

STILLWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Instrumental Music Department



Pioneer Band
Student Handbook
2010-2011

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General Band Policies

Philosophy

Music is a basic part of all civilized cultures. The individual who is capable of participating in a musical experience is able to enjoy this fundamental facet of life to the fullest extent. The Instrumental Music Department of the Stillwater Public Schools provides the opportunity for the student population of the Stillwater schools to actively participate in the art of music. By providing a variety of opportunities for participation, the department strives to meet the needs of the student population on an elective basis. Through membership in an organization in the instrumental music department, the student receives the necessary training, and the opportunity for application of their learned skills through public performance.

Through the experience gained by membership in an instrumental organization, the student gains a life-long skill and an understanding of the commitment necessary to present a quality musical performance. With this skill and understanding the individual attains an insight into a part of their civilized existence that ultimately enriches their standard of living.

Mission Statement

The mission of the music department is to develop the skills necessary to become capable and intelligent performers, creators, and consumers of music, and to develop individual talent to the highest potential.

Student Responsibilities

As a member of the Pioneer Band you are a member of one of the school's largest, most respected, and important organizations. As with any fine organization, the success of the band depends on the pride, loyalty, and cooperation of all of its members.

How does a band member show pride, loyalty, and cooperation towards his organization? First, by making up his/her mind to be a proud and worthy member; second, by giving the organization all that he/she possesses in attention, interest, and effort; and third, by observing certain rules which are a necessary part of any team effort. Only when every member cooperates can a band achieve the place it deserves as the voice of the school. At all functions student conduct is expected to reflect quiet, orderly, and courteous behavior. It is your responsibility to hold your behavior above reproach. As a member of the Pioneer Band Program your conduct should be a credit to your band, school, and community. A good general rule for Pioneer Band Members is: **BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT, WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE, READY TO CONCENTRATE AND WORK!**

Membership

Membership in the Pioneer Band is open to students in grades 9 through 12 with previous experience at middle school and junior high level and/or approval of the director. The organization performs at Pioneer football games, marching contests, basketball games, parades, concerts, and selected concert contests. The band also participates in out-of-state competitions as scheduled by the directors. Participation in these competitions represents the application of all of the skills learned through membership in the Stillwater band program. Students experience a variety of musical styles and performance opportunities, furthering their development as instrumental musicians.

The color guard and winter guard are open to all students in grades 9 through 12 based on audition. Students interested in these activities will be required to perform an audition for the director of bands and the guard instructor before the season begins. Students in either of these organizations fall under the same expectations as all other band students.

Attendance Requirements

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are considered an essential part of the band's preparation for performance, and every student is required to attend. The Pioneer Band will have extra rehearsals throughout the fall marching season and during concert season when preparing for concerts and honor band auditions. Extra rehearsals are scheduled before school each day during marching season. During concert season each section will have extra rehearsals before or after school when they are necessary. The rehearsal schedule is announced by the director well in advance to allow for the students to arrange their schedules to accommodate the extra time. Please schedule dental and doctor appointments so as not to conflict with band rehearsals whenever possible. Remember, as a participatory activity, it is essential to have all members present for all rehearsals in order to achieve our highest potential.

Performances

Performances are the culmination of class activities and thus are treated as tests to demonstrate playing skills, build self-confidence, and to develop correct performance deportment. Performance grades cannot be made up later; therefore public performances are mandatory unless deemed optional by the director.

Band is a group activity that demands dependability of the membership. Each student relies on fellow band members to do their part in presenting a performance that has taken many hours to prepare. Failure by one student to be there weakens the total performance and deprives the other students of the most exciting musical performance they could have. Therefore, a student jeopardizes membership rights should they miss a performance.

In case of illness or family emergency, please contact the band office at 533-6463 as soon as possible. Please read the Stillwater High School Student Handbook for more information on attendance policies.

Special Events

There are a limited number of events that extend the school calendar for all band students. While every attempt is made to announce any additional activity well in advance, there are three events that occur every year that should be remembered: band camp, fall break, and graduation.

Band camp typically occurs around the beginning of August. Camp starts two to three weeks before the first day of school and runs every day. Since practice occurs in the stadium, practice times will be adjusted for football team practice. The rehearsal schedule for camp will be announced in the spring.

Fall break is an extended weekend for most students; however, band students will almost always have a football game during fall break weekend. Additionally, in years when the marching band competes out of state, this is the weekend that we try to schedule those competitions. Students will not be excused from attending the football game, and, as always, all students are required to be at all competitions. This year, we will march in the OSU Homecoming Parade on the Saturday of fall break.

