

Parkview High School

Viking Band



Band Handbook, Policies, &
Classroom Expectations
2016-2017

Mr. Curtis Tipton – *Director of Bands*

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Mission Statement/Introduction:

This handbook is a guideline and a statement of the philosophies that we use in the Parkview High School Band. Being a member of the Parkview High School Band is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Our goal is for the band to be the most enjoyable experience possible for you, musically and personally. The Parkview High School “Viking” Band has performed all over the country at various contests and festivals for thousands of people. You will become part of the tradition that is the BAND. As a member and part of this tradition, you will have **responsibilities** and **obligations** to meet. We expect you to **do your part** – be at rehearsals, participate in fundraisers, practice individually, etc. Most of all, we expect that in everything you do, both inside and outside our program, you will **strive for excellence**. Following these guidelines will continue our tradition as a true championship program. In all aspects of their lives, our members will excel at what they choose to do.

Objectives Based On The National Standards For Music Education:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Grading Scale & Procedures:

The final grade will be based on the following:

- Performances
- Playing/Memory Tests
- Daily Participation Grade
- Written Exams & Assignments

Daily Participation Grades:

These grades will be based on the student’s willingness to work and learn. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory, unless emergencies arise or the student is gone on a school-sanctioned trip. Note: Students who do not participate or have behavior problems will be docked some or all of their daily points.

Performances:

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR! The attached calendar for the year includes out-of-class items that are a requirement for this class! The director can excuse an absence, but it is a rarity. Tardiness and unexcused absences will GREATLY effect your grade in a negative manner.

Playing/Memory Tests:

These tests will be short and are not something to get stressed over. They will not require any more practice than is already expected of students. The tests will be given at the discretion of the director and can be made up with prior arrangements made with the director. Each test will be scored using a playing test evaluation form.

Written Exams & Assignments:

There will be two written final exams, one per semester. There will be a mid-term in the fall and a final in the spring. Test items will include topics and music discussed or performed over the course of each semester. Other written assignments might be used to check comprehension of learned material.



Tips For Success:

1. Cooperate with the directors, staff, and the student leaders. They are human and make mistakes, but overall they will provide the leadership necessary for excellence. Mutual respect will be taught and encouraged.
2. Work with intensity and purpose during rehearsals; play around and talk during some other time.
3. Be able to see improvement in your skills each day. The band's quality of performance improves at the same rate as the individual performers improve. Develop confidence by doing your job as well as it can be done.
4. Never have a cell phone or electronic device out or in use during a rehearsal.
5. In summary: *be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment, and the right attitude!*

Maintaining Eligibility:

Students must remain eligible (academically and behavior) to participate and perform with the Parkview Band. **Students must also have a CURRENT SPS Activity Citizenship Form on file with the office for EACH school year.** (See *Parkview Citizenship Standards*)

Parkview Makeup Work Policy:

Make-up work is permitted in accordance with the following guidelines for all absences with the exception of truancy and suspension (unless the student attends an alternative school during his/her suspension):

- When absent, the student is afforded one day per day missed to turn in missed assignments due to absences for full credit. All makeup work for absences the first half of the quarter must be turned in by mid-quarter in order to earn half credit. After mid-quarter, no credit may be earned for missed assignments. All makeup work for the absences the second half of the quarter must be turned in by the end of the quarter for half credit. After the quarter ends, no credit may be earned for missed assignments.
- When the student is present but misses the assigned due date they have the opportunity to turn in for half credit until mid-quarter. After mid-quarter no credit may be earned for those assignments.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher about the work they missed from their absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school as grades are directly impacted by attendance.

Ensemble Performance Opportunities:

Marching Band: This performing group provides the exciting opportunity to cheer on the home team and provide the JFK Stadium audience with pre-game and half-time entertainment. The marching band will also perform in numerous other venues including contests and parades. Members of this elite group must strive for the highest goals and put forth their best effort. Attendance at out-of-school performances and rehearsals as well as two summer camps is required.

Symphonic Winds: This performing group is reserved for student musicians who have reached a high level of commitment and achievement on their instrument. It includes both wind and percussion instruments. The ensemble performs at numerous concerts/contests throughout the year. Attendance at out-of-school performances and rehearsals is required.

Colorguard: This performing group is reserved for students who will attain dance, flag, rifle, & saber skills. The colorguard is open to any student who can meet the eligibility requirements and qualify before a panel of tryout judges in the spring of each year. The ensemble performs with the marching band during the fall semester. Attendance at out-of-school performances and rehearsals is required.

Jazz Band: This highly select performing group is made up of student musicians who wish to widen their musical competencies to include experiences in the jazz and pop music idioms. Students also study the art of improvisation, basic music theory and ear training. The Jazz Ensemble performs numerous concerts throughout the year as well as select contests and other performance venues such as banquets, feeder schools, etc. Selection into the Jazz Ensemble is by audition only and is limited to students currently enrolled in one of the other band courses.

