

Pocahontas High School Band

Grading Policies 2008–2009

Points Possible

- 100 Scheduled Performances (point value subject to change)
- 100 All-Region Tryouts
- 100 Solo/Ensemble Performance
- 200–400 Playing Tests (at least one every nine weeks)
- 50 Sectionals/After School Rehearsals
- 500 First Nine Weeks Project (show music memorization)
- 1200 Second Nine-Weeks Project (scales and etudes)
- TBA Third Nine-Weeks Project (musical terms and/or pitch tendencies)
- TBA Various Assignments

Bonus Points (merits)

- 4 Each hour of Home Practice (documented by parents)
- 40 Making First All-Region Band
- 30 Making Second All-Region Band
- 75 Making First All-State Band
- 60 Making Second All-State Band
- 20 Blue Medal at Solo/Ensemble
- 10 Red Medal at Solo/Ensemble
- 25 Each Parent in Attendance at Booster Meetings
- 25 Donating a 5-pack of CD-R Compact Discs (available once a nine weeks)
- 35 Donating a 5-pack of DVD-Rs (available once a nine weeks)
- 25 Attending a “serious” concert or recital*
- 15 Attending other concerts (pop/country, etc.)*

(*Must present program, t-shirt or ticket stub the next school day after the event.)

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
- ANY CONDUCT NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF A MEMBER OF AN OUTSTANDING BAND

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 high school student participating in a competitive event must maintain a 2.0 grade point average on Semester grades. 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 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.

First Nine Weeks: Show Music Memorization

Students must play their show music (or colorguard routine) for a director before a specified deadline. Music must be played accurately from memory. The project is worth 500 points. Due to the competitive goals of our band, students who choose not to participate in this project will be removed from band.

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 660 points.

All students must pass off the etudes listed by the ASBOA as audition material for SR 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. This portion of the project is worth 440 points

All students will play two sightreading exercises for the directors during the project. There is no preparation for this, so it is the easiest to complete. Students will study a piece of music for 20 seconds, then perform it as best they can. The student and director will then discuss ways to make sightreading skills stronger. This portion of the project is worth 100 points (50 points each session).

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

Third Nine Weeks: Pitch Tendencies

Students will be given a study guide to the natural tuning tendencies for their specific instrument. We will then take a series of tests (usually three) on this information. Because of this close study of the quirks of each instrument, students will become better players with better ears. Percussionists will be tested over a wide range of percussion techniques and maintenance.

Fourth 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.

Uniform Guidelines

- Uniforms will remain in the band room and checked out for each performance. Be sure to arrive early enough to check out your uniform and change clothes.
- A \$10 uniform cleaning fee will be charged at the end of the marching season to offset the costs of cleaning them. The band absorbs a huge share of the cleaning costs, but this fee helps.
- The band will issue clean uniforms, and clean them at least one other time during the season.
- Uniforms that become excessively soiled (as defined by the directors) will be cleaned and charged to the student. However, students are welcome to take uniforms to the cleaners at their own expense anytime they feel their uniform needs it. Be sure to obtain permission before taking your uniform from the band room.
- Uniforms are to be tidy and hung on hangers when not in use. Garment bags are issued to assist you in this.
- Students will be issued their first pair of gloves at no cost to them. Each additional pair costs \$3. Students must perform in CLEAN, WHITE gloves (colorguard and percussion do not wear gloves).
- Students are financially responsible for their own shoes, socks, and t-shirts.
- There will be no eating, nor will there be drinking of anything but clear liquids in uniform until the main performance has been completed. After the performance, there are no restrictions, but take care to avoid dripping or spilling food onto the uniform.
- No jewelry is to be worn in uniform. This includes any new piercings! Any facial hair (including sideburns) must be trimmed and tidy. Makeup and hair colors will be conservative (as defined by the directors). If you must “express yourself,” wait until the season ends.
- Any hair that touches the collar of the jacket must be put up inside the hat.

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

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.

- EVERYONE rides the bus to events. Students may be released only to their parents, who must sign them out when they leave. Exceptions to this must be approved (in advance) by bringing a note from your parent explaining who you are allowed to be checked out by, and on what date. THEN, your principal must sign the note before you present it to the band directors.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES. If you don't have internet access, ask a friend or a director to print them off for you.

The band's website is

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 High School Band

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 High School Band. 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.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

My child has received the policies and expectations of the 2008–2009 Pocahontas High School 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.

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.

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 _____