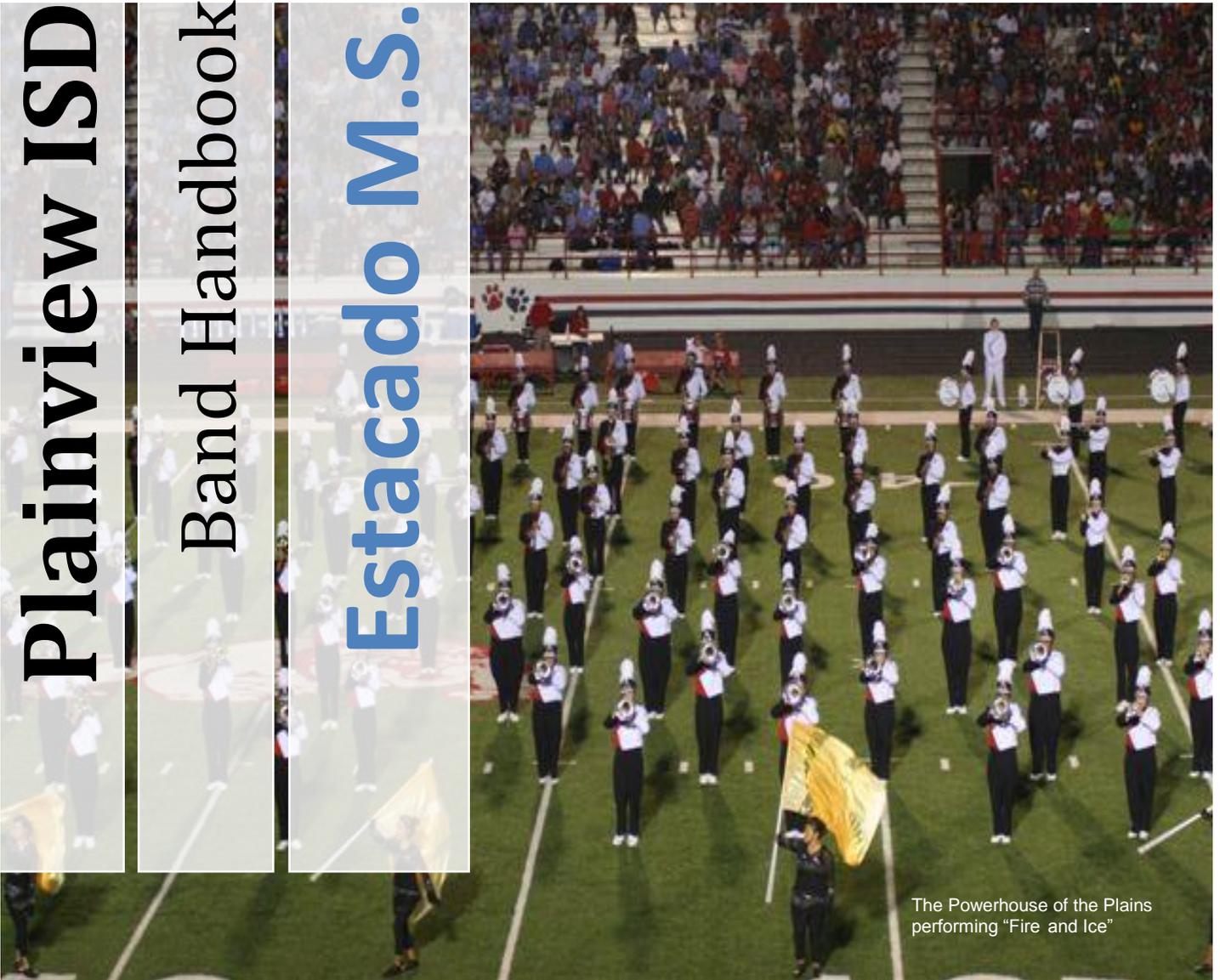


Plainview ISD

Band Handbook

Estacado M.S.



