

# THE PINER BEARCAT BAND

PINER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HANDBOOK 2019 -2020

## Welcome to Band!

The Bearcat Band has a long tradition of musical excellence.

Piner Middle School is very proud of the band's reputation of high standards of character and teamwork. Great music happens because of these qualities. It is the expectation that each student will:

- Be responsible for his or her own actions
- Make great choices
- Own their mistakes and celebrate them as an opportunity for growth
- Always support their band family.

Band is intended to be a place of enjoyment, comfort, and pride. The outstanding students who make up this family see to it that this is upheld daily.

### Director Contact Information:

**Annette Mitchell, Director of Bands**  
anmitchell@shermanisd.net

**Jordan Edmonson, Associate Director**  
jedmonson@shermanisd.net

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING OUR UPDATES!

For up-to-date calendar and emails:

**CharmsOffice.com**

Login: PinerMSBand

Password: Student ID#

On the web:

**PinerBand.org**

Twitter:

**@PinerBand**

Instagram:

**#pinerband**

Remind Messaging Service:

Text the number: 81010 & enter the following message for your class:

- Beginning Band - @pinerbegin
- Varsity Band - @pinervar
- Concert Band - @pinercon
- Symphonic Band - @pinersymph
- Honors Band - @pinerhonor
- Jazz Band - @pinerjazz

## Inside:

In the following pages, you will find, the guidelines for the Bearcat Band. Every member and their family must review the information inside and work with the directors to uphold these expectations in order for our program to be successful. Please make sure to initial and sign the final pages and turn them in to the directors.

Please return the permission and acknowledgement forms:



## Performance Expectations

Students will be expected to attend and will earn grades at all of the following co-curricular activities:

1. Section Rehearsals
  - a. Once per week, assigned by instrument group, before or after school
  - b. Students in athletics will be allowed to attend their section rehearsal; directors and coaches work together to make this schedule.
  - c. Students who are absent for any reason must make up the missed section rehearsal by scheduling with the director for another day.
2. Group Performances
  - a. All scheduled concerts
  - b. One Piner Football Game (8<sup>th</sup> grade A team)
  - c. One Sherman HS Football Game
  - d. Pre-UIL, UIL, and Spring Festival (1 each)
3. Individual or Small-Group Performances
  - a. All Region Auditions (Honors/Symphonic)
  - b. Solo & Ensemble Festival

## After Performances

After each performance, students who are waiting for a ride will need to wait in the designated area. At Piner, this is on the loading ramp on the east side of the Band Hall. At Sherman HS, this is the band room loading dock on the west side of the building.

**Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the activity.**



### Concert Uniforms

#### Stadium/Informal Uniform

- Band T-shirt\*
- Blue Jeans
- Athletic Shoes

#### Formal Stage Uniform

- Black Dress Shirt (tucked)
- Black Pants (ankle length, **no jeans**)
- Black Socks
- Solid Black Shoes (**closed toe**)
- **Note:** Ladies may wear a solid black dress, **past-the-knee length**, with full shoulder coverage. Legging must cover legs and tops of feet. Shoes must be closed toe and block.

\*Band shirt will be purchased through supply fee.

## Grading and Attendance Policy

Piner Band follows the Sherman ISD grading & attendance policy.

- Concerts = Mastery Grade
- Section rehearsals/band class rehearsals = Daily Grade
- Quizzes (non-mastery) and Performance Evaluations (mastery) of music covered in class are often administered in **section rehearsal**.
- Pass-Offs (Mastery) can be completed at assigned times during class, section rehearsals, or on designated dates before/after school.
- Absences from section rehearsals or concerts must be made up following make-up work policies
  - Students who are absent for **illness** or **death in the family** may complete a make-up assignment for full credit. Contact the director as quickly as you can (in advance if possible).
  - **Unexcused absences** will be made up for a maximum of 70% and may result in demotion in chair, change of band placement, or removal from band altogether.
  - Parents are expected to make every effort to avoid conflicts in scheduling appointments and personal events. **Please schedule appointments at other times, as every team member is important in every sectional.**
  - Piner Band activities take precedence over non-school activities.
- Students must be prepared, attend rehearsals and sectionals, perform at concerts, and conduct themselves appropriately to maintain the privilege of participating in their assigned group.

## Practice Room Policy

### Hours

- 7:15 – 7:50am
- 3:15 – 4:30pm

Students must **sign in** when arriving and leaving.

### Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to be playing their instrument at all times that they are using the band facilities before and after school. Lights are to remain on. There will be no food in the practice rooms. Students who are eating, off-task, or misbehaving will lose practice room privileges at the directors' discretion.

## Band Door Policy

The outside band door will **NOT** be open before or after school this year.

Students **MUST** enter through the main doors in the morning.

Students may not gather or wait for rides on the band lawn/loading dock after school. Students must wait in the band room until their ride arrives.

## Practice Expectations by Class

### Beginning & Varsity Band

- 15 min. per day, 5-6 days a week

### Symphonic & Concert Band

- 25 min. per day, 5-6 days a week

### Honors Band

- 30+ min. per day, 6 days a week

*Practice in class, sectionals, or private lessons does not count towards this. Set aside time every day to work on your music and prepare your parts to support your team!*

## Private Lessons

Private lesson instruction is available to all students. Students in lessons will have individualized help from a professional musician that will benefit them in their musical learning

**Cost:** \$18 per week

**Time:** During class, before school, or after school based on the teachers' schedules.

Directors will provide contact info the first week of school.

## Eligibility

Sherman ISD and the State of Texas requires that students maintain a passing grade (above 70%) in all classes in order to participate in extracurricular events.

These include:

- Football games
- UIL Contest Performances
- Festival Performances
- Social rewards/events

**Note:** Band concerts are curricular, and students must attend and perform even if they are not passing.

# Care of the Band Areas, Instrument, and Self

## Band Hall Area

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- Food and drink (other than water in a bottle) will be kept in the cafeteria.
- Gum is a danger to instruments and wind players, so it will not be allowed in the band area.
- Stands will be for holding music only.

## Instrument

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- Sherman ISD and Piner MS are not responsible for the damage or loss/theft of instruments.
- Both school-owned and individually owned instruments should be covered by insurance.
  - Most rental instruments have insurance available through the store.
  - Insurance may be available with your Home Insurance Provider (please contact your provider)

## Lockers

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- A lock and a nametag are provided for every student.
- Lost locks or nametags must be replaced (for a fee).
- Lockers should be locked when the instrument is inside.

## Personal Injury Protection

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- Sherman ISD does not provide insurance for student injury.

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## Student Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Piner Bearcat Band. **Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class will be reassigned to another class.**

As a school group, members will follow school and school board policies any time they participate in a band function. Any student who violates school rules while with the Piner Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students may be subject to dismissal from band or suspension from all band travel.

## Extra-Curricular & Non-Performance Social Events

The Piner Bearcat Band will occasionally participate in non-performance activities and social events as a reward for students who are in good standing. To be in good standing, a student will:

1. Be passing all classes following the SISD academic eligibility guidelines
2. Have demonstrated excellent conduct and behavior in class, in school, and on trips
3. Have attended all concerts and performances
4. Have attended all section rehearsals or followed expectations for making up work in the event of an absence
5. Have been picked up on time follow events throughout the year.

Because band is a team, and missing parts and instruments affects the entire group, participation in the Piner Bearcat Band is **at least a one-year commitment.**

*Special Note* – A student must pass band and/or have a director's recommendation to be enrolled for the next semester of band.

## Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct includes ensuring that band member websites and social media are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Members are responsible for their personal postings, as well as posting from or on other students' pages.

The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to: profane, foul, or disrespectful language; pictures; suggesting poses or clothing; references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; postings that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other SISD teaching staff or band members; or postings that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands.

In addition to the above, band members that violate the guidelines may be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of the violation, the band member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- If a violation occurs that is deemed to be more serious in nature, including but not limited to threats, bullying, or a serial of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the band directors, including suspension, probation, or dismissal from band.

## Alternate Transportation

- Any parent wishing to pick up their student from an event must be there in person to take them and have completed an alternate transportation form prior to the day of the trip. Students will not be released to other parents during the trip.
- Any parent wishing to drive their student to an event **where the full group is travelling by bus** must complete an alternate transportation form prior to the day of the trip. Then, the parent and student must meet with the band director upon arrival to ensure the student is accounted for and kept safe.

## Concerts

- Concerts have three parts: **warm-up, performance, and listening.**
- The concert begins at the warm-up. **Be on time!**
- The concert ends when the last group performs. Texas Standards for band include listening to performances and being an audience member.
- All concerts are a group effort, therefore **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!**
- Students are responsible for having their instrument, music, and any accessories they need to any concert. The directors will have no extra mouthpieces, instruments, or music.

