is not a public place. Knock on the door and wait to be invited in. If you are not invited in, something important is going on, and you should try again later.
- Telephones may be used by permission only. Cell phones may not be used during band events. If they are out, or ring during band events, they will be confiscated.
- The band rooms are off limits to non-band students. Ask your friends to wait at the door.
- Always bring a pencil to rehearsal. Read the board when you arrive. Be ready to start rehearsal when it begins. This includes having all the equipment you need.
- Take care of buying supplies, oiling valves, using the bathroom before rehearsal.
- Keep us informed of potential conflicts or special situations. It is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed if absent.

## IMPORTANT DATES – Fall 2008

### September

- 4 Ballgame Performance – Call time is 6pm for all games.
- 25 Ballgame Performance

### October

- 9 Ballgame Performance
- 23 Ballgame Performance
- 30 Ballgame Performance

### November

- 10 All-Region Jazz Tryouts at Annie Camp
- 21-22 All-Region Jazz Clinic at Valley View

### December

- 6 JR High All-Region Tryouts at Greene Co. Tech
- TBA Pocahontas Bands Christmas Concert

The band's website is

[www.pocahontasband.org](http://www.pocahontasband.org)

You and your parents should check it often. It is updated regularly and will have the most up-to-date information.

## **Concession Stand**

The band boosters run the football concession stand. THIS IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE BAND PROGRAM.

The money raised by the concession stand pays for expenses for all bands, region tryouts, the all-region overnight trips, solo/ensemble festival, region-ready club trips, part of the JR High t-shirt, supplies, upkeep on school-owned instruments, end of the year awards, and other expenses that pop up during the school year. This money doesn't (and legally can't) go to individuals for their travel accounts.

Parents: please consider helping us out by giving up an evening of your time to help us raise this money. On the back of the parent response form, there is a form on which you can let us know when you are available, and what jobs you might prefer.

We prefer for SR High parents to work at JR High games, and vice-versa. This allows parents to see their children perform.

Please especially consider helping us if your child plays a school-owned instrument. As one parent put it, "It seems only fair that I should work since I'm not having to pay for an instrument. This is the money that helps pay for it."

**Thanks** for helping us out with this. If every parent were to sign up for one game each, no one would have to work more than one night a season.

We appreciate our parents and the support you provide. There is a reason ours is one of the most envied band booster organizations in the state!

# ***Pocahontas Junior High Bands***

## **PARENT RESPONSE FORM/RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This form is worth 100 points, and is due Tuesday, August 26.  
Students will not be allowed to participate in the band program if this form is not signed and returned.

I have received the policies and expectations of the 2008–2009 Pocahontas Junior High Bands. I have read and understand what is expected of me. I understand that my performance affects the performance of others, and that my grade will count towards my overall grade point average.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

My child has received the policies and expectations of the 2008–2009 Pocahontas Junior High Bands. I have read and understand what is expected of my child. I understand that his/her performance affects the performance of others, and that my child's grade will count towards his/her overall grade point average.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

MOM EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DAD EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## **BAND CONCESSION STAND SIGN-UP**

Below are listed the available games and jobs. Please sign up for what you are willing to do.

If it turns out that you are unable to work a game for which you signed up, please make arrangements for an adult replacement. Don't call the band office – the directors don't keep up with the concession stand workers.

Check the website. There will be a band boosters link on which concession stand workers and other information will be posted.

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### **GAMES:**

- |                                                                    |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Aug 26: Scrimmage Game                                       | _____ Sep 4: JR vs. Harding Acad |
| _____ Sep 12: SR vs. Paragould                                     | _____ Sep 19: SR vs. GCT         |
| _____ Sep 25: JR vs. Gosnell                                       | _____ Oct 9: JR vs. Trumann      |
| _____ Oct 10: SR vs. Newport                                       | _____ Oct 23: JR vs. Valley View |
| _____ Oct 24: SR vs. Highland                                      | _____ Oct 30: JR vs. Osceola     |
| _____ PUT ME WHERE NEEDED                                          |                                  |
| _____ Sorry. I will be unable to help out in the concession stand. |                                  |
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### **AVAILABLE JOBS:** (please sign up for what you wouldn't mind doing).

- \_\_\_\_\_ PUT ME WHERE NEEDED
- \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE, NO DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Window (filling orders, taking money, making change)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilling Hamburgers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Putting Burgers together
- \_\_\_\_\_ Popping popcorn and filling popcorn bags
- \_\_\_\_\_ Making Nachos
- \_\_\_\_\_ Runner (helping in all areas)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilling Onions

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_