The Powerhouse of the Plains performing "Fire and Ice"

Plainview Bands
Plainview Independent School District
2200 W. 20th, Plainview, Texas 79072
Band Hall (806)296-3516

PLAINVIEW ISD BAND

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"A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE" BAND POLICY HANDBOOK

I. FORWARD

The band handbook has been devised for the benefit of Plainview I.S.D. band members and their parents. The handbook describes all organizational aspects of the Plainview band program. The handbook is also intended to provide knowledge of established traditions for the purpose of promoting "Esprit de Corps" within the band. Should there be an inconsistency in campus policy and district policy; district policy will always supersede campus policy.

II. PHILOSOPHY

Band is first and foremost an academic subject fulfilling the state requirement for Fine Arts in the school curriculum. With the implementation of House Bill 246 passed by the Texas Legislature in 1984, the Texas Education Agency required Fine Arts to be offered in all Texas public schools. Many colleges and universities are requiring Fine Arts as a high school graduation requirement for college entry. Band meets and fulfills these requirements. Although the band is involved in many "extracurricular" activities through the course of the year, these are merely extensions of the essential elements being taught in the classroom. House Concurrent Resolution No. 105 states:

"Whereas, while education and technology may be the
Building materials of a prosperous society, the arts and humanities
Are the building materials of civilization, and their importance in
The lives of every individual cannot be overestimated."

III. ATTENDANCE

In order to maintain a high quality band program, it is sometimes necessary to have extra rehearsals outside the regular school day. However, because of the large number of students in band that are involved in other school activities, extra band rehearsals will be held to a minimum. Extra rehearsals will be announced in advance so that transportation and work schedule arrangements can be made.

If at any time a band member is unable to attend an extra rehearsal, the director should be notified at least one day in advance. The absence is unexcused unless advance approval is given. Exceptions may be made for emergency situations. It is the students responsibility to make sure they are counted present for all rehearsals and performances

Students that have excessive absences from band due to unexcused absences and/or disciplinary actions such as I.S.S., A.E., etc. may forfeit a chair placement. A student is eligible for extra-curricular activities at 3:55 pm of the last day of the ISS/DAEP assignment. They also may be moved to a lower band, forfeit participation in band activities and trips, or may be removed from the band program.

Missed rehearsals and performances, excused or unexcused, must be made up. Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances may result in disciplinary action or have a negative impact on a student's grade. Continual unexcused absences from rehearsals may result in the student being dismissed from the band program.

An unexcused absence from a performance is considered the most severe violation of band attendance rules. Band members must be depended upon to make every effort to be in attendance at all public performances. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in disciplinary action, the student being removed from the performing group, or a severe negative impact on a student's grade. An unexcused absence may also result in the student being dismissed from the band program.

IV. GENERAL BAND HALL CONDUCT

The following rules are for band classroom conduct:

- Be on time--be prepared
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. **No PDA at any time.**
- No gum, food, candy, paper, straws, etc. in the band hall.
- Take proper care of school property
- All Cell phones, MP3 players, and unapproved electronic devices should be turned off and stored out of sight. **This includes all performances and all rehearsals.**
- **In order to ensure the safety of the band members and equipment non-band members are not allowed to congregate in the band hall.**
- School rules and district rules apply in addition to this handbook
- All of our rules and procedures can be summarized into the following four RIGHTS:
 - **BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE.**
 - **AT THE RIGHT TIME.**
 - **WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.**
 - **AND THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.**

V. GRADING

As we stated in section II, Philosophy, band is an academic subject fulfilling the state requirements for Fine Arts. Band grades will be based on a student's ability to demonstrate mastery of the essential elements required for band. Mastery will be demonstrated in the following ways:

- A. Participation in extra rehearsals and public performances.
- B. Tests over music being taught and rehearsed during band.
- D. Tests over required scales and technical exercises.
- E. Tests to determine sight-reading skills.
- F. Written and playing tests over rhythmic counting, note reading, key signatures
Recognition, fingerings for assigned instrument.
- G. Extra credit may be given for students who participate in all-region
Band or solo and ensemble competition.

