

PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BAND 2014-2015



Band Handbook

Michael Carpenter - Director

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Plainfield Band Code of Conduct

We, the faculty and staff of the Plainfield Band Program believe that all students have the right and privilege of personal expression through artistic creation and performance, and that the education of aesthetic sensitivity will undeniably contribute positively to the students' personal, academic, cultural, social, and spiritual growth.

Within this context of nurturing in our school setting, it is imperative that students recognize that their own success hinges largely on their participation in the large group ensemble in their particular area, as well as their own individual work. For this reason, the CODE OF CONDUCT has been written (without reference to any specific cultural, racial, religious, moral, or other edicts) to present the values that must be internalized and outwardly demonstrated if the students are to experience the full measure of self-actualization that can be offered through artistic performance at the secondary level.

Punctuality

You are to be on time to every rehearsal and performance of your ensemble. This means that students should arrive early to prepare adequately so that the rehearsal can begin on time.

Preparation

You are to be 1) where you need to be 2) at the right time (early) 3) with the right materials 4) wearing appropriate clothing 5) having resolved any schedule conflicts.

Respect

You will demonstrate at all times respect for the faculty, parents, students, and guests of Plainfield Community Schools Instrumental Music Department. This includes respecting facilities and property that belong to the department or individuals.

Common courtesy and politeness, friendliness, helpfulness, positive behavior, and support of colleagues within/across the band department and school are expected. Conflicts should be resolved maturely.

Profanity, obscenity, and disrespectful speech or actions will not be tolerated.

Work Ethic

Finding success in a performing area takes hours of diligent work, practicing, repeating, failing, re-evaluating, discussing with teachers and colleagues, rehearsing, and performing. Students in our department will demonstrate persistence toward musical excellence and personal integrity.

Personal Responsibility and Accountability

You have two primary responsibilities:

- a. To yourself and your own artistic growth
- b. To any group of which you are a member

In all cases, performance takes precedence over all other events. This includes all other activities and also mild to moderate illness.

In most cases, rehearsal takes precedence over all other events. Occasional conflicts arise, but must be consciously avoided by the student.

Individual practice is vital to personal success and the achievement level of the ensemble.

If an individual is unable to meet his/her obligation(s) in any rehearsal or performance situation, he/she should remove himself/herself voluntarily from the activity and alert a faculty member immediately.¹

Volunteerism

It is essential that every student actively seek out work that needs to be done to help the entire department. This includes, but is not limited to, library work, copying, collating, stuffing, distributing/collecting, organizing, chair/stand setup/teardown, construction, ushering, concert preparation, displays, set striking, supply stocking, folding, moving equipment, running errands, etc.

Ask questions like “What can I do to help?” And “Can I assist you with that?”

¹ Helpful Suggestions – a. give employers a band schedule early and often b. take summer gym if possible c. take Drivers Ed in summer or winter (not fall)

Why Marching Band?

The answer, of course, varies among individuals, but for most, it can be summarized by saying that marching band offers students a combination of benefits and fulfillment that they have been unable to find in other activities. Some find acceptance for the first time. In marching band, nobody cares about your status, how you look, what you wear, whether you are a gifted musician, as long as you give your best. Some thrill to the style of music and marching and to the constant physical and mental exertion to reach perfection, both as an individual and as a team.

Some thrive on the challenge and pressure of competition and sweet taste of victory. Still others enjoy the opportunity to entertain. For them, the ultimate goal is to bring pleasure to others and the ultimate reward is the thunderous applause that acknowledges their success.

For all, the Plainfield Marching Band means deep and lasting friendship, not only with other band members, but with all marching band members everywhere. Band members form a closely knit fraternity. All have undergone similar experiences and emotions; all know the intense effort and sacrifices, the discipline, and the bursting pride that comes from doing even better than you thought you could. Many people participate in worthwhile activities devoted to music, social development, competitive sports or companionship, but few are fortunate enough to find the best aspects of all combined in one. Plainfield Band Members are among these few.

Why the PHS Band? Because it's more than a way to spend time, it's a way of growing up. It's a way that requires absolute dedication, self-sacrifice, subordination of individual desires, physical and mental endurance under adverse conditions. But if a band member gives his or her best, the reward is the chance to set a goal, then to strive to exceed it, the opportunity to develop leadership potential while functioning as a part of a team, the pride that comes from achievement and the warmth that comes from friendships.

Nobody ever said that being a member of the Plainfield Band is the easiest way to grow up, but many people believe it is the best.

