

PLANT CITY HIGH SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK

2024-2025

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**TRACI DURRANCE
PRINCIPAL**

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PREFACE

As a member of the Plant City High School Raider Regiment Band program, you are expected to set high goals for yourself and the program. Every student is expected to be 110% committed to the program. The dedication that students put towards the program will help the program continue to strive to meet their goals. Students in the Raider Regiment Band Program will not only become better musicians, but more well rounded individuals. It is important that every student realizes that the process is just as important as the product.

An emphasis is placed on the development and growth of each individual student, not just on specific performances. Members of the PCHS Band Program develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the program. Students will learn life skills such as character building, commitment, cooperation, dependability, determination, discipline, leadership, punctuality, respect, responsibility, and self-control.

This handbook contains the procedures and information to ensure the success of **YOUR** band. Please read this handbook carefully so that you may understand what is expected of you and what you should expect as a member of the band. Knowledge of the contents of this handbook will provide each student and family member with an understanding of how he/she may best contribute to the productivity and overall success of the program, resulting in the optimum individual experience.

Some concepts that will help students achieve the programs goals are:

- Early is on time, on time is late.
- Come prepared to rehearsal with reeds, oil, grease, rosin, pencil, and music.
- Appropriate rehearsal attire (proper shoes, shorts, hat, sunglasses, sun screen, etc.)
- Always have your part prepared
- Listen and Silent are spelled with the same letters
- Make work fun
- Try to learn something new everyday
- Help those around you
- With **Professionalism** we gain respect
- Be excited, enthusiastic, positive, self-motivated
- Disciplined at all times with concentration and dedication
- Remain humble in success

“The Band will only be as good as my attitude and my contribution”

OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

- Attend all rehearsals and performances – **the minimum expectation is 100% attendance.**
- Be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances
- Be prepared for rehearsals and performances. Have instrument, music, pencil, and extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.
- Keep instrument and equipment in performance condition
- Understand the duties of the Officers to work with them and not against them
- Practice regularly at home (30 minutes per day minimum) and study privately if at all possible. Practice time should be spent on scales, music, and etudes assigned by the Director or private instructor.
- Keep the band facility neat, orderly, and free of trash. Store instrument and music in assigned places, **NOT ON THE FLOOR.** Do not leave books or personal belongings in the band room.
- If you use something, **PUT IT BACK** (stands, chairs, music folders, etc.)
- Keep up with and be responsible for the music and equipment issued to him/her.

Remember:

1. Be at the right place at the right time.
2. Give 100% always.
3. Treat others, as you would like to be treated.

- Students must abide by the Hillsborough County Schools Code of Student Conduct, Plant City High School Code of Conduct, and the PCHS Band and Raiderettes Handbook.
- Any instrument or equipment not belonging to or specifically assigned to you is strictly off limits. If it is not yours, **DO NOT** touch it.
- No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.
- No gum is allowed at any rehearsal or performance, or while in uniform.
- No hats inside during rehearsal.
- During the regular school day, the band facility is to be used for regular classes, rehearsals, sectionals, and pre-arranged help sessions only. The area is off limits during lunch unless you are practicing. For security reasons, non-band students are not allowed in the band room, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

CONDUCT

All students must adhere to the Hillsborough County Schools Code of Student Conduct, Plant City High School Code of Conduct, and the PCHS Band and Raiderettes Handbook. Students who must be disciplined in the band program or school are subject to removal from the band program. Per Hillsborough County Schools, “the district will not tolerate unlawful bullying and harassment of any type.” If a student is found to have bullied another student, they will be subject to removal of the program immediately. For other disciplinary offenses:

- First Offense: Verbal Warning
- Second Offense: Written Warning
- Third Offense: Removal from the program

Expectations are subject to change. Anything the Director may add later applies.

COMPETE AGAINST YOURSELF. ARE YOU BETTER THAN YOU WERE THE DAY BEFORE?

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is **required** at all rehearsals, performances, etc. The minimum expectation is 100% attendance. Any member who is absent makes the band less effective and has an adverse effect on the morale of the group.

Absences fall into 3 categories, listed below. It is up to the discretion of the directors to determine which category an absence falls into if it is not specified below.

• Excused Absences: Difficult circumstances that require a student to miss a rehearsal.