District/State Honor Bands (Concert & Jazz): All enrolled band students have the opportunity to audition for these select ensembles at the District & State level. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to greatly increase individual and large group musicianship.

District/State Solo & Ensemble Contest: All enrolled band students have the opportunity to perform a solo or in a select small ensemble at the District & State level. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to greatly increase individual and small group musicianship. Students who receive a "I" or "II" rating will receive medals for their District & State performances.



Rehearsals:

The Viking Marching Band practices every morning at 7:00 AM during marching season. This does not mean showing up to the band room at 7:00 and then coming out to the field at your leisure. Attendance will be taken on the marching field at 7:00 AM sharp (In the case of inside rehearsals, attendance will be taken at 7:00 AM from the directors podium). The band will NOT have rehearsal at 7:00 AM on Tuesday due to the late start time. On Tuesday evening of each week during marching season there will be a mandatory FULL BAND rehearsal from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to facilitate quality performances at home games and contests.

1. Equipment – The following is a list of required equipment for each individual at each rehearsal:
 - a. Instrument in good playing condition
 - b. Copies of the Drill
 - c. ALL music
 - d. A pencil
 - e. Tennis shoes and socks

(Please note: We will check for these supplies randomly for a quiz grade through-out the season)

2. Good Attitude – Good bands don't happen by accident. They happen because every band member develops a desire for excellence. There is no room for negativity or “dead wood”



Music & Drill:

1. During marching season you must have ALL music and drill at ALL rehearsals so we can rehearse efficiently. Even if you have your music memorized, it still must be on your lyre at rehearsal.
2. During concert season everyone will be issued a music folder and slot. You are responsible for organizing it with your assigned music. These folders must be returned at the end of the year. Consider your folder and music your textbook, treat it with respect and do not lose it or you will have to pay to have it replaced.
3. Please keep yourself and your personal items out of the directors' offices and all other storage areas, unless the directors instruct you to do so. Any personal items left in these areas will be thrown away.



Band Member EXPECTATIONS:

1. All rehearsals and performances are required.
2. The directors decide who participates in each performance.
3. All absences must be reported prior to performances and rehearsals to the director. If the absence is excused, the director will assign a make-up assignment.
4. Rehearsals will start promptly at the prescribed times. Unexcused absences and tardiness will GREATLY effect you grade in negative manner.
5. Display an attitude of enthusiastic interest, pleasure, and confidence in each rehearsal and performance.
6. Have respect for those in authority.
7. Follow the classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions.
8. NO gum chewing/food/drink during rehearsals **or in the band room** without the EXPRESSED PERMISSION of the directors!
9. During concert season be in your seat with your equipment ready to use when the bell rings.
10. No talking while the directors are leading the rehearsal.
11. Always have a pencil in your folder or notebook.
12. Always RESPECT school-owned instruments and equipment. *Damage incurred because of negligence will result in the students paying for the appropriate repair.* All students using a school-owned instrument will sign a usage agreement and fill out a check-out form.
13. NO cell phones or electronic devices should be out or in use during rehearsals. (PHS Student Handbook policy WILL be enforced... Step 1 – Warning/Step 2 – Referral)



Performances:

****Students must be in school ALL DAY on the day of an event. In addition: If a student is unexcused for ANY PART of the day previous, then the student is ineligible to participate****

Members are expected to attend every scheduled band performance throughout both fall and spring semester.

On the day of performances, students are to remain in the band room and hallway and are NOT to be in any other part of the building without permission. Be where you are supposed to be, doing the things that you are supposed to be doing!

The band sits as a group throughout the event. No outside individuals, such as friends or family, may sit in the stands or performance area with the band.

Band members are to remain seated, in their **appropriate sections**, unless permission is received from one of the directors to move.

Band members may go to the restroom only with the permission of the directors.

Any unexcused absence from a practice or performance could result in forfeiture of marching position, removal from band, and/or the inability to audition the following year. An absence is excused only if the student is excused from school.

Jewelry on the face or wrists will not be worn during a marching performance. This includes earrings and watches.

There is to be no consumption of food or drink while in the stands without the director's permission. Students will occasionally be provided with refreshments at ball games and are NOT to purchase any items from the concession stand that could ruin the uniforms (such as nacho cheese, mustard, ketchup, etc). Section leaders will be responsible for trash cleanup.

Band Fees & Expenses:

PHS Band Fees: Band Members - \$150.00; Guard Members - \$300.00

- Checks made out to PHS Band
(includes band shirt and 1 pair of gloves)
(additional gloves will cost \$5.00 a pair)

Band Shoes*: \$30.00 - Checks made out to PHS Band

Springfield Activity Fee: \$25.00 - Checks made out to PHS/Springfield Schools (We WILL NOT collect or monitor the payment of the se fees. They MUST be paid at the PHS Office.)

