# WELCOME

The start of a new school year is an exciting event for any student. Each new year brings with it a new set of goals and expectations. As with any school year, our expectations for the band program is set to a new standard as we continue building a world-class band

program.

9th graders may find band in high school to be unlike band in middle school. However, this organization is one that a student may grow and flourish in all of the days that they attend it. I have found that band is a great experience only made greater by the amount of hard work put into it. **Band at Porter Ridge High School is about personal commitment, hard work and mature behavior.** These are the benchmarks by which we measure our success. They will be the expectation for all members of the Porter Ridge Band Program. All band students, band parents and families are asked to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook.

The Porter Ridge High School Band Handbook is designed to serve as an operational guide for the students, parents, administration and band directors. This handbook will be a systematic approach to the teaching and organization of the high school band program designed to help avoid costly delays and loss of time due to the lack of awareness of policy and procedure.

**Whenever questions arise, please consult the handbook.** If your question is not answered, please contact Mr. Faires or Ms. Tomberlin at Porter Ridge High School. Please keep this handbook in a BLACK NOTEBOOK along with marching band music, concert band music and other handouts that concern band activities.

# POLICY STATEMENT

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth:

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Porter Ridge High School Band Program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve or make a better contribution to the band; time, efforts of the school, other students, and the community is being wasted by continuing in this program. The happiest student is the one that is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. Right from wrong must be discerned as well as a responsibility towards one’s principles. **RESPONSIBILITY** is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct the Porter Ridge Bands in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

# MY PHILOSOPHY

As a student, band and music were always the subjects that I felt safest. I always felt a personal sense of accomplishment when I would learn a piece of music and contribute to the overall ensemble. In addition, throughout my entire childhood, music was always a place where I could escape and find solace when other things were not going well. I want to be able to provide a similar experience for you as a student and want you to feel the same sense of achievement. I want band to be a place where you can reach goals that you did not know were reachable and attain a new sense of the individual you are growing to be.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

1. No Cell Phone use during class, no earbuds in during class.
2. Playing out of turn is not permitted
3. Treat others as you would have them treat you
4. No food, drink or gum in the band room or adjacent areas
5. Raise your hand and have director recognize you to speak.

**CONSEQUENCES**

1. Student will be verbally warned a note will be put in EVAAS.
2. Student-Teacher conference, reduction in Daily Participation Grade, phone call to parent
3. Written referral to administrator
4. Parent-Teacher-Student conference
5. Removal from Porter Ridge High School Band Program

The timeline for these offenses are within 6 weeks of the school year. Each student will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Parental support is a must if our band program is to grow and flourish. Please take heed of these expectations and consequences, so that we are successful.

**WHAT I EXPECT**

* **RESPONSIBLE** – Take responsibility for yourself and actions. Apologize when it is appropriate. It takes a mature person to admit when they are wrong.
* **WELL-BEHAVED** – Be mannerable;

be positive; be attentive at all times

• **HONEST** – Learn to communicate honestly with your peers and us.

Admit your limitations and mistakes. Do not lie, cheat or steal.

* **DISCIPLINED** – Understand the need for practice and make time for it.
* **PREPARED** – Bring materials to class (instrument, pencil, book, music, notebook); be ready to perform
* **POLITE** – Respect band equipment,

treat your peers, teachers, administrators, staff and parents with

the respect you require for yourself

* **PERSISTENT** – Understand that becoming a good musician is a process that takes time and dedication
* **PUNCTUAL** – Always be on time for class, rehearsals and performances. If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late.
* **COMMITTED** – Realize the impact your individual attitudes, actions and performances will have on the group.
* **MATURE** – Think before you act
* **PROUD** – Remember who you are and what you are representing. Take pride in yourself, your band and your school.

***Remember - the “FUN” in band which is what we all expect is only had when everyone is working toward the same goal***

**OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND**

**PROGRAM**

* To teach music by its actual

performance

* To develop performances skills on the various wind and percussion

instruments

* To provide for the musical needs of both the school and community
* To develop discrimination with regard

to the selection of music

* To provide for group experiences leading to the development of pride, responsibility, esprit de corps and self- discipline

**INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

* Develop a proper concept of a characteristic tone on a specific instrument.
* Develop knowledge and understanding of the meter signatures, key signatures, rhythms and other musical notation necessary to perform appropriate grade level music
* Develop and perform all 12 major scales and a chromatic scale.
* Percussionist must have knowledge not only of scales, but also the 26 basic rudiments.
* Develop and demonstrate fundamental knowledge of intonationDevelop and demonstrate basic knowledge of the parts, mechanics, care and cleaning of the instrument.
* Demonstrate knowledge of music theory and be able to notate music
* Demonstrate a sense of personal discipline