- **Requirement:** Excused absences must be emailed by a parent or guardian prior to the event and as soon as they are aware of the absence.
- **Examples:**
 - Illness that resulted in an excused absence for the school day
 - Severe family emergencies (e.g. death in the family, family member in hospital, etc. at the discretion of the director)
- **Consequence:** No consequence.
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• Permitted Absences: Any acceptable and documented absence that doesn't fall into the "excused" category.

- **Requirement:** Permitted absences must be emailed by a parent or guardian at least 48 hours prior to the event.
- **Examples:**
 - Doctor's appointments
 - Illness that is unexcused from school
 - Once-in-a-lifetime events (weddings, family trips, etc.)
- **Consequence:** Students will complete a makeup assignment, which will be due within a week of the absence. The intent of the makeup assignment is to take about the same amount of time as the missed event and may be in the form of an essay or video assignment. Failure to complete the makeup assignment on time will result in a 0.
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• Unexcused Absences: Any absence that does not fall into the other two categories.

- **Examples:**
 - No email excuse was sent by a parent/guardian 48 hours prior to the event.
 - Work
 - "My mom said I can't go"
 - Grounded
 - Didn't have a ride
 - Didn't know we had rehearsal/performance
- **Consequences:** Student will receive a 0 in the gradebook. No exceptions or makeups will be allowed.

TARDIES: Members who arrive at rehearsal after the assigned call-time by the Director will be marked tardy. This will automatically reduce the student's grade to an 80% if it is an unexcused tardy. If a member

arrives to rehearsal more than fifteen minutes after the assigned call-time, the tardy becomes an absence and will be subject to the absence policy above.

Any member who reaches a pattern of tardies or absences may be dismissed from the program.

Performances will NEVER be considered an excused absence. Performances may be considered a “permitted” absence for unavoidable situations that have been emailed to Dr. Blair and Ms. Rosen at least two weeks prior to the event.

Remember, excuses, even *good* ones, will not produce a good band.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY/COMMITMENT TO BAND PROGRAM

In order to participate in band activities, a band student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Any student whose points drop below 70 may be suspended from band activities and becomes ineligible for awards. A student must be in attendance at school at least a ½ day on the day of, or the last day before a performance. A student must attend the last rehearsal before a performance in order to be eligible to perform. Ineligible students are to attend band rehearsals and take rehearsal notes, or do alternate work, as approved by the Director. They are to attend performances, sit in the stands, and help with equipment. They may not participate in performances.

This program runs for the full year. Considering the level of commitment required, participation in other co-curricular or extra-curricular activities would need to be worked out in advance.

GRADING POLICY

- **Class Participation/Employability: 25%**
This includes, but is not limited to: having your instrument, music, mouthpiece, mutes, reeds, oil, pencil, etc. at all times. If your instrument needs repair, you are to hang onto the mouthpiece and reeds (if applicable) so that a loaner may be arranged. Any projects that may be assigned will fall under this category. **If you have an UNEXCUSED absence from school you will receive a 0 for that day (there are NO makeups). Excused absences from school will require 20 minutes of practice in the band room before or after school, or during lunch and must be scheduled with Dr. Blair or Ms. Rosen.**
- **Individual Testing & Music Theory: 25%**
Tests will include but are not limited to: individual and section playing tests. Scales, exercises or excerpts from music may be selected as testing material. Students will also complete music theory assignments. Colorguard will be tested on technique and memorization of routine material.
- **Rehearsals and Performances: 50%**
This includes **ALL** after school rehearsals and in school rehearsals for the marching, jazz, concert bands, and Raiderettes events. The rehearsal schedule is online, so please make any and all appointments outside of these times, as appointments during band rehearsals and performances will most likely be counted as unexcused. Remember, any added rehearsals or concerts will receive at least a two-week notice.

Remember, missing a performance is **inexcusable** and will result in an 'F' for the semester. If all of these requirements are fulfilled 100% and the student has shown exceptional dedication and continued growth, a student will earn an 'A.'