Graduation typically occurs the Friday before Memorial Day, which is after the last day of school for most students. All band students in grades 8 through 11 provide the music for graduation. This concert is required, so please do not make plans to begin your summer activities until after graduation.

Tardiness/Excused Absences

Being late or absent for a rehearsal or a performance must be excused in advance of the event in order to be excused at all. Any tardy or absence for full ensemble events must be submitted to the Director of Bands. Tardies or absences submitted to other individuals (guard instructor, percussion instructor, etc.) will not be excused. For section events, tardies or absences may be submitted to the director in charge of the event. The director will consider reasons for tardiness individually, and he will determine whether or not the tardy is to be excused. The director will consider all absences and tardies on an individual basis, and it will be solely his decision as to whether they are excused or unexcused. Such decisions will not set a precedent and will in no way be binding on future decisions.

During school, all tardy policies of the school apply. Students who are late to early morning marching practice will be required to pick up an admit slip in the attendance office and run a lap when they arrive at the practice field. Excessive tardies will result in closed campus or EAS, so please make sure that you are on time to rehearsal.

Academic Eligibility

All students must meet criteria for academic eligibility as set by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. A student must be passing all classes that he/she is enrolled in to be eligible to participate in competitive performances (i.e. marching competitions, OSSAA events, honor band auditions, etc.). The first week a student is failing in a subject he/she will be on probation for the following week. During this week they may continue to perform with the band. If they are not passing at the end of the week of probation or are failing in another class they become ineligible to perform with the band. Eligibility does not factor in for concerts and football games; however, the directors reserve the right to remove a student from a performance based on eligibility concerns in order to more accurately prepare for a pending competitive event. Ongoing eligibility concerns could result in a student's dismissal from the band program.

Transportation

The school district provides transportation for all band students to authorized out-of-town events. Each student must have a Transportation Release on file at the band room. All students are required to ride the buses provided by the district to and from the event. Students may ride home from events only with their own parents after receiving permission from the director. Teachers do not have the authority to release students to anyone other than their parents. The Athletic Director must approve any deviation from the stated policy at least two days in advance of the trip. Any request made after that time will not be considered. The students will be chaperoned by adults on each bus and are expected to follow the rules of the district concerning rider conduct. Students who fail to follow those rules will be subject to disciplinary action. Please read and be familiar with the following:

Bus Rules

1. Screaming, loud talking, singing and other disruptive sounds will not be tolerated.

2. You are expected to sit facing forward for the duration of the trip. Please do not stick your hands or head out the window.
3. Portable audio devices will be allowed only with headphones. If you take one you assume the risk for any damage or loss.
4. Percussionists, tuba players, and band staff will exit the bus first in order to get their equipment out of the way first.
5. Before a trip, all students will meet in the band room and will be dismissed to load the bus in the following order: band staff, seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.
6. Drum sticks and mallets should be packed with the equipment and not carried onto the bus.
7. Food and drink are not allowed on the bus unless the director has approved it before the buses are boarded.
8. The equipment truck will be loaded and unloaded by the band staff. Members of the band staff are the only students that have permission to be in the equipment truck. Do not crowd around the truck while loading and unloading. Place your instruments in the assigned location to be loaded. Make sure that YOU place YOUR instrument in the proper location to be loaded. Do not ask anyone else to take your instrument for you. Do not crowd around the back of the equipment truck while unloading. Pick up your instrument from the assigned location after it has been unloaded. This will make loading and un-loading equipment safer and easier.
9. The emergency exit of a bus is for emergencies only. Never go out the emergency door unless it is an emergency.

School-Owned Instruments

The Stillwater School District owns a limited number of the larger, more expensive instruments. Instruments furnished by the school are French horn, euphonium, tuba, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, and tenor and baritone saxophone. Students using school owned instruments are not charged for use but are responsible for repairs that may be required during the course of the school year. A *USE AGREEMENT FORM* signed by the parent stipulates responsibility for repair or loss of the instrument.

Insurance Suggestions

The music staff makes every effort to impress on students the value of their instrument and its proper care. To guard against damage or loss through theft or negligence, we offer these suggestions:

1. Find and use a safe place in the home to store the instrument away from siblings.
2. Keep a record of your instrument including make, model, and serial number and identifying marks.
3. Check your homeowner's insurance policy to determine if musical instruments are covered when they are away from home.