Students are also responsible for maintaining a passing grade in **all** other subjects. Any band member that makes a six or nine week's grade below 70 in **any** class will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for a period of three or more weeks (No pass, No play!). Students that are ineligible to participate in several band activities throughout the year because of consistent failing grades may be removed from the band program.

VI. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

HONORS BAND, SYMPHONIC BAND AND 6TH GRADE BAND

- ❖ The student will be able to perform all concert band music, warm-ups, scales, etc.
- ❖ The student will be able to perform technical exercises as required.
- ❖ The student will be able to perform all solo and ensemble and all-region band music as required.
- ❖ The student will attend all extra rehearsals including section rehearsals, clinics, and performances as required by the director.

VII. EQUIPMENT/MUSIC

The equipment and music provided for us by the taxpayers of our school district and the generosity of our Band Boosters represents many thousands of dollars. Beyond the expense involved in the instrumental music program, we each have a personal obligation to maintain our equipment for longevity and personal pride.

All school owned instruments and equipment will be issued using an appropriate PISD form (this applies to a few 7th and 8th graders. These students will be contacted). ***An instrument usage fee of \$10.00 will be collected when the instruments are checked out and is not refundable.*** Maintenance and care of such equipment becomes the responsibility of the student. Excessive abuse (i.e. dents, slides, bent keys, valves, etc...) will be repaired at the student's expense.

All instruments should be stored in the band hall on the proper shelf or in the proper area for that instrument. Instruments should be kept in the case with the case closed and latched when not in use. **If your instrument is not properly stored consistently, you may lose the privilege of using a school owned instrument.** Students are encouraged to take their instruments home after school whenever possible, not only to practice, but also to ensure better security for that instrument.

The Plainview Independent School District is not responsible for loss or damage to personal band instruments due to theft, vandalism, or accidents while at school or on a school activity.

The individual pieces of music and method books assigned to the students are the same as any textbook loaned to the student. If the student loses or damages a text he is required to make monetary compensation to the school district for the loss or damage. Therefore, any item checked out to the student, immediately becomes the responsibility of that student.

***All students will be required to furnish a 1 inch binder with dull clear plastic sheets to hold all their music**

VIII. UNIFORMS

The Plainview Band uniform will be worn with pride and dignity. The uniform is an outward indication of the "Esprit de Corps" of the entire organization.

Students in 7th and 8th grade will be issued pants, tie, and a cummerbund as part of their uniform.

Alterations to uniforms are not permitted without prior approval of the director.

A uniform bag and a heavy-duty hanger will be issued for maintenance purposes. If the student loses or breaks the hanger, they will be responsible for replacing it. Obligations at the end of the school year, such as failure to return the uniform or damage to any portion of the uniform will result in replacement cost being paid to the school. All band students are expected to properly store their band uniform at home.

Required purchases for 7th and 8th grade bands (in addition to instrument and supplies):

***Required uniform accessories will include clean, long, all-black socks. (Needed by Nov. This is to be purchased on your own)**

***All students will be required to have ALL black shoes. (Needed by Nov. This is to be purchased on your own)**

***All white tuxedo shirt (Needed by Nov. This is to be purchased on your own)**

***Band shirt (time needed- To Be Announced.)**

Required purchases for 6th grade band (in addition to instrument and supplies):

***Band shirt (time needed- to be announced)**

The Plainview Band uniform will be worn with pride. The uniform will be worn in its entirety unless the director

specifies otherwise. Shoes will be polished and shoe laces will be clean.

No jewelry will be worn exposed during any performance. Examples include but are not limited to: earrings, bracelets, nose or lip rings, etc.