Carpenter's Rules of Order

1. All Plainfield High School rules will apply (see student handbook).
2. Respect everyone's right to learn.
3. Be prepared to learn and excel.
4. Use and/of possession of tobacco products, alcohol, and controlled substances is prohibited at all band functions.
5. A "NO TOUCH" policy is to be observed at all band functions. This includes hand holding, kissing, etc.
6. Students will comply with directors/staff/box parents/chaperons requests without delay or question.
7. Handle all school equipment with care. The community has a considerable amount invested in the band program. Students will be financially responsible for damages due to abuse or careless mistreatment.
8. Failure to comply with the guidelines listed will result in disciplinary action. Each case is different and will be evaluated accordingly. Listed are some possible disciplinary outcomes for failure to comply with the band and/or school policy:
 1. Push-ups or laps (administered by directors or staff).
 2. Students will be sent home from a band activity.
 3. Grade deductions.
 4. Suspension from band activities.
 5. Expulsion from band (in accordance with school policy).
 6. Expulsion from school (in accordance with school policy).

HOW IS MY GRADE CALCULATED?

I. Participation:

A. Rehearsal Attendance:

1. There are 10 points possible for each after school rehearsal.
2. Weekend camp days are worth 25 points.
3. Excused absences are permitted when at least one week's notice has been given to the band director. The band director must approve each excused absence.
4. Every absence will result in a make-up assignment (research paper, project, etc.)
5. Unexcused absences will result in a "0" for that rehearsal grade.
6. Repeated absences will result in suspension from a performance and further deductions in grade.

B. Rehearsal Participation:

1. Rehearsal point reductions will take place in the event that a student continually does not participate in rehearsal.
2. A doctor's note must be on file in the event that a student cannot physically participate in rehearsal.

C. Performances:

1. Performances are worth 100 points and counted as a test grade.
2. Qualifying performances are worth 150 points and counted as a test grade.
3. Unexcused absences will result in a "0" for the performance grade.
4. Excused absences are permitted when at least one week's notice has been given to the band director. The band director must approve each excused absence.
5. Repeated absences will result in suspension from a performance and further deductions in grade.

II. Tests and Assignments:

- A. Written Tests and Assignments
- B. Performance Tests

The Well Dressed Red Pride Bandsmen

Marching Band

1. Plainfield High School Band uniform (provided by the band boosters) including jacket, bibbers, gauntlets, shako with plume, and gloves, or current guard uniform.
2. Official black band shoes "clean and polished". Guard members will need to purchase footwear specific for the unit.
3. Clean plain black socks.
4. Official Plainfield Band T-shirt or black Underarmour.
5. Clean, plain black shorts.
6. Hair off ears and collar (hair net, spray, bobby pins, etc.). This applies to both girls and boys.

Inclement Weather Marching/Performance Outfit

1. Jeans and tennis shoes.
2. Official band shirt.
3. Be prepared for inclement weather at each marching performance.

Concert Band

1. Men - black dress slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, black long sleeved dress shirt.
2. Women – black slacks or skirt, black long sleeved blouse, black shoes with black hose.

Rehearsal

1. Shoes and socks.
2. Garments appropriate for weather and type of activity.
3. Rain gear. Be prepared.

Band Fees

Marching Band Season Fee - \$325

Winter Guard Season – \$300

Indoor Drumline Season Fee – \$400 (includes WGI Dayton hotel)

Bus Behavior

1. Students will remain seated at all times while on the bus.
2. No personal audio devices will be allowed without earphones.
3. Noise will be kept down to a reasonable level with no shouting and/or loud talking.
4. Be silent at railroad crossings.
5. Always remain on the bus and in your seats until students are dismissed by the directors or chaperons.
6. The bus driver is responsible for your safety; show them the courtesy they deserve.
7. No purple seats

School Instrument Loan Program

The Plainfield Community School Corporation may provide some instruments to students who play large or special instruments with no rental fee. This equipment is school property and will be respected. Any damage due to reckless actions will be paid for by the student.

The Band Boosters Organization

The Band Boosters organization is made up of parents, students, and other adults interested in the PHS Band Program. The purpose of the Band Boosters organization is to provide support for the Plainfield High School Band both financially and morally. The Band Boosters are a very integral part of the band program and it is the responsibility of each family to contribute their fair share to the organization by attending meetings, working on projects, attending performances, etc... This organization is governed by their adopted set of bylaws. The group meets once a month on the third Tuesday of each month.

The PHS "band family" has brought together many people toward common goals, and experience valued by the many who have taken the opportunity to participate. We are very proud of the "family atmosphere" that is prevalent around the band program and encourage all to get involved and take stock in a very important commodity -- our kids!

Volunteer Background Checks

Plainfield Community School Corporation requires that anyone having contact with our student population complete a "Background Authorization and Release." This authorization form is available at any school office or the band website and must be completed two weeks prior to volunteering. This includes school field trips. This can be found on the band website.

