



Band Handbook 2018-2019

Dear Parents,

My philosophy of teaching is to use an instrumental music class as a tool to help the student become a better human being in society. I like to teach students the skills and habits needed to succeed in this harsh world. Daily teaching of how to play an instrument is secondary to the teaching of proper values through examples.

The success of your child in the band program cannot just come from the band director of the student. It takes **parents**. Parents need to show positive encouragement, interest by listening to practices, and attendance at performances. A little bit of praise will go a long way. I think a child's success in any endeavor is strongly dependent on how the parents behave toward the child's participation in that endeavor. The band director should be notified of any signs of discouragement. Please keep the line of communication open. Students have also been encouraged to communicate with the director in the event of problems. The time to solve the problem is not when the child says, "I quit". Please work with me in encouraging your child to learn the skills and habits necessary to be successful.

Charles Grissom, Director of Bands
903-737-7413 PHS Band Office
903-249-3745 cell #

Welcome to the Paris High School Band!!!

This booklet is provided to all Paris High School Band students so that they may be better informed of the regulations and guidelines expected of them as students enrolled in the Band program. Guidelines must also comply with all state and local policies.

The Band program at PHS forms an important part of school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school.

School life and many of the programs and traditions of the school would seem dull without the Band. The Band's appearance at sporting events, pep rallies, concerts, etc., adds a great deal of fun and enjoyment to the whole community.

The main emphasis of the Band program is musicianship and pride of accomplishment; followed closely by citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit, and loyalty. It is the pride of the job well done, and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible, setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful Band career and still maintain high scholastic standings. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice-versa.

Benefits

Music is and always has been a very important part of both individuals and society. Musical training cultivates individual skills in discipline, setting goals, personal accomplishments and satisfaction. Individuals not only improve their own talents but, also cooperate and contribute within a large group so that the goal of being the very best in sound and performance is achieved.

This individual and collective training is extremely important in helping students mature and to prepare them for the skills needed in pursuing their goals in life, to contribute to their community, and to society in general. Music education fosters a life-long interest in and appreciation of music and contributes greatly to the development of mental awareness and a well-rounded character.

High School Band

The Paris High School Band is a course for 9th through 12th graders who have progressed from the Middle School Band to High School.

Membership is subject to Director approval. Students must be **ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE** to perform in any extra-curricular activity. Students who have a history of academic ineligibility may be denied acceptance into the program. Students who demonstrate inability to maintain academic eligibility may be removed from the Band program.

The Paris High School Band has developed a strong history of outstanding musicianship and citizenship among its members. PRIDE IS SYNONYMOUS WITH QUALITY. It is necessary for each member to make a commitment to EXCELLENCE in order to maintain the reputation that the group has worked hard to earn.

A. Marching Band

Marching Band begins with Summer Band and continues until the end of football season. Rehearsals during the curricular year are held before (7:00AM, Monday-Friday) & during school also on Monday nights (in October) with extra practices scheduled by section if needed. Some students in each section may be selected as alternates. In all cases the Directors determine placement. Any student missing any rehearsal or performance may lose placement status and become an alternate as well as have the participation grade adversely affected. Every student will play his/her show songs from memory. This is called playing off. Failure to meet playoff deadlines or failure to meet daily requirements may result in probation or suspension from Band activities.

Activities include performances in the stands and on the field at football games, pep rallies, parades, and contests. ALL members must attend ALL functions, which include the following:

- a. Summer Band Rehearsals, scheduled days before school begins
- b. Sectionals and extra rehearsals as scheduled
- c. All football games (includes playing in the stands)
- d. Community parades including Homecoming, Christmas and 4th of July
- e. UIL and invitational marching contests
- f. Any other performance required by the Director

Auxiliary Members – Colorguard

Membership in the color guard will be obtained through an audition process. Audition routines will be written and taught by the color guard instructor and/or current officers. Candidates must attend all rehearsals in preparation for auditions (see band attendance policy), and must be academically eligible and in good standing with the band director in order to participate.

