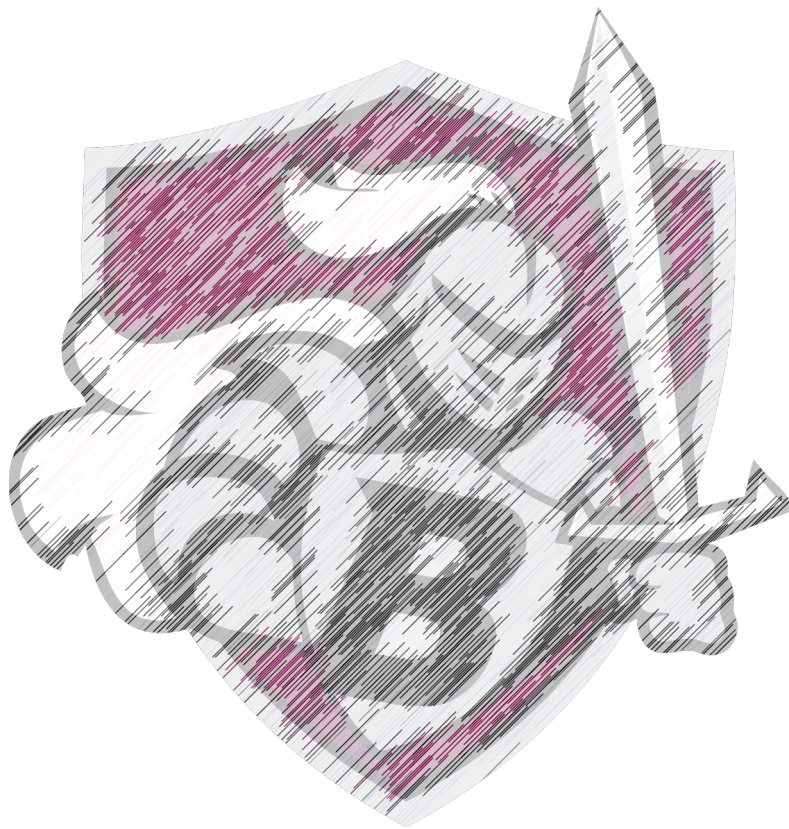


PRAIRIE HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
BUHLER USD 313



6 - 8 GRADE
BAND HANDBOOK

2015-2016

WWW.BUHLERBANDS.ORG



PRAIRIE HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

STOP!!!

DON'T THROW THIS BOOK AWAY!!

You Will Be Responsible For Knowing
Its Contents For
The **ENTIRE YEAR!!!**

“I DIDN'T KNOW” IS NOT
A VALID EXCUSE!!!

Parents and Students

Please read this handbook, sign the form on the back
page and return it on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th!
(It will count as 100 points)

Band Room Procedures & Guidelines

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, the individual is responsible for his/her own actions. The individual is expected to conduct himself/herself in such a manner that will reflect this responsibility to themselves and the group. A good organization is a well-disciplined organization. Classroom conduct demands the concentration of all students on the director, or whoever may be in charge. It is in this type of atmosphere that the most valuable musical experience is realized. Since band is in essence a performing organization, most regulations are in effect to help the student develop within the organization. The purpose of the band program is to help students grow musically and intellectually through hard work, teamwork, and a sense of pride in our band. Students are expected to acquaint themselves with the following regulations and to adhere to them as they are outlined below:

1. Enter the classroom in an orderly fashion. NO horseplay at any time.
2. Check the main board for daily instructions.
3. Be inside the band room when the bell rings.
4. Be ready with pencil, music in rehearsal order, and instrument when director steps on to the podium.
5. No disruptive talking during rehearsals. "FOCUS"!
6. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
7. Swearing, cruel teasing, rude gestures and put-downs will NOT be tolerated!
8. NO GUM, candy, drinks of any kind or other foreign materials in the mouth will be permitted during rehearsal or performances. This includes all oral piercings.
9. NO Open Displays of Affection will be allowed!
10. Percussion instruments and accessories, or any instrument other than your own is OFF LIMITS to other students.
11. THE BAND ROOM IS NOT A STORAGE AREA! All clothing and any other personal items that are unclaimed by the end of the school day, will be taken to the band office. All trash should be thrown away in the waste container.
12. Posture is very important. (Both feet on the floor; sit on edge of the chair). Students should avoid crossed legs and/or slumping when seated.
13. Music folders, instruments and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Music and folders should not be left on the music stand. **ALL MUSIC (folders) is to be stored in the band facility during school hours (not in the lockers)**
14. Do not "drive" the music stands.
15. The band office will be limited to only those students whom have the director's direct permission to be in there.
16. Follow director's instructions.
17. Before the bell rings, the director will give students time to put instruments away properly.
18. During rehearsals, all percussion students will be attentive and learning a part whether playing or not.
19. Only band students are permitted in the bandroom before & afterschool.
20. Rehearsal time is just that-it is not time to catch up on your reading, sleep, putting on make-up, checking your cell phone, social media, or homework!!! If you have a valid, written excuse for not playing, you will be given other work to do or must sit quietly in your assigned seat and practice your fingerings and watch the music.
21. To facilitate the implementation of these procedures, detentions will be assigned for infractions & points will be deducted. Warnings need only to be verbal. Detentions shall be served in the band room under the supervision of the director. Failure to serve detentions will result in referral to the school office.
22. If during a class period a detention is assigned to a student for misconduct and that misconduct continues, the student will be dismissed from the class and sent to the school office.
23. All students are expected to enter the band room at all times with the attitude and desire for the achievement of excellence.

Grading Policy

POINTS WILL BE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

Performances.....	100 points each
Performance Tests.....	100 points each
Performance Goals.....	50 points each
Rehearsal Attendance & Participation.....	10 points each
Weekly Practice Guides (100 minutes).....	10 points each

(adjustments to the above may be made at the director's discretion)

POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Absence from rehearsal/lesson (for any reason) - "if you are not there, you can not participate"
- Lack of Cooperation
- Not having the required items for rehearsal
- Not being in complete and correct uniform for performances
- *students maybe excluded from a performance(s) due to wrong concert attire (director's discretion)
- Not following the rules
- Not participating during rehearsals
- Not playing when the band is performing
- Playing when the band is NOT performing
- Behaving in an inappropriate manner
- Tardiness
- Missing performances excused or unexcused

Dress Policy

THE GOAL IS TO LOOK UNIFORM & SHARP!

Marching Band - 7th & 8th grade marching band performances shall be as follows:

Marching Band Jacket (issued by director)

*Jackets to be worn ONLY at marching performances and by PHMS band members.

Band T-shirt – purchased by student at beginning of school year

Black Dress Pants - slacks/pants (not leggings/tight pants, or jeans)

Solid Black Shoes – shoes maybe tennis shoes or dress shoes.

Jewelry - students will be required to take off all jewelry. (ie. Rings, bracelets, & facial jewelry).

*Necklaces/wrist watch maybe worn under the uniform.

Concert Band – 6th, 7th, & 8th grade concert band performances shall be as follows:

Boys - White, long sleeved, button-down dress shirt; black dress slacks (no jeans); black dress belt; black dress shoes; black dress socks; **black tie**. *Shirts are to be tucked in at all times.

Girls – Black mid/long sleeved blouse; black dress slacks (no leggings/tight pants, or jeans) or black ankle-length skirt; black dress shoes (no flip-flops)

Jazz Band - jazz band performances shall be as follows:

Boys - Black, long sleeved, button-down dress shirt; black dress slacks (no jeans); black dress belt; black dress shoes; black dress socks. *Shirts are to be tucked in at all times.

Girls – Black mid/long sleeved blouse; black dress slacks (no leggings/tight pants, or jeans) or black ankle-length skirt; black dress shoes (no flip-flops)

“Pride & Care” of Instrument & Required Materials

The Buhler Instrumental Team recommends instrument check-ups or maintenance every six to nine months to ensure high performance levels. Students are easily discouraged when an instrument does not respond properly due to needed repairs.