THERE ARE ONLY TWO OPTIONS REGARDING COMMITMENT.
YOU'RE EITHER IN OR YOU'RE OUT.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS LIFE IN-BETWEEN.
- PAT RILEY

MUSICAL GROWTH

Private Lessons – Honor Bands – Solo & Ensemble

- **Private lessons** are ***strongly*** encouraged. The value of one-on-one instruction with a professional on a student's instrument cannot be overstated. **Private instruction is key to the advancement of individual skills and integral in achieving student's highest potential.** To obtain a private instructor, please contact Dr. Blair and he will provide you with a list of approved instructors.
- **All-State Bands** are honor bands in which the students must audition to be a part of. Auditions are held in September and music can be obtained from Dr. Blair, however, it is highly suggested that each student purchase the books in which the exercises are in. Students who qualify will travel to the Florida All-State Clinic, which is held here in Tampa every year in January. They will rehearse with the top students from across the state and present a concert at the end of the clinic. All leaders are required to audition. There are fees associated with this ensemble.
- **All-County Band** is a select group of students (grades 9-10 and 11-12 for the high school level) who pass an audition, which is held usually at the end of marching season. Students who make these bands will participate with the top students in Hillsborough County for a 3-day clinic and then present a concert at the end of the third day. All leaders are required to audition.
- **USF Festival of Winds, FSU Tri-State, and University of Tampa Honor Bands** are honor bands that happen every year in early December. The Director recommends a number of talented students every year based on their preparedness and participation in All-State and All-County auditions. Students chosen for these bands will rehearse with top students from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, and present a concert at the respective university. There are fees associated with these ensembles.
- **Master Musician** is a program that is designed for students who want to excel at their instrument and is interested in potential scholarships for summer music camps. This is highly recommended if you plan on interviewing to become a leader. If you complete the portfolio and pass the music theory test for the Master Musician Program, you are automatically entered into the All-County band as long as you audition.
- **Solo & Ensemble** is held in February every year. Students may prepare a musical selection for district level evaluation. Every student has the opportunity to participate in playing a solo and/or an ensemble as long as the music is on the Florida Bandmasters Association approved list. Students who earn the rating of Superior on a grade 5 or higher have the opportunity to perform at the State level for college professors. All leaders are required to participate.

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

- Thomas Edison

ENSEMBLES

Raider Regiment Marching Band

The Raider Regiment Marching Band operates primarily during the fall and is comprised of **EVERY** student in the band program. As marching band is a functional, necessary band at PCHS, every instrumental music student must put in their fair share of work to insure the success of the band. Basics of marching and outdoor playing are stressed. To be a part of the marching band the student must be in a concert band, jazz band, or Raiderettes. Band camp is required and is held the two weeks before school starts. The marching band provides in game spirit and support for the football team and puts on an exciting half time show every Friday there is a football game. They also play at every school pep rally and participate in the Christmas, MLK, and Strawberry Festival Parades. Each year the Raider Regiment has a rehearsal-a-thon where they put the finishing touches on their half-time show. They may participate in one competition to prepare for the annual Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment each year, usually a Saturday in October. The culmination of the marching season is a Saturday performance for the Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment. The Raider Regiment rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday 4:00pm-6:30pm. This schedule lasts until roughly the middle of November. If the football team makes the playoffs, the band will travel with the football team and support them.

Concert Bands

There are two concert bands at PCHS: The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. The Wind Ensemble is reserved for the most talented musicians who play significant literature and serves as the premiere ensemble at PCHS. The Symphonic Band holds high expectations and emphasis is placed on the musicianship skills required for high school literature. Fundamentals and technique building is a priority. Members are highly encouraged to participate in All-State, All-County, Master Musician, and Solo & Ensemble. Almost all of the members participate in marching band. Private lessons are highly encouraged.

Jazz Ensembles

Designed for those students who have an interest in performing jazz music. Students develop an understanding of swing, latin, rock, funk, and contemporary styles of repertoire and performance. Instrumentalists must be in concert band and marching band. There currently are two jazz ensembles at PCHS.

Instrumental Ensembles

Students are not only encouraged to play solo literature for Solo & Ensemble, but also to form chamber ensemble groups and perform. These ensembles will have the opportunity to perform at the Solo & Ensemble Recital Dinner, District Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment, and the possibility at the spring concert and any other gigs that may arise.