Instrument Storage

Students should take their instruments home with them at the conclusion of each school day. Without adequate practice on the part of each student outside of class, their musical growth is hindered. Aside from the concern for individual improvement, security of any instrument left

overnight in a school building cannot be guaranteed. Stillwater Public Schools assumes no responsibility for any individual's instrument left overnight in a school facility.

The lockers in the instrument storage room are to be used strictly for instruments. Do not keep your books, shoes, marching clothes, or anything else in the locker. The directors may remove any materials not related to instruments that are stored in the locker. Additionally, any personal belongings that are not claimed by the end of the week will be discarded. Please be responsible for your personal items.

Additional Policies

1. There is an exception to almost every rule. However, any exceptions should be cleared with Mr. Zamborsky, Mrs. Ellison, or Mrs. Bovenschen.
2. Be on your best behavior at all times. Cooperate with whoever is in charge of your group.
3. Don't fall behind in your other classes. It is your responsibility to maintain your academic eligibility for extracurricular activities.
4. Strive to be approximately ten minutes early for any rehearsal or performance. This will allow time to make any preparations that are necessary. **TARDINESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
5. **USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, OR NARCOTICS IS PROHIBITED DURING ALL BAND TRIPS AND FUNCTIONS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM.** See additional information below.
6. Strive to do your best 100% of the time. Your effort directly affects the efficiency of rehearsal.
7. Only band students should enter the band room. Do not ask someone else to pick up your instrument from the band room.

Drug Testing

The school board has instituted a policy to randomly test students involved in extracurricular activities for drug use. This includes students in the band, color guard, and winter guard. The drug test involves a urine test to check for narcotics in the system. There is no student cost for these random tests; however, any student that fails a drug test must pay to be retested. Please refer to the SHS student handbook for additional information, including information on the consequences for failing a drug test.

Practice

Practicing and playing are very different functions. When you play, whether in public or in private, certain details may be sacrificed for the effect of the whole. Other instruments playing at the same time during an ensemble performance may cover up imperfections in your own technique of which you may not be aware. This makes regular individual practice imperative. Your goal should be the acquisition of complete coordination and mental discipline. No slip or fault, however slight, must be allowed to pass. Train your ears to observe imperfections, and use your brain to correct them.

Practice sessions should be short and frequent in order to have the highest degree of effectiveness. An hour spent in purposeless repetition and thoughtless mechanical moving of your fingers will do you far less good than 20 minutes of intelligent concentrated work. As you

become more used to practicing, your powers of concentration and your mental and physical endurance will naturally improve.

Private Study

Private instruction is not mandatory to participate in the Stillwater Public Schools Band Program. It is, however, very beneficial. This is the single best advantage that a student can have in learning to play a musical instrument. We are fortunate to have access to many private teachers in the Stillwater area. A list of private teachers is prepared each year by the instrumental music staff. If you have specific questions please contact one of the directors.

Grades

Each student is expected to make a minimum amount of progress each year in the Pioneer Band Program. Band students will be given special assignments tailored to their musical needs to ensure continued musical growth through their years in high school.

The major determining factors that affect grades are attendance, preparation of assignments, cooperation, daily rehearsal effort and participation, rhythm/counting grades, marching grades, playing assignments/chair auditions, and assigned written work or exams.

Both the grading system and the award system of the Pioneer Band Program are designed to encourage continued musical growth.

Marching Band

The marching band is the most visible part of the SHS Band Program. Marching bands have evolved considerably over the last several years and now consist of students performing music of the highest quality while executing precision marching maneuvers. The marching band performs at all football games and several competitions throughout the fall. Additionally, we perform at the OSU Homecoming Parade and Stillwater Parade of Lights, schedule permitting.

Band Camp

The band begins holding summer rehearsals well before the start of school. These rehearsals usually begin in late July or early August. A typical day's schedule would include morning drill practice and afternoon section rehearsals. Many of the students stay at school for the full day by choice. They may go to lunch at one of the fast food establishments or just hang out with other band kids during their "down" time. Each student should bring a thermos of water, sunglasses and a hat. Also make sure you have sunscreen, as we will be outside for the morning rehearsals. Please take time to read the page in the back of this handbook on *Heat Related Illness*.

Students are generally not excused from missing band camp. Please try to avoid scheduling doctors' appointments during this time. These two weeks lay the foundation for everything that we do throughout the fall, and help build the relationships between band members that will last for the rest of the year and beyond. Exceptions may be approved by the directors on an individual basis; however, excessive absences from band camp could result in dismissal from the program.