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

As we have expectations for students, there are certain things that you should be able to expect from us as teachers. We will strive to be FIRM AND CONSISTENT in our expectations for each student and for the band. We will be FAIR in establishing and enforcing policies and procedures. We are COMMITTED to helping each student grow and become better. We will continue to work to become better teachers by listening. We will always communicate HONESTLY with you about a performance, attitude and behavior. We are INTERESTED in you as a person. We enjoy getting to know you, your families and friends.

**DISCIPLINE**

Because of the nature of this organization, band discipline, must be strict. Band students maintain a highly visible profile both at school and in the community. Poor performance or behavior can cast an unfavorable light on the entire band. Students will be held responsible for their action, attitudes and performances. Students with severe or perpetual behavior problems will lose their privilege of being a Porter Ridge High School band member.

**PROCEDURE**

Procedures and rules are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the Porter Ridge Band Program run smoothly. We want to make sure all students have a safe, positive and successful experience in band. Please do not ask for exceptions to rules. At times, modifications of procedure may be warranted. When these situations occur, WE will make a modification on a case by case basis.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURE**

1. Students arrive at appropriate time to class. Class begins when the tardy bell rings. Students should have music and instrument ready to warm up at the **8:02 am**
2. No one should play before the band director or drum majors begin warm-up. We will warm-up and tune together.
3. Students should raise their hand during rehearsal for permission to speak or permission to leave their seat. Do not raise your hand when the director’s hands are raised for playing.
4. Students should return all instruments to their assigned storage areas once they are finished playing for the day.
5. Students should keep the band room clean and neat at all times. Please be careful not to track dirt, mud or grass into the room.
6. When class ends, I will dismiss you, not the bell. I typically will dismiss you 3-5 minutes before the bell rings so that you can pack up and make it to your next class.

**CONCERT REHEARSALS**

Since in class rehearsals help us to prepare for our concert season, after school rehearsals for the concert season will not be needed this year. However, in class rehearsals are very important to the life of the band program, because it is here that we learn how to play our instruments correctly and sustain a balanced sound to create the correct musical effect. Keeping with the tradition of excellence found in many successful band programs, we will focus our energies into creating a top-notch concert band, so that we may have a successful marching band.

**PERFORMANCES**

Each Porter Ridge Band Student will be required to be at all marching band, concert band, and jazz band performances. These performances represent our school and sometimes the first times people are introduced to our school. It is for this reason that all students are to be in attendance. From time to time, students may come with explanations for why they cannot attend a performance. The only acceptable explanations for not attending a performance are illness, and extreme family tragedy. If these two instances occur, then the student will be exempt from that performance. If this occurs, a note must be provided to the director the day the student returns to school. If any other explanation is given, then it will be unacceptable. The Porter Ridge Band Program is designed to educate not only students, but also audiences about music, and therefore must be geared towards performing. We are the most visible group to come from the school; therefore we must be represented 100% at all times. If a student misses a performance without a valid explanation, then the performance grade will be a 0 in the grade book.

**MARCHING REHEARSALS**

Porter Ridge High School students are very active during the marching band season and therefore we must play our best at all times to ensure a positive, uplifting educational and entertaining performance. It is for this reason that all students must attend all rehearsals.

Marching band rehearsals are held after school on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45-6:00 pm during the marching band season (August-October) on the marching band field outside the band room. At these rehearsals, we learn how to march the drill formations and also how to put the music with the formations we make on the field. These rehearsals are run at a fast pace and require the utmost attention to detail and behavior when they are taking place. Marching rehearsals are only effective when attended by the entire membership of the marching band. Leaving a marching position open on the field causes the formations not to look correct and therefore is very frustrating, not only for the directors, but for the students involved in the show. If a rehearsal is missed, then the student will receive a 0 for that rehearsal. This will be coded underneath the daily rehearsal grade. Valid explanations are extreme illness or extreme family tragedy. If a student is ill and misses practice then they will need to provide a note from **the doctor**. Tardiness to rehearsals will result in a 5 point deduction for each infraction. Please clear your schedules for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during the marching band season, so that we may have an award-winning show that exhibits the talents of all of our students and brings pride to Porter Ridge High School.