Colorguard

The Colorguard is a state award winning color guard ensemble. It is designed to develop movement to music incorporating dance, flag, saber, rifle, and props. This ensemble performs varieties of dance styles including lyrical, jazz, military, and modern. Members perform with the marching band during the fall and compete as part of the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit in the spring. The Colorguard is an audition-based ensemble. The Eurhythmics class is **required** for all members for the **full year**. Uniforms vary from year to year. There is a separate colorguard handbook for the winter season.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are an extremely important part of the PCHS band program. They give us an identity, a sense of pride, and a clean-cut professional look. They add a measure of class and respect to our organization.

A Plant City High School Marching Band uniform is rented out to all wind and percussionists, which includes a standard issue jacket, jumper, shako, and plume. Students will purchase black marching shoes, black gloves (except percussionists) as part of their uniform. Students also are required to have long black socks and the current year marching t-shirt under their uniform. Absolutely no jewelry is to be worn and only black scrunchies are allowed to put hair up. No colored nail polish is allowed.

Clothes worn at rehearsal must adhere to school dress code regulations. No pants or jeans are acceptable in the warmer months, the issued practice t-shirt, socks, and sneakers must be worn. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are highly recommended when outside, but will be removed once inside.

Men will need to purchase a long sleeve black dress shirt, black pants, calf-length black dress socks, and black shoes. Women will need to purchase black slacks and a black blouse along with closed toe black shoes (heels are not to be higher than 2 inches). If women decide to wear make-up, minimal and neutral colors only. Jewelry is to be limited and not a distraction on stage. If you question it, it most likely is too much – remember, this is a band concert, not an opera production. Hair shall be groomed and well-kept for performance (guys, this includes your facial hair).

Music

If a student loses a piece of music, that student will be charged the appropriate amount that it costs to replace it. Responsibility of keeping your music safe and in good condition allows for future students to have the opportunities that you have during your tenure at Plant City High School. Students will be provided with a folder to keep their music in, no sharing. All folders are to be kept in the music folder cabinets or your locker; no other location is acceptable. Lieutenants are in charge of making sure every student has their music folder.

BUILD UP YOUR WEAKNESSES UNTIL THEY BECOME YOUR STRONG POINTS.

- KNUTE ROCKNE

BAND OFFICERS

There are several student officer positions within the PCHS Raider Regiment. You must be a junior or senior to apply for an officer position. All officers are REQUIRED to participate in All-State & All-County auditions and Solo & Ensemble Festival held every February. All officers are also in charge of the Solo & Ensemble recital dinner.

DRUM MAJOR

The Drum Major is the highest student officer in the band is responsible for conducting the band both on the field and in the stands for games. The Drum Major is also responsible for taking attendance and conducting the band during rehearsals. The Drum Major assists in the teaching of drill on the field. The Drum Major also assists with warming up the concert band.

BAND CAPTAIN

The Band Captain is the second highest student officer in the band. They are in charge of keeping thorough records of attendance and discipline. They are also in charge of making sure the practice field is set up no later than 20 minutes before rehearsal. The Band Captain also assists in the teaching of drill on the field.

AUXILIARY CAPTAIN(S) - COLORGUARD

The Auxiliary Captain is the chief officer of the auxiliary. They are in charge of auxiliary rehearsals, choreographing routines, and teaching the routines to the auxiliary. The auxiliary captain is also required to keep thorough records of attendance and discipline. They also assist in the teaching of drill on the field for the guard.

SECTION LEADERS

The Section Leaders are in charge of their assigned sections. They assist in the teaching of drill, the preparation and running of sectionals, and other duties related to the sections. They are in charge of making sure that their sections are prepared both with their music and drill. Section Leaders are responsible for all uniforms in their section. Each Section Leader is also in charge of making sure that their section has their concert band and solo & ensemble literature prepared. Section Leaders are also responsible for making sure that each member has music for marching band, concert band, and solo & ensemble.

LIBRARIANS, UNIFORM MANAGER, & EQUIPMENT MANAGERS

Librarians are in charge of the distribution, collection, and copying of music. Uniform managers assist with the distribution and collection of uniforms. Equipment managers are in charge of all equipment being set up before and taken down after all rehearsals.

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and it is making the time when there is none – coming through time after time, year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of, the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each and Every rehearsal is valuable and thus important that every student attend ALL rehearsals. If you miss a rehearsal or are tardy, you are not only wasting your time, but you are wasting every other band student's time as the band can only function at their best with everyone there.