Once selected, all color guard members are required to attend a summer flag camp (to be selected by the instructor), as well as all summer flag rehearsals, weekly practices in the fall, and all performance rehearsals will be scheduled with enough advance notice for all members to be present. The color guard will follow the attendance policy recorded in this manual. Tardiness will not be tolerated, although emergency situations can be excused. Habitual tardiness will result in probation and/or expulsion from the program.

Color guard members should be prepared to accept rehearsal and financial responsibilities beyond typical membership in band. Additional costs may include, but are not limited to:

Camp
Pep rally uniform
Gloves & shoes
Band shirt
Uniform parts

The guard instructor and band director at the audition will select officers for color guard. Selection procedures will be made clear prior to auditions, and the number of officers will be determined by the director based on present needs.

B. Concert Band

Preparation for Concert season is ongoing. Concert season begins at the conclusion of marching season and continues until the end of the second semester. Sectional rehearsal attendance is necessary as scheduled. Students must pass all subjects and maintain a good attitude to keep a position in any Band. Students are placed on the basis of All-Region auditions. Auditions are held each year at the end of the fall semester, and will include Sight-reading, scales and freshmen cuts of Region tryout music. New students are auditioned upon arrival.

The **Wind Ensemble** is the varsity competing ensemble and the music performed is the highest in degree of difficulty. Performances will include Christmas Concert, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, one or more invitational festivals, spring concert, Graduation and other special events. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given an update in January for all spring rehearsals and clinics. Also students must participate individually at UIL Region honor band and Solo and Ensemble. The Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band dress is:

Ladies Attire - Skirt or Pantsuit

1. Solid black with no other colors of any sort; no pinstripes, plaids or checks, etc.)
2. Not revealing / bodice, midriff, or leg slits
3. Between 4 & 5 inches from the floor. Be sure to measure with the shoes on that you plan to wear. Wear black shoes & black hose.

Men's Attire

1. Solid black suit or tux coat & pants (no other colors of any sort; no pinstripes, plaids or checks, etc.)
2. Black bow tie, black shoes & socks.
3. White long sleeve shirts.

The **Symphonic Band** is the second competing ensemble. Performances will include Christmas Concert, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, one or more invitational festivals, spring concert & other special events. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given an update in January for all spring rehearsals and clinics. The Symphonic band dress code is the same as the Wind Ensemble that is listed above.

ATTENDANCE

The Band Directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches and directors of activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

The band is dependent on all its members. The Paris Bands success is dependent on the full participation of all those who have made the commitment to be a part. The following attendance policies will affect the students' grades and chance to participate.

Please join Remind101 to receive text messages of reminders or emergency announcements:

text to: with message: 81010@cgriss

or email: parishsb@mail.remind.com

Excuses are accepted only in the event of illness or serious family emergency (call the Band office & leave a voice mail message, ASAP). 903-737-7413 BH Office

It is understood that sometimes it is necessary for a student to become gainfully employed. Working students must make arrangements with their employer so that they may attend all the established evening rehearsals and performances.

All performances are mandatory-Any student who misses a performance for an unexcused absence may/will be removed from the program.

Section I: Grading

A. Grades:

Your grade in band is based on preparedness for class, daily effort, playing and written tests or projects, progress, neatness and positive participation. You can sum this up with two words – **Attitude** and **Effort**.

Grades in band will be divided into the following:

daily participation, scheduled rehearsals, attitude during class

performances: games, pep rallies, etc.

six week evaluations, test, contests

Any student who receives a failing grade from band on their report card will be dismissed from the band program at the end of the semester. UIL Contest is the Band Semester Exam and attendance is not negotiable. **Contest dates are October 6th, October 13th, October 16th, October 27th, and November 6th – 8th.**

Any student who misses UIL Contest for any reason other than the funeral or severe illness of an immediate family member will fail the semester and be removed from Band immediately.

B. Eligibility:

Most of the work that our students do outside of class is considered curricular and not subject to eligibility. Free Concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered Curricular. Events that are considered Extra Curricular include:

- A) Any event with paid admission
- B) Any event that is inter-school competitive

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular function, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions.