The PHS Band Volunteers

The PHS Band Volunteers are volunteers that provide important support for the band/guard in preparation for and at competitions/performances throughout the year. This hard working group can plan on long hours, but also the reward of sharing in the "ups and downs" of the band program. This is a one-year appointment with the option of renewal each year. All appointments are under the approval of the directors. Band volunteers must exemplify high moral standards, be able to work well with young people and have the ability to work well with other adults.

Volunteer Duties

Assist with uniform fitting
Travel with band to performances
Provide support for band at functions
(Dressing, uniform repair, etc.)
Supervision of students
Bus chaperon
Report directly to Band Director

Equipment loading and unloading
"Pit section" moving
Truck transportation
Equipment maintenance
Assist Band Moms
Supervision of students

PHS Band Program Activities

1. Marching Band
2. Color Guard
3. Concert Band
4. Percussion Studio (for percussionists only)
5. Pep Band (opt.)
6. Jazz Band (opt.)
7. Winter Guard (opt for band members)
8. Solo & Ensemble (opt.)
9. Band Camp (mandatory)
10. Band Banquet (opt.)
11. Travel and participation in local and national events.
12. Indoor Drumline (opt. for percussionists and band)

Description of Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major- To be a Drum Major in the Plainfield High School Band you must be a picture of excellence. Dedication and achievement are a must. A Drum Major must portray citizenship, courage to stand up for what is right, commitment, and perseverance. A Drum Major is a year long leadership position.

A Drum Major's responsibilities include leading and organizing the goals of the section leaders and conducting the PHS Marching Band which includes a great deal of rehearsal preparation and score study, assisting the director with the instruction of marching and maneuvering, developing an effective line of communication for the entire student organization, and helping with any and all booster club volunteer activities. It is the responsibility of every marching member to listen, respect, and be subordinate to their Drum Major. Any breach in respect will result in direct and prompt disciplinary action by the director.

The Drum Major in conjunction with the director will assign areas of responsibility to alleviate confusion. The Drum Major is also in charge of keeping a clear expectation of the members of their staff and the Section Leaders. The Drum Major will organize and facilitate any necessary meetings of the Section Leaders to discuss any and all band issues. It is also the responsibility of the Drum Major as it is with all Section Leaders and Managers, to maintain a clean band facility, including rehearsal room and field. After each activity the Drum Major should be the last to leave, doing a final sweep of the facility to maintain its cleanliness.

Guard Captains/Section Leader- The Responsibilities of a Section Leader in the PHS Band is to put it simply to be responsible for the excellence in their section. A Section Leader is expected to have dedication and commitment to the band and its short and long term goals. The section leaders in the Plainfield band are expected to carry themselves with a positive attitude and to lead by example. Responsibilities include holding and running organized sectionals with their section, providing individual music and marching instruction to the members of their section on their own time when asked or when deemed necessary. They are directly responsible to the Drum Majors for the preparation and level of execution of their sections. Section Leaders must attend weekly leadership meetings scheduled by the Drum Majors to discuss any and all band issues.

Section Leaders are responsible for maintaining that issues discussed in leadership meetings stay there and are treated as confidential out of respect for the band and the members in it. The Section Leaders are in essence the staff of the band assigned to their section and must always act in a professional and mature manner. It is also the responsibility of all Section Leaders and Drum Major to maintain a clean band facility. After each rehearsal or event, a sweep should be done of the band facility and field for trash or out of place items.

Awards

Numerals – requires one complete year of participation in band

Band Letter - requires two years participation in band and be a sophomore.

Outstanding Members - given to one student in each class (9-11) for outstanding service to the band through participation and performance.

Most Improved - given to one student in each class (9-11) for showing the most improvement throughout the school year.

Chester Drake Memorial Scholarship - a monetary award given to a senior planning to continue in higher education. Criteria and amount of this scholarship is established by the Band Boosters Scholarship Committee.

Director's Award – given to a student who has dedicated themselves to helping band program through musical and organizational efforts throughout their high school career.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award - given to a student who has developed appreciation and skill in the area of jazz in addition to service in the jazz band program.

John Philip Sousa Award - given to the outstanding senior for service to the band through participation and performance during their high school career.

Resources:

Band Webpage – www.plainfieldband.weebly.com

Agreement

After reading the entire band handbook, please read the statement below, sign and return to the band directors.

I, the undersigned, have read the entire handbook and agree to incorporate Plainfield Bands CODE OF CONDUCT into my standard mode of behavior, and will do all in my power to exemplify the above qualities, as well as support my colleagues in their efforts.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

I, the parent(s) of the above student have read the Plainfield Band Handbook and will help keep my child in good standing with all rules/regulations held therein.

Parents Signature(s) _____

Date _____