Instrument Storage Cabinets

- Only instruments are to be stored in the cabinets. No food, books, or backpacks are to be placed in the cabinets. The cabinets are not to be used as a locker. You may store your backpack in there during class only.
- Do not climb in or on the cabinets.
- Do not go through another cabinet if you do not have an instrument in there.

Band Room Rehearsals

- Students must have their instrument in working order including their mouthpieces and at least 2 extra reeds, any required mutes, valve oil, pencil, music, etc.
- Before rehearsal begins, students are to be warming up individually on their own and to stop once the Director steps on the podium.
- Correct posture at **ALL** times so that you are focused. Percussionists are to be standing if they are playing on the piece we are working on, or in a chair in the back of the room if they are waiting for the piece(s) they perform on.
- There will be NO talking during rehearsal. If you have a question about the music, raise your hand and wait for the Director to acknowledge you.
- Do not leave your seat or ask to use the restroom.

Colorguard Room & Mall Rehearsals

- Only colorguard members are allowed in the room to get equipment – no one is to stay in there for an extended period. The room is to be kept neat and organized. **ABSOLUTELY** no food or drinks are allowed in the colorguard room. Shut the door and light when you leave.
- Come prepared with all of your equipment.
- Stretch and warm up on your own before rehearsal begins.
- Correct posture and technique is required at **ALL** times so that you are focused. If the Director is not working with your section, be sure to be going over material.

Strategy to Find Happiness – Make and Keep Nine Promises

1. *Promise yourself that you will talk health, happiness, and prosperity as often as possible.*
2. *Promise yourself to make all your friends know there is something in them that is special and that you value.*
3. *Promise to think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best in yourself and others.*
4. *Promise to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*
5. *Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.*
6. *Promise to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to greater achievements in the future.*
7. *Promise to wear a cheerful appearance at all times and give every person that you meet a smile.*
8. *Promise to give so much time improving yourself that you have no time to criticize others.*
9. *Promise to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit trouble to press on you.*

- John Wooden

Marching Rehearsals

- During football season, full marching rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings 4:00pm-6:30pm. Sectionals are determined by individual section leaders and are generally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays before rehearsal. Each section is required to have a sectional for 30 minutes once a week.
- Every student is required to bring a case of water in 2-3 times per marching season. This allows the band not to have to charge to give out water at football games.
- EVERY student is required to dress out wearing appropriate clothing and sneakers. No sandals, flats, pumps, boots, jeans, pants, skirts, dresses, etc. are allowed. Students' grades will be deducted if they do not wear appropriate clothing. This is necessary due to Florida's extreme temperatures.
- Get your instrument and go directly to the practice field unless officers state otherwise. The band room will be locked 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal. **To be early is on time, to be on time is to be late!** Plan to get to all rehearsals no later than 15 minutes before they start. This will allow plenty of time for warming up and any extra stretching you may need.
- The Drum Majors and Band Captain(s) have authority until the Director and/or staff reaches the field.
- The first whistle will let everyone know that they have 60 seconds to get into the stretching circle. The second whistle signifies the beginning of stretching. Those not in the stretching circle will be reported as tardy.
- There will be no playing to and from the practice field except for percussion under the supervision of the percussion captain.
- Be alert all the time. Everyone needs to be focused not only for instruction but also in case of a weather emergency.
- Marching rehearsals will be most efficient if all members are diligent in correcting mistakes quickly and thinking ahead to the next move. Above all, take pride in every minute of rehearsal so that we can all take pride in our final product – the performance.
- Water breaks will be “gush and go.” Do not stand around goofing off. Get your water and fall back into formation.

Winterguard

- Rehearsals will begin shortly after the marching season ends.
- An updated calendar of events will be provided in November after marching season for the winter season once the Director(s) and FFCC release the schedule.
- Rehearsals will begin in November and are TBD depending on facility availability.
- Remember you are representing Plant City High School at all times and need to act professionally and clean up after you are finished with a rehearsal.

REHEARSAL IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

SUPERIOR BANDS ARE THE RESULT OF SUPERIOR REHEARSALS.

“THE WILL TO WIN IS IMPORTANT, BUT THE WILL TO PREPARE IS VITAL.”