C. Discipline & Behavior:

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the PHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Director and Administration.

As a school group, the Band is governed by School and School Board policies anytime we are together for any Band function whether it involves all students or only one. Any student who violates school rules while with the PHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to possible dismissal and might not continue to perform or travel with the Band. Any student who is detained by a law enforcement officer for breaking the law on a band trip will remain in the custody of that officer until the notified parent can pick up their child in person. The general release form you sign will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band.

Band members are expected to ride with the Band to and from out-of-town functions. The Only exception will be if the parent has filed a note of explanation and request with the Band Director prior to trip departure. Students will not be released to anyone other than his/her parents without the prior approval of the Principal. All requests must be made in writing and the person to whom the student is released must meet with the Band Director personally at the close of the event before the student can leave with anyone. This is for your protection and to avoid leaving anyone behind. Do not even ask to leave an out-of-town function with a boyfriend or girlfriend. When the parent secures the release of their child, then whom they ride home with is not our responsibility. You are, however, responsible for seeing that your equipment is unloaded and put in its proper place when we return home.

Belligerent behavior or consistent conflict with another member will cause the student to be placed on probationary status. Violation of probation can cause dismissal from the band

program. The Paris Independent School District's policy on acceptable behavior pertaining to any criminal mischief is defined in the Student Code of Conduct and will be strictly enforced. Any student who is placed in Alternative School for illegal activity (as per the PHS Handbook &/ or District policy) will be removed from the Band program.

No Pass, No Play! Remember that no one may participate in an extracurricular activity for six weeks after receiving a failing grade in any course. If you cannot participate, you cannot help the band. In order to participate in the annual Spring Trip Band students must have maintained academic eligibility at the time of all Band Performances. Students stand ready to tutor fellow bandmen to assist them in passing all courses. Ask! A member who is proficient in that course will be assigned to tutor you until you have passed the course. Do not wait until the last minute to ask for help! Let us know as soon as you realize you may fail a course.

Cell Phones- Cell phones are strictly forbidden at rehearsals, games and performances. Any cell usage that disrupts, rehearsals or is visible during a game or performance will be turned into the PHS Office per the PHS Student Handbook cell phone policy. Please have my cell # (903-249-3745) available if you need to speak with your child in an emergency situation.

Section II: Jackets, Individual Competition, Student Leadership

A. Letter Jackets

Certain standards must be met in order for any Band student to receive a letter jacket or letter. They are as follows:

To receive points for Letter Jackets, 7 point:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| UIL | participation Fall/Spring = 1 point |
| | All Region = 6 points |
| S&E Solos Gr. 1 | I division = 2 points |
| Grade II | I division = 1 point |
| Ensemble | I Division = 1 point |
| Tryout | All-Region = 1 point |

B. Individual Competitions

The individual goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

All Region Band tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our Region and are the first step in advancement toward All-State Band. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if

academically eligible. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in November. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance before entering. Placement in Wind Ensemble will be determined by the ranking received in All-Region tryouts.

Solo and Ensemble competition takes place in May and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible.

C. Student Leadership

Band is not a club. However, student leaders are selected by tryout to fill certain roles necessary for the success of band performances.

Drum Majors are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

- 1) Must be academically eligible for entire year up to the tryouts
- 2) Must be an upcoming junior, or senior
- 3) Must attend a drum major camp during the summer

Squad Leaders are selected by Directors to fill leadership/teaching positions for Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion in the Marching Band. Squad leaders must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- 1) Must be academically eligible for entire year up to the assignment
- 2) Must be an upcoming junior, or senior
- 3) Must attend a leadership camp during the summer

Section III: Band Regulations – Specific Settings

A. Rehearsal Rules

1. No food, drink, candy or gum in Band Hall. Keep the area CLEAN!
2. No disruptive behavior. When the Director stops the Band, NO talking.
3. Take care of all the extras before class.
4. Be in your place with ALL supplies/equipment ON TIME for rehearsal.
5. DO NOT leave your chair or area without permission from the Director.
6. Do not play other people's instruments.