IX. BAND TRIPS

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands at will go to different contests throughout the year.

Bus lists will be signed before each trip. Students must sit on the bus in their assigned seats. On buses, students must stay in their assigned seat unless they are given permission to move by the director or a sponsor. The students must keep arms and legs inside the windows of the bus. Loud talking or yelling is not permitted. Portable electronic devices etc. are to be used with headphones only! ***NO public displays of affection (PDA)***. On all trips, each band member is responsible for making certain that his/her instrument, uniform, and all necessary equipment is loaded. A loading crew may be assigned to load certain equipment, but it is each student's responsibility to get that equipment to the loading crew. Upon returning from a trip, each student is responsible for storing their equipment properly in the band hall or for taking it home. Band members must also clear all buses of personal items and trash before departing the bus.

*******All percussionists are responsible for packing and loading all
Percussion equipment after each trip or performance.*******

Students must keep their grades up and be eligible for participation in U.I.L. contests to be eligible to go on the spring trip. **Any student that becomes ineligible for U.I.L. contest in the semester of the trip or is removed from the UIL performing group by a director may forfeit his/her participation in the trip.**

This school year, 7th and 8th grade bands will be traveling to Amarillo to perform at the Greater Southwest Music Festival. If time permits, we do plan on taking students to Wonderland. Students will be expected to pay for admittance into the park. With our 6th grade band, we do plan on traveling (place to be announced) and admittance will also be covered by the students. Usually, costs for admittance is \$10-\$15 (estimated)

X. TRAVEL CONDUCT

When the band appears in public, they are representing the school and community. Band members are expected to always conduct themselves in a courteous and polite manner. Because of the size of our program, band members are sometimes expected to adhere to a higher code of conduct than may be expected from members of other organizations.

While traveling with the band, no band member shall:

1. Use any tobacco products
2. Use or be in possession of alcohol beverages
3. Use or be in possession of any illegal drugs or substances
4. Use or be in possession of firearms or other weapons
5. Participate in any illegal activity including theft, vandalism, etc.
6. Exhibit improper behavior

Any band member that violates any of the preceding rules or otherwise brings embarrassment to the band or the school is subject to disciplinary action and may forfeit membership in the Plainview band program.

***** It is the policy of Plainview ISD that students should travel to and from events by bus. Students will be allowed to leave from the event with their parents only if they are traveling from the event to a LOCATION OTHER THAN PLAINVIEW. All arrangements for leaving from an event with parents must be made in advance. Students will not be released to anyone other than their parents unless arrangements have been approved in advance by the director. *****

All school policies pertaining to conduct and dress at school are in effect on all band trips.

XI. SUMMARY

The Plainview Band program represents the largest portion of the student body of any organization in school. Therefore, members of the Plainview Band have a responsibility to the school, the community, the organization, and to themselves to always represent Plainview in a first-class manner. Becoming a winner starts first in the mind, second through actions, and third through actual awards. The Plainview Band has a reputation not only in West Texas, but throughout the state and across the nation for having a "Tradition of Excellence". It is the duty of every member of the band to uphold this tradition to the very best of his/her ability.

How to Practice

Playing a musical instrument is a physical activity and like any physical activity, the body needs repetition for strength and accuracy. Every musician uses tiny muscles in his mouth and those muscles need conditioning – an act that merits daily repetition. Even practicing the same pieces help strengthen a student's embouchure.

Along with the tiny muscles in the mouth, daily practice helps with the student's accuracy. Ability could be defined as "being able" to duplicate without mistake over and over again. Daily practice helps students become more accurate in playing the intended notes, pitch, rhythm, tone, etc.

WHERE DOES YOUR CHILD PRACTICE?

Since practicing involves hearing, reading, and focusing, it is best to practice in a place with the least amount of distractions possible. Most elect to practice in a bedroom with the door closed. If at all possible, try to practice in the biggest room available and try to fill the entire room with a big, beautiful sound.