**MARCHING REHEARSAL PROCEDURE**

1. Students should arrive to marching rehearsal at least 10 minutes early. This will ensure a prompt start time. Unless otherwise notated, always meet on the band field for drum major led warm-ups
2. Every outside marching rehearsal will begin with warm-ups and fundamentals review for 30 minutes
3. While on the field, students should remain focused on their objectives given for the day.
4. Short breaks will be given during the course of a rehearsal. Please do not ask for them, as we will be working on a time schedule.
5. We will complete two run-throughs of the show during rehearsal

**DAILY REHEARSAL**

Getting seated quietly on time, with required materials, along with daily preparation and cooperation in achieving daily class objectives, will be considered major factors in grading class participation. More than in any other subject, one student can have a great effect upon the progress of an entire band class or section. Those who have a negative influence upon fellow students will see that attitude reflected in their own grade. Any time a student does not play their instrument in class; points will be deducted from the participation grade. Band students must have the following everyday of class: **Black Notebook, Music, Pencil and Instrument with all working parts**. If all items are present when checked in band class, the student will get a 100. If not, then the grade will be weighted for the items that are here in class. If a student’s instrument is out of class because it is in the shop, then the grade will be adjusted for that reason and ONLY that reason. The only acceptable reason for a child to not have an instrument in class is that it is in the repair shop. A note from the shop MUST BE PROVIDED to the directors. These are very easy to obtain and all shops will provide an excuse not if asked for one. Some students will try and provide other explanations for why they can or cannot play during the course of band class. These explanations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Please understand the need for all students to play everyday we have band class. The success of the Porter Ridge Band program depends on students who are equipped for success. The only way to accomplish this is by having all students participate every day in class.

**PLAYING EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to play in front of the rest of class when having a playing evaluation (there are no exceptions to this rule). Playing evaluations consist of scales, sheet music or memorization tests. Playing evaluations also encourage the student to become more familiar with playing in front of an audience. This is a vital part of a student’s musical education. Students who are absent the day of testing, or have an instrument in the repair shop will be given the opportunity to complete the missed evaluation during the next class period they attend, or have their instrument. It is the student’s responsibility to make up their test; make arrangements to complete missed tests at the director’s convenience. Students without their instrument on the day of an evaluation will receive a zero until they make up the evaluation. Make up evaluations start at the grade percentage of 80 instead of 100. If a child disrupts the class (talking, getting up out of seat without permission, etc…) while another child is testing, that child will receive an automatic zero on the test. Students will be instructed on these practices every time an evaluation is held. Let me reiterate,

**STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DISRUPT THE CLASS DURING AN EVALUATION!**

Any student caught snickering or teasing other students during an evaluation or any other situation in class will be dealt with in a serious manner. These kinds of actions are un-becoming of a student musician and also create an uncomfortable atmosphere in the band room. An evaluation can be called, be a surprise, or can be a seating, depending on the playing ability of the band during that week. An evaluation grade is based on 5 key factors:

1. Rhythm
2. Discernable Melody
3. Fingerings
4. Tempo
5. Effort

**COMMITMENT**

Membership in any organization requires a definite commitment from its constituents. Successful band programs require thousands of hours of work from each student. It is important for students to understand the necessity of time management. Students should take caution when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. Although it is very admirable to be involved in many different activities, it is wrong for any organization to lower its standards because you have overcommitted yourself. Making wise choices based on your time, talents and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. Please make sure you budget your time wisely as your contribution to the Porter Ridge Band program is paramount.

**GRADE PERCENTAGES**

**PERFORMANCES………………..60%**

**DAILY REHEARSAL…………….20%**

**EVALUATIONS…………………...20%**

**TOTAL……………….…….……...100%**

**BAND ROOMS**

1. **Band Room:** Band members are to keep the band room clean and neat. Keep the chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebasket for items to be thrown away.
2. **Practice Rooms:** To be used for practice or music study only.
3. **Instrument Storage Room:** To be used for instrument storage only. All other items are to be kept in the student’s school locker. Keep the storage rooms clean and neat. Instruments are to be put in their cases and cases closed and latched while in the storage rooms.
4. **Auditorium:** This is where we perform and is a shared space with the other performing arts classes as well as the community. THIS IS NOT A PLAYGROUND!
5. **Director’s Office and Library:** The director’s office is private and it is used for private lessons.

**KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING!**

The library is in the director’s office. Any item that leaves the office or library should be checked with the director beforehand.

1. **Uniform Storage Room:** This room is storage for all band uniforms and booster items. It may also double as a practice room**.** This room is used at the discretion of the band directors when needed.
2. **Percussion Storage Room:** Only percussionists and directors allowed in this room.