Auxiliary Marching Positions

Section Leaders

During the course of marching season we will be utilizing section leaders for a variety of purposes. Section leaders will be utilized in teaching marching fundamentals and drill for the marching show. They will also help with daily tasks such as reporting absences and tardies. Section leaders must exhibit good leadership, musicianship and marching skills. Section leaders will be expected to maintain academic eligibility in order to serve in this capacity.

Drum Major

The drum majors assume leadership roles in all marching performances of the Pioneer Band. Students earn this position by demonstrating consistent interest in improving the Pioneer Band and by successfully completing a lengthy audition process, held each spring.

Color Guard

The members of the color guard are selected by competitive auditions during the spring of each year. The guard is active only during marching season. Color Guard members are required to attend Color Guard Camp, which will be held during June or July.

Uniforms

The school district and Band Booster Club provide uniforms for the members of the Pioneer Band. A uniform will be issued to each student during preschool rehearsals. Uniforms will be stored at the school. Each student will be issued a coat, trousers, hat, gauntlets and garment bag. Your garment bag will have a label attached to it with your name, coat number, trouser number and hat number. Your hatbox will have a similar label affixed to it. Your uniform will be checked out before each performance and checked back in after the performance. The students are required to furnish the following items to complete the uniform:

1. Black marching shoes with black soles. Tennis shoes are unacceptable.
2. Solid black, long socks.
3. Band T-shirt (to be worn under the uniform coat).
4. Hair longer than collar length must be tucked into the hat.
5. Earrings, jewelry, face paint, etc., should not be worn while in uniform.

Due to extremely hot weather in August and September the Pioneer Band will utilize a "warm weather uniform". This will consist of the band t-shirt, the uniform pants, black socks, and black marching shoes. The band staff will order the shirts and students will be required to purchase at least one.

Behavior in Uniform

It should be considered the highest honor to be allowed to wear the uniform of your organization. While in uniform, you are easily identified as part of the Pioneer Marching Band. Your behavior is identified with our school and community. While in uniform, make sure your actions are above reproach. Students are responsible for any damage to uniforms from inappropriate behavior.

When the uniform is to be worn it should be worn correctly and completely. Hats should not be worn backwards and jackets should always be zipped. Baseball caps are not to be worn at any time while in uniform. Should there be a time when you are allowed to take your jacket off

the director will let you know when you may take it off and what is to be done with your jacket. Never assume it is okay to remove any part of your uniform.

Pioneer Marching Band Rehearsal Procedures

Due to our performance schedule and the limited rehearsal time, it is necessary that certain procedures be followed to ensure the highest level of performance.

1. During marching season all morning rehearsals will begin at 7:15 AM unless otherwise announced. Color guard and drum line begin at 7:00 AM. Band staff reports at 6:45 AM. All rehearsals must start on time. A good rule is to be ten minutes ahead of schedule. Make sure you allow time to prepare for rehearsal and walk to the stadium. Be aware that the bus will not be able to drop you off at school in time for morning rehearsals, so you must arrange for a ride.
2. Everyone must have the proper equipment for each rehearsal. This includes instrument, music, pencil, and dot book.
3. Come prepared for wet turf, cold or any other uncomfortable weather condition. Rehearsal will start in the stadium every day except in the case of inclement weather. Should this happen, the directors will announce a rehearsal plan. Please note that we may be outside if it is only raining. Always come to school prepared to go outside.

Game Procedures

Members of the Pioneer Marching Band will be expected to follow the following game procedures. Remember to show your PRIDE in the Pioneer Band at all times while in uniform.

1. All students must have music in a flip folder. Students who play any instrument other than flute or percussion must provide a lyre for their instrument.
2. Each person is responsible for his/her equipment at all times.
3. Students must be in full uniform at all times. No earrings or caps are to be worn with the uniform.
4. Students will remain in the stands until permission is given to leave.
5. Sit in assigned seats and do not move about the band during the game.
6. No food, gum, or drink is allowed in the stands.
7. Play your very best each time the group performs and do not play your instrument at any time the band is not playing.
8. Percussion is only to play with the full band or as a section on an organized cadence or feature.
9. No one except band personnel is allowed in the band section. Former band students or special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by special permission from the director.
10. Watch the directors and drum majors at all times when they are standing in front of the band. Watch closely for cutoffs in the music, as the band will sometimes stop playing when play is resumed on the field.
11. File orderly from the stands to the assembling point before the half-time show. Do not play instruments in transit.
12. Group cheers are acceptable, but "off color" or un-sportsmanlike cheers will not be tolerated.