**These items can be used all four years.*

These expenses are not meant to prohibit any student from participating with the Viking Band. If there is a problem, please feel free to call the band director at 523-9281 to discuss options available.

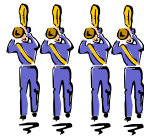


Bus Trip Policies:



Members must ride to all performances on buses unless otherwise stated. The student may return from an engagement with his/her parent(s); however the student will need to present a note from his/her parent(s) to the directors stating their intent at least 24 hours before the departure time. The parent(s) must go to the director at the point of transfer of the student, before leaving the grounds. The student will then be released to his/her parent(s).

1. Stereos/other electronic devices without headphones are not allowed on the bus when we travel.
2. On long trips, we will make stops to eat and will visit convenience stations. Never leave the bus unless you are instructed to do so by the director, staff, or a chaperone.
3. Food and drink will be allowed on the bus when we travel at the *discretion of the directors*. All band members are responsible for the appearance of the bus on its return. The first time the bus is “trashed,” the result will be a suspension of this privilege.
4. Be respectful of the Bus Drivers at ALL times! They are spending their time to help transport us; show your appreciation.
5. No profanity
6. Each student will stay put once they are on their bus.
7. Do not switch seats while the bus is moving and stay out of the aisles.
8. No PDA!
9. Trash bags will be available for your use.
10. All PHS citizenship standards still apply during all parts of the bus ride and band trip.
11. Once you have chosen the bus that you will be riding, you are to remain on there until the trip has ended. There will be NO exceptions to this rule.



Uniform Policy:



1. Everyone will be responsible for owning/purchasing the following items: black band shoes, black socks, a pair of black marching gloves, the band t-shirt, and the band shorts.
2. All uniforms will be kept in the band room when not being worn during a performance time. They will be checked out/in before and after each performance/game.
3. *Students are NOT to leave the band room after a performance until they have properly checked in their uniform with the parents on uniform duty or one of the directors.*
4. All parts of the uniform issued to you are your responsibility. The uniforms will be dry cleaned with band money, unless they are dirty due to negligence in which the student will be responsible for cleaning costs. Care for your uniform in a RESPONSIBLE manner.
5. Gloves lost during the marching season must be replaced by buying a new pair PRIOR to any upcoming performances.
6. Please wear your COMPLETE uniform in the intended manner at all times. Half-open coats, bibbers and t-shirts, etc. is **not acceptable**. Only bands that are unprofessional do such things, we want to be seen as a *class act*.
7. No jewelry will be permitted to be worn with the uniform. This includes rings, bracelets, ear rings, etc.
8. When the band hat is worn, *hair must be above the collar*. This applies to both ladies and gentlemen.
9. Sunglasses will not be worn during any performance. Do not wear pins, buttons, etc. on your uniform. They detract from the overall appearance and uniformity of the band.
10. Shoes are to be kept impeccably clean. They should appear “new” in appearance at all times. Black shoe polish will be available from the director upon request.
11. NO students are to be in the uniform closet without permission of the director or a band parent!
12. Any student who is found mistreating their uniform will have their uniform taken from their possession, and will be held responsible for any damage which may have occurred.
13. The directors and section leaders will personally inspect the band prior to each performance and check, at least, the following areas:
 - a. Correct type of solid black shoes, properly polished
 - b. Uniform in good order with all parts being worn properly
 - c. Black gloves
 - d. Black socks
 - e. Clean and working instrument
14. Section leaders will be responsible to see that their section has properly hung and put away their uniform at the end of each performance.



Good Things To Know:

At the end of the school year, several honors will be displayed upon exemplary band students. Some of these awards will be selected by the band director and others will be selected by your band student peers. Included within this group will be the elected band officers that will serve on the Band Council.

Band Honors:

1. The John Philip Sousa Award is typically awarded to a Senior band instrumentalist who has shown the most exemplary musical skills and the most conducive attitude towards the band's mission.
2. The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is typically awarded to a Senior band instrumentalist who has shown the most exemplary musical skills in jazz performance and the most conducive attitude towards the band's mission.
3. The Semper Fidelis Band Awards are awarded to one outstanding girl and one outstanding boy. These awards are presented by the United States Marine Corps to students who embody high musical standards and display a strong work ethic.
4. The Colleen Stone Band Service Award is named in honor of a Parkview Band member who died in 1979, her junior year, of a sudden illness. This award is presented to honor and outstanding band senior for service to the band in leadership or by setting an example of service to the band.
5. The Outstanding Senior Award is awarded to the senior who displays leadership, service, and strives to achieve success in all band related activities, including individual and small ensemble performance.
6. The Outstanding Musicianship Awards are presented to band instrumentalists who have shown exemplary musical skills and a winning attitude towards the band's mission. This award is given in *each* instrument area and is voted on by your student peers.
7. The Brandon Cole Memorial Outstanding Percussion Award is awarded to an outstanding percussion student who exemplifies the motto of the "BCC" or Brandon Cole Challenge, to do your very best at all times.