**CARE OF EQUIPMENT**

It is every band member’s responsibility to show the utmost care for all band equipment. Percussion players are especially urged to take care of all instruments and keep them neat in the percussion section. The band rooms are not play areas and should be treated with the utmost respect.

**MUSIC**

Show respect and care for all music issued to you. You should have a 1” black binder for all music this year. The music should go home everyday for practice. Concert music does not belong shoved in to the back of a locker, nor does it belong on the floor of the band room. Always keep your music with you so we do not have to make more copies. You will receive one copy of all concert music. If you choose to be careless with your music, it will be your responsibility to obtain another copy. You will not be allowed to use the school copier. Keep a pencil in your folder at all times.

**INSTRUMENTS**

The school owns many instruments, including piccolos, oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, horns, baritones, tubas, sousaphones, percussion, etc. These instruments are issued by the band director. Students and parents will be held responsible for the care of the assigned instruments.

**COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Band I –** This class is the only course offering for 9th graders. All students signed up for Band I will be involved with the marching band. In the concert band class, students will continue to learn the skills required to play as musicians in a large ensemble. During this class, individual instruction will be given to students by one of the two directors. Students will also learn all of the essential Music Standards and will apply them to becoming a musician.

**Band II -** This class is the only course offering for 10th graders. All students signed up for Band II will be involved with the marching band. In the concert band class, students will continue to learn the skills required to play as musicians in a large ensemble. During this class, individual instruction will be given to students by one of the two directors. Students will also learn all of the essential Music Standards and will apply them to becoming a musician.

**Band III Honors -** This class is the only course offering for 11th graders. All students signed up for Band III Honors will be involved with the marching band. In this class, students must complete all of the requirements for Concert Band as well as demonstrate knowledge of all of the *Essential Music Standards* .

**Band IV Honors -** This class is the offerings for 12th graders. All students signed up for Band IV Honors will be involved with the marching band. In this class, students must complete all of the requirements for Concert Band as well as demonstrate knowledge of all of the *Essential Music Standards* . To ear the honors credit the students must complete two of the following three items: Participate in Jazz Band, audition for All District, participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**Symphonic Band I –** This class is the only course offering for 9th graders. All students involved in this class will participate in North Carolina MPA (Music Performance Adjudication) in March and will receive group and individual instruction. Students will also learn all of the essential music standards.

**Symphonic Band II –** This class is one of 3 course offerings for 10th-12th graders. This class will be called the Symphonic Band and will be comprised of students who have not completed a successful audition for Wind Ensemble. All students involved in this class will participate in North Carolina MPA in March and will receive group and individual instruction. Students will also learn all of the essential music standards.

**Symphonic Band III/IV Honors -** These classes are considered the Wind Ensemble. In order to obtain the honors credit students must complete two of the following three items: Participate in Jazz Band, audition for All District, and participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**\*\*\*NEW FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

All students may earn the Honors Credit even if not a part of the Wind Ensemble. Students will need to complete two of three items in order to earn the Honors Credit. They will still be in the same class, we will just adjust their honors credit based on the completing the two of the following three items:

* Participate in Jazz Band
* Audition for All-District Band
* Participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival

**Jazz Band –** This is an after school optional activity which will occur on Tuesday afternoons during the second semester of school. Any student involved in the concert band can choose to be a part of this activity. The following instruments must be present: Piano, Bass Guitar, Drum Set, Auxiliary Percussion, Trombone, Trumpet, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Alto Saxophone. Other instruments will be added at the discretion of the director and by audition.

**Color Guard/Dance –** This group of individuals will perform with the marching band at all events the marching band attends. They will be required to learn sideline dances for football games and a routine for the marching band show. They only attend one semester of band (fall). They will also be required to perform a winter dance concert at the conclusion of the first semester. **They are a part of the band class, and thus must follow all rules set forth in this manual.**

**Winter Guard –** This ensemble performs at competitions during the months of January – March. Rehearsals will begin in November. Please contact Mr. Wade for more information.

**UNIFORMS**

The school owns over 200 band uniforms which are issued to the Porter Ridge High School Marching Band. Uniforms are issued by the band directors. At the time of issue, the band student will be asked to sign a Uniform Rental Contract Form. Students will be held responsible for the proper care of the uniform. While wearing the uniform, the student will take care with any food or beverage item that may come around the uniform. Students are asked to hang up their uniform correctly after performance time. Students will also be required to purchase the black marching shoes that can be purchased on shoe night in the band room. LONG, Black socks are a must when wearing the all black uniform and black shoes. All students will be instructed on how to properly hang the uniform.