B. Bus Travel Rules

All parents must sign an Emergency Medical Release Form BEFORE their son/daughter can travel on any band trip. This form is at the end of this handbook. On band trips, every Band member will ride to and from the destination on designated buses. Students may not change buses on the return trip. There are exceptions to these rules:

1. A band member may be released to a parent only after the Band performs. Parent must come to the Director personally to pick up student AND provide a written note that the student is leaving with the Parent.
2. In case of emergency, the Director may approve other means of transportation.

Section IV: Instruments & Uniforms

A. Instruments & Inspection

Inspection will be held prior to all performances and any other time deemed appropriate by the Director.

1. Woodwind Instruments: Three good reeds. No lipstick on any reeds. Instruments are to be clean & free of dust/dirt under the keys. Lacquered and silver horns must be shiny and free of fingerprints and dirt. No deposits inside mouthpiece. All mouthpieces must have a mouthpiece cap.
2. Brass Instruments: Check valves and slides, make sure all work freely. Instrument should be clean and spotless. No deposits inside mouthpiece.
3. Percussion Instruments: Drumheads clean with no rips, drum shells and chrome clean and polished. Harnesses clean and taped, all bolts tight. Cymbals should be polished; all pit equipment in good repair with blots and screws tight. All sticks and mallets should be in good repair and taped properly.

A. Uniforms

The District purchases the Band's Marching uniforms. Uniforms will be worn at all marching performances. In addition, each student needs the following to complete the uniform.

- 1) Marching shoes – ordered through the Band in August. Cost is \$40.
- 2) White socks – each student must wear WHITE socks at each performance.
- 3) Band “show” T-shirt – ordered through the Band & paid for by the student.

The Marching uniforms are expensive, having cost the school in excess of \$300 per unit. The student is expected to give special care to their uniform. The uniform is issued with a wooden wishbone hanger on which the uniform must be hung when not in use. Ruined or damaged uniforms will be the financial responsibility of the student. Uniforms are to be stored in the

Band Hall and are to be issued prior to each performance. When uniforms are checked in, they are expected to be complete and free of tears and defects. If a student fails to do so they will be fined. When you are in uniform you represent yourself, your family, your community, your school, and the Band staff. Always conduct yourself in such a way that brings honor to the Paris Independent School District. One individual can bring discredit to an entire organization. Uniforms are to be worn properly at all times. **Wear your uniform with pride!**

Section V: General Information

A. Scheduled Events:

There is a schedule on the Band website of the Varsity Band's activities. If a change to this schedule occurs, you will be given notice as far in advance as possible.

B. Band Accounts:

1. A percentage of the money raised from some fund-raisers goes directly toward that student's personal account. The Account is exclusively for Band trips & camps.
2. If you choose for your child not to fund raise, you may pay for trips as they come up.

C. Band Banquet

There will be an awards banquet in the spring that will recognize students for group efforts and individual achievements. This will be for students and their families.

D. Summer Camps:

Several area colleges and universities offer summer Band camps. Most of the camps are one week long. The Band staff believes these camps prove very beneficial to those students in attendance. Contact the Band office during the spring semester if you are interested in attending a Summer Band camp.

E. Band Boosters:

The purpose of the Band Booster Club is to encourage and support the Band Directors and students of each Band, to promote and create a greater level of musical interest for all concerned, to enhance school spirit and Band *esprit-de-corp*, and to give parental support of all Band activities.

The Booster Club operates concessions stands at all home Football games. All parents are asked to participate in the operation of these stands during the school year. If all parents work together,

your children will benefit greatly. Booster meetings will be held as necessary in the High School Band Hall.

Each year the Paris High School Band will go on a trip as a reward for their hard work. We will alternate each year with a small trip and a big trip. Everyone interested in chaperoning band trips must help with these things during the school year:

- 1) Attend as many booster meetings as possible
- 2) Chaperone out of town football games or band events as requested.
- 3) Work the concession stand at least two times
- 4) All Chaperones must be financially responsible for their trip cost & all other expenses.