Student Leadership Positions & Responsibilities:

Student leadership within the band program is extremely important and will directly affect the degree of success that we will achieve. Student leaders in the band are expected to assume a large amount of responsibility that pertains specifically to their position. (Responsibility should not be confused with authority. Authority is a legal entity that must remain in the hands of professionals.) These leaders are expected to carry out their duties in a professional and positive manner and will be held to the highest of standards, as they are the role models for the rest of the band. Students not in leadership positions are not to question these leaders if instructed to do something, provided it does not endanger themselves or anyone else and is not in violation of any laws or band policies. If a problem arises with the way a leader is conducting his/her office, it should be reported to the director at the first available opportunity. Just as there will be no tolerance for lack of respect for students in leadership positions, there will be absolutely no tolerance for abuse of one of those positions.

Requirements for Drum Major:

- 1) Must be an upper-classman (Sophomore or above during time of service)
- 2) Must have been a member of the band the year prior to the year in office.
- 3) Must have no discipline problems either in their grade level office or in band.
- 4) Must tryout each year.
- 5) Has a semester average of 75 or above in all classes averaged together, with no semester F's beginning with high school career.

Drum Major Tryouts:

- 1) Recommendations from all present teachers (excluding band).
- 2) Interview session with the director.
- 3) A minimum of 150 word paper on: "Why I want to become a Viking Band Drum Major" (to be graded by judges).
- 4) Tryout before a panel of judges on:
 - a) Beat Pattern (2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 6/8)
 - b) Conducting a selection chosen by the director.
 - c) Executing basic marching commands such as the attention command, horns up, etc.
 - d) Interview with judges

Try-outs will be before a panel of judges (at least two outside judges) on date set.

Student Leaders:

- 1) Selected by the directors.
- 2) **Positive hard working attitude** toward rehearsals and performances.
- 3) Respectful of all members and staff.
- 4) Average or above proficiency on their instrument.

Duties of a Student Leader:

- 1) A section leader is to take charge of their assigned section, as well as any other section as needed, to achieve the following:
 - a) Section playing rehearsals
 - b) Knowledge of the music
 - c) Memorization of music
 - d) Helping new student adapt to the high school setting
- 2) A section leader must lead by example. To get the most out of your section the squad leader must be the best band member possible which means:
 - a) Do all that is asked of them including having appropriate charts and music at rehearsals.
 - b) Follow all rules without complaint.
 - c) Follow directions from directors or drum majors without complaint.



Parkview High School Alma Mater:

We pledge our hearts to thee
Dear Parkview High
In love and loyalty
Hail, Parkview High
Where ere our paths may lead
What ere our futures hold
We'll carry standards high
Thy colors green and gold
So once more raise a cheer
For friendships strong and true
For all that we hold dear
Thee, hail!
Parkview



The Victors: Parkview's Fight Song:

Hail to the Vikings valiant,
Hail to the conquering heroes,
Hail, Hail, to Parkview High
The leaders and the best, Rah! Rah! Rah!

Hail, to the Parkview Vikings,
Hail, to the conquering heroes,
Hail! Hail! To Parkview High
The Champions of Southwest!



In Conclusion:

This handbook was created to clarify the Parkview High School band policies and procedures and more importantly to help our students have a successful and enriching experience. Much of the information in this handbook is simple common sense and is based on the premise that high school students are bright, mature, and exceptional young men and women who know how to do the right thing, work hard, and treat others properly.

If we put all of these qualities to work we WILL enjoy our experiences together in the Viking Band to the fullest degree. It is going to be a great school year and we are VERY proud to be your band directors. Parents are encouraged to email or call us at school with any concerns or questions. Also, check out our website at www.phsband.com. Here, you will find numerous resources such as calendar dates, PHS Band Facebook page link, forms, and updated information.

Best Wishes,

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ctipton@spsmail.org

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Parents,

Please read through this handbook with your student/s and sign this form which is underneath the dotted line. **Students, returning this page and the medical form on the back is your first written assignment and is due by Friday, August 19, 2016.** Parents, thanks for all you do!

I have read and agree to the policies here within stated in this handbook and have reviewed them with my child.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature/s: _____

Parent/s Phone #: _____ **Parent Email (Important):** _____

Parent cell phone #: _____ Do you text? YES or NO