Students are required to have the following:

- **PENCIL**
- A luggage tag with strap attached to the instrument case
- A music flip folder & instrument lyre for marching band (7th & 8th grade only)
(students using school owned instruments are not required to purchase a lyre)
- Method Books
 - 6th Grade – Essential Elements – Book 1 & Essential Elements – Book 2
 - 7th Grade – Essential Elements – Book 2 & Essential Technique – Book 3
 - 8th Grade – Essential Technique – Book 3

Students are required to have the following for their instrument:

Flutes	Tuning/Cleaning Rod Cleaning Cloth
Clarinets/Saxophones	Cork Grease Swab 4 playable reeds (see director for recommended reed strength) <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Clarinets – Vandoren*Saxophones – Vandoren Reed Guard Cleaning Cloth Mouthpiece & Cap <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Clarinets – Vandoren 5RVlyre*Saxophones – Selmer C* Rovner “Dark” Ligature
Oboes/Bassoons	Cork Grease Silk Swabs 3 – 4 playable reeds (see director for recommended reed strength) Reed Case Cleaning Cloth Container for water
Trumpets	Valve Oil Tuning Slide Grease Cleaning Cloth Bach 3C mouthpiece “Tom Crown” Straight Mute (recommended)
Trombones	Slide Cream or Trombontine Small water bottle Tuning Slide Grease Cleaning Cloth Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece
French Horns/Baritones/Tubas	Cleaning Cloth Valve Oil (Baritones & Tubas); Rotary Oil (French Horns) Tuning Slide Grease **Personal mouthpiece for school owned instruments recommended

Percussion

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Vic Firth Standard Stick Bag	Vic Firth Standard Stick Bag	Vic Firth Standard Stick Bag
Concert Snare: Vic Firth SD1	Concert Snare: Vic Firth SD1	Concert Snare: Vic Firth SD1
Bells: Vic Firth M140	Bells: Vic Firth M140	Bells: Vic Firth M140
Marimba: Vic Firth M171	Marimba: Vic Firth M171	Marimba: Vic Firth M171 (2 sets)
	Timpani: Vic Firth T1	Timpani: Vic Firth T1

OPTIONAL ITEMS

*Recommended App – Tonal Energy (Metronome & Tuner)

FINALLY, we need to make sure that ALL instruments have the ability to be identified. Please write down your instrument information (serial number, make/model) and keep it in safe & accessible place at home. Secondly, a luggage tag with strap attached to you instrument case is required! It must include the following information: name, address, phone number, and school information. There will be unannounced tag checks and points may be deducted from your grade if you do not have a tag!!! You can get an instrument case name-tag from your local music store or the luggage section at a shopping center. Finally, privately owned instruments are the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with their parents to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner insurance policy.

Private Lessons & Step-Up Instruments

The Buhler Bands demand dedication, motivation, and abilities of the highest level achievable. Since band requires advanced musical competencies and skills, I highly recommend (if financially feasible) private individual lessons. The majority of students who do take lessons tend to have a better chance of making honor bands and upper chairs of their sections. Please contact the director for more information, if this is of interest to the student and parent.

For eighth grade band students who are planning on continuing in band thru their high school years, I highly encourage (if financially feasible) stepping up out of a student line (beginning) instrument to a more advanced instrument for the following reasons: Better Tone, Better Intonation, Improved Tone Quality & Improved Technique. Please contact the director for more information, if this is of interest to the student and parent.