Concert locations include:

- Sherman HS Auditorium
- Grayson College Auditorium
- Piner MS Gym/Lawn

## Contacting the Band Directors

The directors spend every moment possible teaching students and making sure we take advantage of every minute we have with them. This means that we are often unavailable before or after school to speak to parents. The best ways to contact us include:

- E-mail, available on the front page.
- Note, sent with your child. Please include your name and contact information.
- Conference, set up with us by e-mail or through a note.

# 2019 – 2020 BAND SUPPLY LIST

## General

1. Band Book - *Sound Innovations* Book 1 (included in your supply fee)
2. **Band Binder** – Students must have this at all times to keep track of music. (included in your supply fee). If the binder wears out, the student will be responsible to replace the binder. Contents will be as follows:
  - a. **Pencils** – Students need two pencils at all times to mark music and write down important information.
  - b. A **highlighter** of any color – A highlighter helps to identify important passages in our music.
  - c. **Pencil Bag** – This bag should be kept in the official Band Binder
  - d. **Page Protectors** – All band music should be in a protector when not in class.
  - e. **5-tab Dividers** – Sections to be assigned in class.
3. **Pencil Sharpener** – This will be kept in the pencil bag.
4. **MetroTuner\*** – All students should have a metronome/tuner (either TonalEnergy App or the Korg TM50)
5. **Pick-Up Mic\*** – Students will have a pic up mic for the tuner (either the Pitch Grabber for phone apps or the Korg) **\*\*This does not apply to the *percussion* students.\*\***
6. **Flip Folder\*** – found at any music store

## Instrument Specific Supplies

- **Flute** – cleaning rod, swab
- **Oboe** – 3 reeds, silk swab, Ann Hodge reed case
- **Bassoon** – 3 reeds, silk swab, Ann Hodge reed case
- **Clarinet** – 4 *D'Addario Reserve reeds\** (3+ strength), *D'Addario Reed Storage Case\**, silk swab, cork grease, mouthpiece cap, *clarinet lyre\**
- **Bass Clarinet** – 4 *D'Addario reeds* \*(3 strength), *D'Addario Reed Storage Case\**, silk swab, cork grease
- **All Saxes** – 4 *D'Addario reeds* \*(3 strength), *D'Addario Reed Storage Case\**, silk swab, cork grease, mouthpiece cap, *saxophone lyre\**
- **Trumpet** – valve oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece, *clamp-style lyre\**
- **French Horn** – rotary oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece, *clamp-style lyre\**
- **Trombone** – slide cream, small spray bottle, slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece, *trombone lyre\**
- **Euphonium** – valve oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece
- **Tuba** – valve oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece
- **Percussion** – *please see Mr. Smith\**

\* *This is a new item for 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

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Parent	Student	
_____	_____	1. I have read, understand, and agree to follow the expectations of the Piner Bearcat Band as stated in the Piner Band Handbook
_____	_____	2. I understand the performance, attire, supply, and attendance expectations of the Piner Band. I have read and understand the grading policies in place.
_____	_____	3. I understand it is my responsibility to notify the directors anytime I have a change in contact information. I have updated my information in CHARMS and have subscribed to the class Remind messenger.
_____	_____	4. I am aware that private lesson teachers are available to help support my students. I am aware that payments for these lessons are arranged directly with the lesson teacher.
_____	_____	5. I understand my student will be held to SISD's eligibility requirements to participate in extracurricular events. I further understand the expectations held by Piner Middle School for my student to be in good standing for extracurricular non-performance events.
_____	_____	6. I understand that the band hall closes at 4:30 every day and students must be picked up before then. Students who are not picked up by 4:30 on a regular basis will lose band hall privileges after school.
_____	_____	7. I understand that students must be picked up within 15 minutes of band events. Students who are picked up late will lose band privileges.
_____	_____	8. I have been made aware that it is recommended that I acquire accident insurance for my band instrument and my band member. I am aware that theft and vandalism of the instruments (individual or school-owned) are my responsibility.
_____	_____	9. I understand the Piner Band social media policy and agree to follow it.
_____	_____	10. I give permission to the Piner Band Directors to post, publish, or use my student's picture or likeness for use in lessons and promotion of our school.
_____	_____	11. I have added all band calendar dates to our family calendar and I am aware of the required performances this year. I understand the performance expectations associated with the calendar as well as the uniform expectations.
_____	_____	12. I understand that band is a full year course and that my part is important to my band.

I confirm and authorize the above initials.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this sheet and the travel release form to the band directors immediately!**