

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Poplar Bluff Sho-Me band program! You have made the right decision in joining this exciting and energetic group! The Sho-Me band program is one of the largest groups at Poplar Bluff High School and we are excited about having you be a part of it. The Sho-Me Band always strives for excellence and this year will be no different. We are looking forward to a very exciting year and are glad you have decided to join us.

To find more information about the Sho-Me band, please log on to our new band website www.poplarbluffshomeband.org. On the website you will find the band calendar, forms, pictures, and music links.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the band directors through email (on the band website) or at the band office (686-0642).

SHO-ME BAND MOTTO

Everything the Sho-Me Band does is guided by a motto. From rehearsals to performances, this motto is our “guiding light.” The motto we use is:

“Respect and Responsibility”

This motto is informally referred to as the “Two R’s” and is used on a daily basis to evaluate how the band is doing. “**Respect**” in band is very important - students and directors must show respect for each other, teachers, other bands, and themselves. The band members must also have “**Responsibility**” to be successful. A responsible band student will practice their instrument, learn all their music, know their drill charts, have all equipment needed for each rehearsal, and attend all rehearsals.

Our philosophy in life is “If you are too big for the small jobs, then you will be too small for the big jobs!” In other words, if students are too “big” to pick up a piece of trash, then they are too “small” to be drum major or section leader.

As with all successful organizations, quality practice time is vital. The Sho-Me band will not achieve it’s goals this year unless **all** members show “**Respect**” for themselves and their fellow band members. This includes being at all scheduled rehearsals, practicing at home, and keeping a good attitude. **Students are responsible** for how the band looks, sounds, and performs in public and at contest.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education and the Sho-Me Band directors are very concerned about the academic status of the band students. In an effort to improve student performance, Poplar Bluff High School requires tutoring for any students who has a D average or below.

To be eligible to participate, any student who receives a D average or below is required to attend 1 ½ hours a week of tutoring in order to continue being eligible in band. The student must tutor until the grade is brought up at the next mid-term or quarter grading period. Tutoring slips are given to the student when they finish a tutoring session and these slips need to be turned in to the band office on a daily basis.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND COURSES AVAILABLE FOR 2009-2010

The following band classes are available next year. Please read the requirements for each class to determine which group you would like to participate in.

**To take a jazz ensemble, you must also be in Symphonic or Concert band (you cannot take jazz band by itself).

SYMPHONIC BAND

Symphonic Band is an auditioned ensemble that competes as a marching band in the fall semester and plays concert band music in the spring semester. Students in symphonic band will attend: two weeks of summer marching band practice, after-school practices, marching contests, all home football games, and at least five home basketball games. Symphonic band will perform grade three to grade five concert music and will participate in three band concerts throughout the year. Enrollment in class is by audition only.

CONCERT BAND

Concert band is a non-auditioned band. This band will consist of students who are not in Symphonic band, cannot participate in marching band, or students who participate in fall sports that conflict with marching band. Students must attend all home football games to assist the marching band with pre-game and pep band music (unless the student has a prescheduled sporting event that conflicts). Students must also play at five home basketball games. Concert band will perform grade two to grade four music and will participate in three band concerts throughout the year. This class is available for the fall and spring semesters, with enrollment open to any student who has had past experience in band.

STUDIO JAZZ BAND

Studio band is a year-long course available by audition only. Through the performance of jazz and contemporary music, students will study current styles, techniques, improvisation and harmony. Basic theory study and individual solo study are integral to the development of this performance group. This class will prepare students for more extensive musical education in college. Students will be expected to perform at several concerts and contests.

**Must be enrolled in Symphonic or Concert band to enroll in Studio Jazz Band.

SPRING SEMESTER JAZZ BAND

This class is non-auditioned and only available in the spring semester. It is designed for students that are unable to take the year-long Studio Band. Enrollment in the Spring Semester Jazz Band is open to any student who plays a jazz instrument (Saxophone, Trumpet, trombone, Bass, Piano, Guitar, Drums). Through the performance of jazz and contemporary music, students will study current styles, techniques, improvisation, and harmony. Basic theory study and individual solo study are integral to the development of this performance group. Students will be expected to perform at several concerts and contests.

**Must be enrolled in Symphonic or Concert band to enroll in the Spring Semester Jazz Band.

MARCHING BAND COLOR GUARD

Marching band color guard is a Fall semester class that focuses on spinning flags, rifles, and sabers with the Sho-Me Marching Band. All marching band color guard members must enroll in this class. Students will attend three weeks of summer marching band practice, after-school practices, marching contests, and all home football games. During the Spring semester, all instrumentalists in color guard will transfer to Symphonic or Concert band and non-instrumentalist members will transfer to another course of their choosing.

MARCHING BAND PERCUSSION

Marching percussion is a Fall semester class that focuses on marching percussion techniques. All percussionists for the competitive marching band must enroll in this class. During the spring semester, students in marching percussion will transfer to Symphonic or Concert band. Students in marching percussion will attend three weeks of summer marching band practice, marching contest, and all home football games.

MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE POLICY

During the marching band season, students are expected to attend all practices and performances. Attendance will be taken each day at 3:00 p.m. in the attendance block. Students are expected to stay for the entire rehearsal. Work schedules need to be arranged around marching rehearsals for the band to be successful. Most employers will work with students if they ask them well ahead of time. Students need to let their employer know not to schedule them for work before 6:00 p.m. Leaving rehearsal fifteen minutes early is the same as arriving fifteen minutes late. The student will not receive full credit for the day if this happens. Marching rehearsals are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (3:00-5:15). In addition, there is a required sectional on Wednesday (3:00-4:00).

Students must notify band directors in writing one week (five school days) before they miss rehearsal (For example - missing rehearsal for a doctor's appointment or school event). Students need to fill out an absence report from the band website. In case of an emergency, forms should be turned in within three days of the absence.

Procedures/consequences for missed rehearsals will be as follows:

1. Three tardies will equal an unexcused absence.
2. Leaving rehearsal early three times equals an unexcused absence (leaving early for work or homework will not be excused).
3. First unexcused absence:
 - a. Student loses marching position for five school days.
 - b. Must challenge alternate or be approved by director to win back marching position.
4. Second unexcused absence
 - a. Student loses marching position for ten school days.
 - b. Must challenge alternate or be approved by director to win back marching position.
5. Third unexcused absence

- a. Student loses marching position and marching points for rest of the marching season.

Consequences for missing marching performances (football games and/or contests) will be as follows:

1. Student's band grade will be lowered (amount will depend on the total grade points for the quarter).
2. With advance notice of an upcoming absence, the student could potentially retain their marching position depending on the circumstances of the absence.
3. Students will not march their position the week leading up to the missed performance so the alternate has a chance to learn the spot (if alternate is available).

Missing rehearsal or performances for school activities:

1. Band directors must be notified five school days in advance of any conflicts between band and another school activities (give directors a schedule at the beginning of the season).
2. Club meetings: Go to the meeting and find out important information and return to band – must be back to marching band practice by 3:10 or student will receive a tardy.
3. For all scheduled band contests and football games, students must attend the band event instead of the school activity unless approved by directors at least five school days in advance.

SUMMER BAND CAMP

Summer band camp is required for all marching band students. To be guaranteed a marching position students must attend all sessions. During band camp, students will learn the marching music and drill - it is very important to be there. Please plan vacations around band camp. Exact times for each day will be updated on the band website calendar (www.poplarbluffshomeband.org).

Dates for band camp:

Week One (July 27-31)

Percussion & Color Guard Camp

Week Two (August 3-7)

All Band Members

Week Three (August 10-14)

All Band Members

Please make sure you dress for hot weather. Below is a list of items to wear and bring:

- Tennis shoes with socks. **No sandals or flip-flops** – you will injure yourself.
- Light, cool clothing
- Hat
- Water container (one that can easily be carried with you as you practice)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent for night rehearsals
- Sunglasses

UNIFORM

Student's uniforms are not stored at the high school between band performances. It is the responsibility of the student to take care of it. Uniforms will need to be dry cleaned periodically during the season. All parts of the uniform are very expensive so make sure to take care of it. A complete uniform costs \$500. The student is required to keep his or her uniform in a clean and pressed condition. Any student with a dirty uniform will receive one warning and, if the problem is not corrected, will not be allowed to march until the uniform is clean. Do not wash any part of the uniform in a washing machine – use a dry cleaner. A dry cleaning fee will be charged at the beginning of the year so that the band boosters can dry clean the uniforms at the end of the season.

ALTERNATES

By the time the student arrives at band camp in the summer, the marching drill will already have been written. The band directors turn in the band's enrollment numbers before school is out so that the drill writer will have enough time to write the drill. For this reason, the directors have to set the number of marchers which they expect to be in band the next year. To accomplish this, the band uses an marching alternate system.

During the course of the marching season, the band will lose members who move out of the district, have to drop the class, etc. If a student is designated as an alternate, the chances that they will receive a marching position is very high. The directors will do all they can to give them a position.

Marching positions are never guaranteed! Poor attendance, bad behavior or attitudes, and poor marching are all reasons for students to lose their marching position. ***If a student is not at band camp, their position cannot be guaranteed.***

Alternates are required to be at all practices and performances. They will march during pre-game activities, play in the stands during games, and fill any marching positions that become available. Alternates can challenge any person on the field for their marching position.

BAND FEES

MARCHING BAND (SYMPHONIC BAND) FEES

Member Fee = \$100

For a successful marching season, it is a must that all members of the marching band help fundraise. A competitive marching show averages \$8,000. The school provided budget is not enough to fully fund the marching season - a majority of the high school budget pays for contest entry fees, purchasing new instruments, buying jazz music, and repairing instruments.