Director Recommended Step-up Instruments

Flutes	Pearl 600 or 500 Series; Yamaha 400 or 300 Series
Clarinets	Buffet R13 or E11; Yamaha 450
Saxophones	Yamaha Custom; Yamaha 475, 480, or 62II Series
Trumpets	Bach Stradivarius Model 37; Yamaha Xeno or Custom
Trombones	Bach Stradivarius; Conn 88H; Yamaha Xeno or Custom

USD 313 Instrumental Use Agreement

The band department will provide certain large instruments for those students who do not own an instrument or have been asked to switch instruments. A School Instrument Use Agreement will be filled out and signed by the student and his/her parents (guardian). **Each band member is responsible for the proper care, condition, and repairs of this instrument for the length of the agreement.** Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the director at once. Damage due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student. If the instrument is lost or stolen during the length of the agreement in the student's name, the student must reimburse the district for the cost of the instrument.

It is suggested to those students who are using school owned instruments to purchase their own personal mouthpiece. (ie. French horn, baritones, tubas, etc.) Ask the director for suggested mouthpiece makes and sizes.

2015-2016 PHMS Band Calendar

August

26	1 st Day of School	PHMS	
28	PHMS Drumline Audition “Help Session” (7/8)	PHMS	7:00am
28	1 st Day w/ Instruments (ALL)	PHMS	

September

2	PHMS Drumline Audition “Help Session” (7/8)	PHMS	7:00am
3	PHMS Instrument/Accessories Night (ALL)	PHMS	6:00pm
4	PHMS Drumline Auditions (7/8)	PHMS	7:00am
9	PHMS Drumline Rehearsals Start (7/8)	PHMS	7:00am
28	PHMS Jazz Band Auditions Start (7/8)	PHMS	TBA

October

3	Buhler Frolic Parade Performance (7/8)	Buhler, Ks	11:00am
15	PHMS Fall Band Concert (6)	PHMS	7:30pm
16	Kansas John Philip Sousa Auditions Due (ALL)		
19 & 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences (ALL)	PHMS	5:00-8:30pm
22	PHMS Combined Band Rehearsal (7/8)	BHS	9:00am
23	PHMS Band Night Performance (7/8)	BHS	7:00pm
28	PHMS Jazz Band Rehearsals Start (Jazz)	PHMS	7:00am

November

14	Pioneer League Music Festival (Selected)	Hutchinson, KS	TBA
19	“Step-up Instrument Display”	PHMS	TBA

December

3	PHMS Winter Band Concert (6)	BHS	6:30pm
3	PHMS Winter Band Concert (7/8)	BHS	7:30pm

January

6	PHMS Jazz Band Rehearsals Start (Jazz)	PHMS	7:00am
22 & 23	Kansas John Philip Sousa Honor Band (Selected)	Lawrence, Ks	TBA
29	Hutchinson Community College Jazz Festival (Jazz)	Hutchinson, Ks	TBA

February

13	Southern Plains Honor Band (Selected)	Andover	
16 & 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences (ALL)	PHMS	5:00-8:30pm
19	Friends University Jazz Festival (Jazz)	Wichita, Ks	TBA
24	BHS/PHMS Jazz Tour (Jazz)	USD 313 Buhler	TBA

March

9	Kansas Wesleyan University Music Festival <i>*6th Grade Concert Bands & Selected Soloists/Small Ensembles</i>	Salina, Ks	TBA
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April

27	Pioneer League Instrumental Music Festival <i>*7th & 8th Grade Concert Bands & Selected Soloists/Small Ensembles</i>	Salina – Lakewood MS	TBA
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May

5	PHMS Spring Band Concert (6)	BHS	6:30pm
5	PHMS Spring Band Concert (7/8)	BHS	7:30pm
13	All School/District Owned Instruments Due		
20	Last Day w/ Instruments (ALL)		
25	8 th Recognition/Jazz Performance (Jazz)	TBA	TBA

Student Name _____ Instrument _____ Grade _____
(print legibly)

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PAGE ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th!!!**

REMEMBER! WORTH AN EASY 100 POINTS.

I/we have read the band handbook from front to back and fully understand the expectations and policies of the Prairie Hills Middle School Bands. We have also reviewed all the band dates and understand the necessity of our student to participate in all scheduled activities.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!!

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

EMAILS will be used to provide updates & important information to parents & students.

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Student Email _____