- JOE PATERNO

PERFORMANCES/PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- All members are expected to attend every performance in which the band participates. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must inform the Director **in advance**. Severe illness or death in the family is usually the only legitimate excuses for missing a performance.
- Notices of all performances/appearances will be posted on the calendar in the band room and online. It is the responsibility of each student to check the calendar and web site regularly for all pertinent information.
- Rules of conduct/order regarding rehearsals are in effect during all public performances. Let your conduct both before and after the performance be above reproach. **Your conduct reflects on your band, your school, and your community. Proper language is to be used AT ALL TIMES.**
- Appearance must be neat **at all times** when in uniform or while under observation as representatives of the band program and school.
- A performance or appearance is **not completed** until students are officially dismissed from pertaining activities. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time unless excused by the Director prior to the performance.
- Be sure that you have properly taken care of instruments, uniforms, music, etc. before leaving.

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

1. Attendance will be taken at Report Time in the designated area. Check in with your Section Leader and then the Section Leader will report to the Band Captain(s). Arrive wearing your CURRENT band t-shirt (tucked in), soccer shorts, long black socks, and black shoes.
2. Make sure your instrument is in working order, shined, extra reeds, mouthpiece is all prepared for inspection.
3. Students will retrieve uniforms from the uniform room and will be dressed at least 10 minutes prior to inspection. Remember, that dressing areas in the band room **MUST** be kept in an orderly fashion.
4. Inspection time will be on the board in the band room and will take place in the music hallway. Once you are called to attention by the drum major you are to line up (dressed or not) for inspection. If you are not dressed on time, or have the appropriate attire, your grade will be adjusted accordingly. Section Leaders and the Band Captain(s) will oversee inspection and document any tardiness or uniform that is not on properly.
5. In order to receive full credit for inspection, each student must have the following: CURRENT year band t-shirt, soccer/athletic shorts, long black socks, black marching shoes, uniform on correctly, shako (beret for tuba players) and plume, extra reeds (if applicable), mouthpiece, a clean instrument, absolutely no jewelry or bandanas, no colored make up, and all long hair is put up under the hat so as not to touch the collar of the uniform. The Band Captain(s) will take note of any deductions and make sure Dr. Blair has it on his desk before they leave for the game.
6. For away games, students will wait for the Director to give the okay to load the buses. You are responsible for your own instrument and being sure it is in the loading area and unloaded when we return.
7. Once on the buses, you must remain seated at all times. Talking should be kept to a decent decibel level. Respect the band parents and the bus driver is in charge.
8. For home games, students will be dismissed to line up outside and there will be no talking as we march to the stadium.
9. Once at the stadium, we will either ascend into the stands for away games or prepare for pre-game for home games.
10. Once we leave the band room/auditorium, the lines will remain straight both vertically and horizontally and you must act **PROFESSIONAL** at all times.

11. Always listen for directions on which piece to play and when; **DO NOT** play without permission.
12. Remain in your section when in the stands. The band area is off limits to everyone except band members and chaperones. There will be **no food or drink** brought into the seating area except water or ice. Chewing gum is **NEVER** permitted.
13. In the middle of the second quarter, the band will start its decent onto the track for warm up.
14. After the game, we will march from the stands to either the band room or to the buses. Have fun, but remember **PROFESSIONALISM**.
15. Once arriving back in the band room, you will stand at attention before being dismissed. You then must check in your uniform and check out with your section leader before leaving. The band room must be cleaned before anyone leaves; this is a job for **EVERY** band member. If we take the time to show pride in our band room then we will not have to assign sections to keep the room clean!

ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

The simplest method of enforcing regulations is to withhold the privilege of participation in our band for a specified period of time. Only the Director may take this action. Withholding may be done in several ways:

1. Replacing a person in the show. This would be done primarily in the case of disruptive behavior, negative attitude, not being prepared, or absence.
 2. In the case of extreme misbehavior or disrespect, for the good of the band, the student may be expelled from the band program.
- A grade deduction will be administered for all tardies, misbehavior, disrespect, disruption, defiance, disobedience, off-task activity, inattentiveness, destructiveness, or any acts that cast discredit and/or embarrassment upon the band or the school, no matter the reason.
 - For serious or continual infractions, band members may also be suspended, meaning that they will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the band, but will not be allowed to participate until the problem causing the suspension has been rectified. Failure to comply with the terms of suspension may result in expulsion from the band program.