WHEN DOES YOUR CHILD PRACTICE?

When to practice is not nearly as important as setting a practice schedule for every day. Decide the best time for practice and stick to your schedule. Even during busy times, a few minutes at least can keep the muscles in shape as well as the instrument. Unlike other machines, musical instruments get better the more they're played. The worse way to treat an instrument is to leave in its case.

DO YOU HEAR THESE THINGS FROM YOUR CHILD?

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| 1. Warm Up | 5-15 min. | Breathing, long tones, mouthpiece vibrations, lip slurs, etc. |
| 2. Scales | 10-15 min. | Perfect the Bb, F, C, G, Db, Ab, Eb scales first. |
| 3. Chromatic | 5 min | Work on extending your range (at least 2 octaves) |
| 4. Rhythm | 10 min | Rhythm study (4th, 8th, 16th notes) |
| 5. Music | 20 min | Concert Music, musical lines, private lessons, etc . . . |
| 6. Play | 10 min. | Something enjoyable, just for fun! |

- The times are estimations of the length it takes for these areas to improve. They are meant to be used as guidelines for student practice and can vary according to necessity. One suggestion is to have a certain goal in mind for every practice session and cater the other elements around

that goal. Spend the most time on the chosen goal for the day and work of the other elements another time.

HOW TO PRACTICE?

1. Break down each phrase into rhythms and notes.
2. Practice each rhythm on a single pitch
3. Find all accidentals and think through each rhythm
4. Put together the rhythms and notes
5. Put each measure together
6. Put each phrase together
7. Put each section together
8. Add style, dynamics, phrasing, etc.

True practicing does not occur until after a piece is learned. Do not quit after playing something once without mistakes. Only after a piece is without mistakes should it be played over and over again multiple times.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:
STUDENT TRAVEL

ALTERNATE STUDENT TRAVEL REQUEST FOR SCHOOL EVENTS

My son/daughter _____ needs to return

(Name)

from _____

(Destination of trip)

with _____ by _____

(Adult driver's name)

(Car, bus, etc)

at _____

(Departure time)

The reason for this alternate method of travel is:

I hereby release and hold harmless the Plainview Independent School District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from any and all liability in connection with this alternate method of transportation for this school trip.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date Received

Received By

**** It is the policy of Plainview ISD that all students should travel to and from events by bus. Students will be allowed to leave from the event with their parents only if they are traveling from the event to a LOCATION OTHER THAN PLAINVIEW. All arrangements for leaving from an event with parents must be made in advance. Students will not be released to anyone other than their parents unless arrangements have been approved in advance by the director. ****

STUDENT TRAVEL
**PARENTAL PERMIT FOR STUDENT
PARTICIPATION IN FIELD TRIPS OR ANY
SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS**
(IN-TOWN OR OUT-OF-TOWN)

Office, Sponsor, or Coach

Student's Name

School Year

During the school year, we will be taking field trips, participating in athletic events, or taking other school-sponsored trips that involve on school district provided transportation. We will let you know more specifically about any of these trips before they actually occur to my child to travel with a group or individuals associated with the Plainview I.S.D.

I realize the school district does not carry medical insurance to cover accidents that may occur such as falling, tripping, etc. I hereby give the school district employees my permission to seek necessary medical assistance, including hospitalization, in the event of any medical emergency involving my child. I understand that I will be notified as to the nature of the emergency as soon as possible. I also give my permission for the school district facility to give any medical and health information to the school nurse.

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

_____ X
Parent or Guardian Signature

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Student Signature (where applicable)

Please complete the following information:
Allergies (including medication):

Other medication currently being taken:

Name of Medical Insurance Company:

Policy Number: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone Number: _____

The sponsors of any student trip should take with them a copy of this form.

I have read and understand the policies of the PISD Band Handbook.

_____ X
Parent Signature

_____ X
Student Signature