**MARCHING ATTIRE**

Marching performances require the band to look alike. This “uniform” appearance reflects well on the band and on the school. The Porter Ridge Summer Uniform consists of the following:

* Current Band T-Shirt
* Current Band Shorts
* Socks
* Tennis Shoes

**ALL MEMBERS MUST MAINTAIN UNIFORM APPEARANCE AT ALL TIMES!**

During the cooler months, we will wear the band uniform. As with the summer uniform the requirements for the band uniform are as follows:

* Full uniform with hat
* Black gloves
* Black Socks
* Black Marching Shoes

Anytime we are in uniform, hair must be pulled up and off the collar. No jewelry must be present on the student. (This includes necklaces, ear rings, eyebrow rings, nose rings, or any finger or wrist jewelry) This attire will be met by all band members with no exceptions.

**CONCERT ATTIRE**

Concerts are a very special time in a student’s life ad should be considered a dressy occasion. All concerts are required for all students to be in attendance. In order to ensure the best possible appearance during performances, the following Formal Concert Dress has been established

**YOUNG MEN**

* **Black dress pants (no jeans)**
* **Black, long-sleeved, button-down shirt**
* **Black Shoes and Black Socks**

**YOUNG LADIES**

* **Black dress pants**
* **Black top (either blouse or shirt)**
* **Black dress shoes and black socks or hosiery**

Please make plans now to acquire these items.

Thank you.

**GOOD REHEARSALS**

1. Listen while playing; learn to sing. A band that sings together can play together
2. Learn and live the golden rule
3. Take care of your instrument
4. Never talk when the band is playing or when the director is teaching.
5. Work out individual parts in private sessions, save ensemble time to acquiring musicianship and artistry.

**THE SEVEN CARDINAL**

**PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION**

**AND MUSIC**

The National Association of Educators outlined for themselves and all educators a set of criteria for determining the fitness of subjects to be taught in schools. They arrived at a set of factors which they entitled, “The Seven Cardinal Principles of Education.” These seven are:

1. Health
2. Mastery of Fundamental Processes
3. Vocation
4. Avocation
5. Citizenship
6. Family Life
7. Social Adjustment

Music is the only subject that can be identified with all seven of these principles of education:

1. MUSIC makes for good health
2. MUSIC develops bodily coordination
3. MUSIC is an excellent vocation
4. MUSIC as a hobby brings great pleasure
5. MUSIC builds good citizens
6. MUSIC cements the family relationship
7. MUSIC develops socially mature persons.

**THE BAND-NECESSITIES**

1. Always warm up your instrument silently before each rehearsal
2. Constantly assume the position and attitude of attention during each rehearsal and performance. Sit at the edge of your chair when the conductor is at the podium.
3. Use your eyes to see the music and conductor, your ears to hear the music and teaching, your mouth only to play your instrument
4. Play your instrument only asked to by the director
5. Fill the air with music at least twenty minutes daily by practicing at home.
6. Be on time, be on time, be on time!
7. Care for your instrument, music, uniform and all other properties
8. Be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all your dealings with the organization.
9. Conduct yourself with pride in and reflect credit to your school, organization and your family

**PARENTAL SUPPORT**

**AT HOME**

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child
2. Arrange a regular time for your child to practice
3. Find a quiet place where your student can practice without interruption.
4. Help your student with his/her practice as much as possible by counting, studying music texts, etc…
5. Help your student keep a daily record of his practicing
6. Give your student a safe place in which to keep his/her instrument.
7. Keep the instrument in good repair with all items essential for playing
8. Be careful of school-owned instruments. The cost of repairs is very high
9. Teach your student to be on time at rehearsals and lessons, etc
10. Make faithful attendance at all activities important to the student

**PARENTAL SUPPORT**

**AT SCHOOL**

1. Notify the teacher if your student is to be absent or tardy and explain why
2. See that your student takes their instrument and their music when needed at school
3. See that your student keeps up with classroom studies and makes up work they have missed.
4. Visit when your schedule permits, We love having parents watch how hard the students work at rehearsal
5. Discuss with the director anything that will help him/her to understand your child even more than they already do.
6. Attend concerts and parents meetings whenever possible
7. Attend Band Booster Club meetings on the second Thursday of every month!
8. Help with fundraising activities for the band
9. Help with all other parent activities