Infractions of *conduct* mentioned above or those listed below are grounds for severe disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal from Plant City High School and/or the band program:

- Destruction or theft of school property and equipment.
- Possession or use of **alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any mind-altering substance** on or before a band activity.
- Any actions, which are illegal or prohibited by Hillsborough County Schools.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL POLICY

As our school instruments must be kept in good condition, we have strict guidelines for use of school owned instruments. The instrument rental fee for Hillsborough County is \$43.00. Certain instruments may not be available for renting from the school, in which the student and parent can utilize one of the many local music stores rental programs. If a student is unable to afford the rental payments, please see the Dr. Blair ASAP and something will be worked out, we want you in the music program! Here are our guidelines for use of school owned instruments:

- Once rented, you will have to read and sign a rental agreement. Parents must sign this as well. No instrument will be rented without the proper signatures.

- Instruments must never be used by anyone other than the renter. If this should happen, the instrument will be taken back. The renter will not be allowed to rent from the school until the issue is resolved between the student, parents, and director.
- Instruments must be maintained properly. If an instrument is not being maintained properly, it will be taken back. The issue must be resolved between the student, the parents, and the director.
- Occasionally, instruments need repairs. If an instrument is in need of repair, it is the student's responsibility to bring it to the director's attention as soon as possible. The PCHS band will **NOT** pay for damage caused by negligence or irresponsibility.
- If an instrument is stolen, lost, or damaged to the point of mutilation, the renter is fully responsible and must pay for replacement. There are no exceptions to this rule.

INSTRUMENT MAINTANENCE

It is important that all instruments receive regular maintenance. Basic care will prolong the life of your instrument. Woodwinds should be sure to oil the keys and wipe the instrument down with a soft cotton cloth after playing. All reed players should have no less than three reeds broken in at one time and should be kept in a reed case to avoid damage to them. Double reeds should soak their reeds before playing to avoid any cracks. Brass instruments should clean their instrument at least once a month with lukewarm water and polish it down with the appropriate cloths for your instrument. Valve instruments need to use valve oil as needed and remember to play with your fingers curved so that the valve action is straight up and down and will avoid uneven wear on the pistons.

Contact Dr. Blair if you are in the market to purchase your own instrument or want to move up on a model so that he can provide you with recommended brands and models, and possibly a connection to get your instrument at a very reasonable price. Remember, moving up to a better mouthpiece and reeds will allow you to play in tune with better tone quality and develop your embouchure. All reed players are expected to have at least three working reeds on you at all times. Clarinets should be on a 3-3.5 D'Addario Reserve Classic reed with preferably a Vandoren M15 – (13 series) mouthpiece and saxophones should be on a 3 D'Addario Reserve reed for alto saxophone (3.5-4 for tenor and baritone saxophones). All saxophones should be using a Selmer S-80 C* mouthpiece with a metal Selmer ligature or BG Traditional ligature. Having a quality reed and mouthpiece helps assure a good sound and again, helps with intonation. Reed players are encouraged to rotate their reeds throughout the day as to ensure the reeds last longer. Trumpets are to be playing on a Bach 3C, Horns on a Giardinelli C8 or Laskey 75G, Trombones on a 5G, Euphoniums on an Schilke 51D, and Tubas on a Conn-Helleberg. The quicker you get these new mouthpieces, the quicker you get a better mature sound and the band gets a more unified and mature sound.

“The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.”

- Emile Zola

PCHS RAIDER REGIMENT FEES

Please read the following very carefully as you may have to write three separate checks. The uniform rental **MUST** be on a separate check, as well as the instrument rental fee. The remaining band fees may be on one check. All marching shoes, gloves, t-shirts, tuxedos (in addition to band fees), and women's concert dresses (in addition to band fees) will be ordered through the band parent association. All checks are written to Plant City High School Music Foundation. All fees are to be paid via check or money order. No cash will be accepted. Please make sure your student's name and what the amount is for is listed on the check so that the treasurer can receipt you.

We understand that the beginning of the school year can be expensive. Please realize that the shoes, hat, concert uniform, and gloves are yours to keep and therefore are one time purchases unless they are lost or outgrown. **If there are financial problems with the cost of being a member, please contact Dr. Blair to arrange for a payment schedule with the assistance of the PCHS Music Foundation and fundraising.**

UNIFORM RENTAL FEE

Every student will be fitted for the standard issue marching uniform. This will include a jacket and black jumpers. The cost for this uniform rental is **\$37.63**.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL FEE

Students who use a school owned instrument (including percussion) will pay a one time fee of **\$43.00** to rent the instrument for the year. Students who rent a marching instrument and a concert instrument will only pay one rental fee, but will be in charge of making sure that both instruments remain in playing condition.