Areas of the marching show that are **not** covered by the school budget include marching drill, marching music, drum instructor, drum music, guard flags, guard uniforms, band t-shirts, contest day meals, and uniform dry-cleaning.

It is the band director's and band booster's intention that anyone who wants to play in band be able to do so regardless of cost. The band boosters hold many different types of fundraisers to help students raise their fees. To help pay for the marching show, each student will need to help fundraise a total of \$100 each. Students do not need to fundraise this full amount by the end of the spring semester. However, **to secure a marching position in the show, students need to fundraise \$50.00 by the end of school.** The band will use these funds to purchase certain aspects of the marching show during the summer months (music, drill, guard flags and uniforms).

Students can elect to pay the needed amount instead of fundraising. Several fundraisers are planned for this spring so students will have ample opportunity to fundraise. **Band fees are non-refundable** due to the fact that we purchase music, drill, and other supplies ahead of time with the band students in mind. If a student quits, after making the initial commitment, the band still has to pay for their marching show and supplies!

CONCERT BAND FEES

Member Fee = \$40

Although concert band students do not march at half time, there are several costs involved in the activity. Areas of the concert band that are **not** covered by the school budget include a band shirt for football games, pre-game show music, and new concert band music. Because these students will not be wearing band uniforms, they are required to have a pair of black pants to be worn with their band shirt at football games. These pants will also be used during the concert band season.

JAZZ BANDS

No Fees Required

BAND CALENDAR

To help you stay informed on important band dates, a band calendar has been built on the band website. This calendar is kept up-to-date on a monthly basis. To see the band calendar, log onto the band website www.poparbluffshomeband.org and click the calendar link on the top of the page. To see exact times for each event click on the event and a pop-up will list the exact times.

DISNEY...HERE WE COME!

Every four years the band takes a big trip. On our last trip we spent six days at Disney World in Florida and marched in front of thousands of people (right in front of the Disney Castle)! Since that was such an awesome trip, we are returning to Disney in 2010!!!

To be eligible for this trip, you must be a part of the band department next year! The trip itinerary has been started and it looks to be a lot of fun. We are waiting on hotel and charter bus prices to finalize before saying what the cost for the trip will be for each individual student. Most fundraisers for next year will go to paying for this trip.

2009-2010 SHO-ME BAND LETTERING SYSTEM

This year there will be three levels of lettering available to students - Honors, Varsity and Junior Varsity. To be eligible for the Honors or Varsity level of lettering, you must be in and a productive part of the competitive marching band.

Honors Lettering is for those students who strive for the best in band. Students earning Honors level will receive a trophy or plaque stating the level of accomplishment, a full size band letter, and a chevron. This is the highest level band letter available.

If you meet the requirements for a Varsity Letter, students will receive a full size band letter and a chevron at the spring band banquet. Students earning a Junior Varsity letter will receive a smaller band letter and a chevron.

The following is a list of the activities required for the different levels of band lettering:

Honors Band Letter:

- Complete all requirements of Varsity letter.
- Audition for and be awarded a spot in District Band (Fall Semester) - must play in the district band concert in Sikeston, MO, as a part of the band.
- Play a solo or participate in an ensemble at the district level and receive a I Rating (Spring Semester).

Varsity Band Letter - must attend and play at the following:

- Two weeks of summer band camp.
- All marching rehearsals - absences must be documented in writing.
- All home football games.
- All marching band festivals.
- Christmas concert.
- Five home basketball games.
- TRCC Concert Festival.
- State large ensemble contest.
- Spring concert.
- Audition for District band in the Fall or Solos and Ensembles in the Spring.

Junior Varsity Band Letter - must attend and play at the following:

- All home football games.
- Christmas concert.
- Five home basketball games.
- TRCC Concert Festival.
- State large ensemble contest.
- Spring concert.
- Audition for District band in the Fall or Solos and Ensembles in the Spring.

STUDENT CONTRACT

For the Sho-Me Band to be successful, all members need to dedicate themselves to make the band the best it can be. To be eligible to be in marching band, all members must sign and return the following contract.

I, _____, have read all of the Sho-Me Band
(Please Print Full Name)

Handbook and understand its contents. If I don't understand any portion, I can ask any band director to help explain it. Please initial the following statements:

_____ If awarded a marching spot, I promise to come to all of band camp.

_____ I promise to stay in marching band the entire season.

_____ I promise to give 100% during rehearsals, footballs games, and festivals.

_____ I promise to schedule work around marching practices, games, and festivals.

_____ I promise to support excellence in the band program through "Respect and Responsibility."

_____ I have read and understand the attendance policy for marching band as outlined in this manual.

_____ I understand to be eligible for band activities I must maintain good grades.

_____ I understand the fees required to be in band at the high school and understand that I can fundraise for these or pay them out of pocket.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