BAND FEES

New Student Fair Share Fee: \$390

This will include your 2 practice shirts, 1 show shirt, a hat, and 2 pairs of new gloves each season, and a pair of marching shoes. The remainder will go toward our outside staff, feeding the students for Friday football games and other band functions, and other operating costs that the program is faced with.

Returning Student Fair Share Fee: \$350

This will include your 2 practice shirts, 1 show shirt, and 2 pairs of new gloves each season. The remainder will go toward our outside staff, feeding the students for Friday football games and other band functions, and other operating costs that the program is faced with.

Winterguard Season Fees

Fair Share Fee: \$250

This will include your uniform, season t-shirt, any equipment needed, instruction, and other operating costs that the program is faced with.

The band boosters will provide a payment schedule can be found on the website calendar. If you have questions about this, please send a message to PCHSRaiderRegiment@gmail.com.

BAND STAFF & BAND PARENT ASSOCIATION

Running a successful marching band program is like running a sports team. Not only do you have a coach, you have an assistant coach and many trainers specializing in each area of that sport. The Director relies on having many eyes within the program. Special technicians in drill design, marching, visual design, color guard, drum line, woodwind, brass, and music are areas that must be taken into account in the marching band season. The students are required to give each technician, whether a guest or a permanent staff member, the respect they deserve. Some of the technicians will be paid and some will be devoting their time to enrich the lives of the students, so in order to continue having help to strive toward our goals, these staff members need to be respected just as much as the band director.

Band Boosters are extremely important to our band program. These people are the backbone of support for each and every student and most importantly the band director. Some of these adults are parents, some are past parents, and some are people donating their time to help out the band. Every parent who helps out needs to fill out the SERVE form and turn it in to the Booster President. Without the support of these wonderful

people, the band program would not be where it is today. They help out with moving, loading, and setting up equipment when we go places, they help out and keep our uniforms clean, provide food after long rehearsals, and are always there for the students. **Under no circumstances should any band student ever talk back or disrespect any of these wonderful people.** If a student is accused or caught disrespecting a band booster, you will be issued a referral, dismissed from the marching band and will not be allowed to participate with the band the rest of the year.

By definition, the role of the booster organization is to “boost” the band program in a positive manner. The purpose of the Plant City High School Raider Regiment Band Parent Association is to advance the best interest of the Plant City High School bands by providing support, as requested by the Director. All parents or guardians of students enrolled in the band program pay \$10 per parent/guardian to join the Band Parent Association organization. This fee is for the entire year and helps offset the many costs to run the band program. Maintaining a thriving band program requires support year round and funding beyond that provided by the school system. The Band Parent Association organization is a non-profit corporation and help with:

- Purchase and maintenance of uniforms
- Furnishing chaperones/volunteers for band events
- Organization and implementation of fundraising activities
- Encouragement of new parent involvement
- Stimulate and maintain an enthusiastic interest and support for all phases of the band program
- Support and advocate for music programs in the public schools

LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

Probability of success if you start by saying...

I won't	0%
I can't.....	10%
I don't know how.....	20%
I wish I could.....	30%
I could.....	40%
I think I might.....	50%
I might	60%
I think I can.....	70%
I can.....	80%
I will.....	90%
I did.....	100%

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

We have read the Plant City High School Band Handbook and we understand the procedures within it. We have set aside all dates listed on the calendar, and we understand that two weeks' notice constitutes fair warning for additions to this calendar. We understand that additions and deletions can be made to this handbook via the web site, e-mail communication, or a sheet sent home with the student. We understand that these procedures and guidelines will be handled at the director's discretion and that the director has the final approval in all situations.

Please return this signature sheet to the Director stating that you have read and understand all procedures set forth in this handbook. Please remember to check the band web site for any updates and all pertinent up to date information.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student e-mail address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent(s) e-mail address: _____

This signature page is due no later than the second Friday after school starts. This is a PASS/FAIL grade, no exceptions.