13. Do not make discourteous remarks to visiting bands, peers, and other students. Remember that you represent Stillwater High School.
14. Upon arrival back at the band room, students will return uniforms and put away equipment. Make sure any equipment that is transported on the truck is returned.
15. In performances during cold weather, students are allowed to wear a jacket over their uniform coat. Any additional gloves, scarves, or head covering must reflect the school colors and are subject to approval by the director and school district guidelines regarding appropriate attire.

Winter and Spring Activities

Basketball Pep Band

During the winter months the Pioneer Band is called on to perform at SHS basketball games. The band will be divided into two separate pep bands that will play at home games only. Participation is mandatory. The Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association prohibits bands from playing at play-off games. The basketball band will wear the band polo shirt with jeans. Students will be assigned to either the Blue or the Gold pep band. Please check the schedule for the required performances for your pep band. No substitutions will be allowed unless specifically authorized by the Director of Bands.

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard is open to all students in grades 7 through 12. This organization competes in the Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma Circuit from late January to late March or early April. The guard instructor and band director set the competition and rehearsal schedule. Students audition for membership in the winter guard during the late fall or early winter. If there is enough interest, we may field two winter guards.

Concert Ensembles

After marching season, all wind and percussion students are required to audition for placement in either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band. These auditions are a substantial part of a student's grade for the second nine weeks.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is the top concert band at Stillwater High School. The Wind Ensemble has established itself as one of the top high school instrumental groups in Oklahoma. Students enrolled in the high school band program are eligible to audition for this select ensemble. Students interested in auditioning for Wind Ensemble are required to audition for the NCDA Honor Band in November. The results of these auditions may affect a student's placement in either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band. Audition material each year is the OMEA All-State first round etudes for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and the NCDA audition material for freshmen. These are posted in the band room during May of each year. It is highly recommended that students in Wind Ensemble study privately. Additionally, all members of Wind Ensemble will be required to participate in solo and ensemble contest.

Concert Band

The Concert Band performs several concerts during the course of the year. Depending upon instrumentation, the Concert Band may perform at the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association Concert Band Contest in the spring. Students in Concert Band are encouraged to study privately, participate in solo and ensemble, and work diligently throughout the year to improve their musical skills.

Concert Uniforms

The Concert Band and Wind Ensemble will have portions of the concert uniform provided by the school. Men will wear tuxedos and women will wear dresses. For the uniforms, men will need to provide a white undershirt, white tuxedo shirt with bow tie and cummerbund, black socks, and black dress shoes. In order to ensure uniformity, the shirt, bow tie, and cummerbund will be ordered through the band. Women will need to provide black dress shoes and pantyhose. Tuxedo jackets and pants and women's dresses will be stored at the high school.

Honor Bands and Solo/Ensemble Contest

The highest individual achievement a band member can earn is to be selected for membership to either the NCDA All-District Honor Band or the All-State Honor Band. Outstanding individual awards may be earned by playing a solo or participation in a small ensemble at the District and State Solo/Ensemble Contests. Students not only benefit from the preparation for these events, but also from working under nationally known conductors. The Events Calendar will have deadline dates for entry. Students who wish to audition for honor bands or play in solos or ensembles may be required to play-off the audition music or the solo/ensemble for a director in order to be entered.

Pioneer Band Awards

Director's Award

The Director's Award is presented to the student who has done more than what is required to help the band program. These students typically give freely of their time to help the band program improve. The recipient of this award is determined by the directors based on a student's dedication to the program and the assistance they provide to the directors in the operation of the band program.

Outstanding and Most Improved Musicians

Outstanding musician awards are presented to the best musician in ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade. There are most improved musician awards presented to one student in each grade. The directors determine the recipients of these awards based on musical achievement and improvement.

John Philip Sousa Award

The John Philip Sousa Award is the highest award of the Pioneer Band. This award is presented to the most outstanding senior musician of the band. The directors determine the recipient of this award based on musical achievement.

Band Booster Scholarships

Each year the Pioneer Band Booster Organization presents scholarships to students attending summer band camp and to two senior band members. The scholarships are typically in the amount of \$250 each. A special council made up of band parents selects the recipients of these scholarships. Applications and more information will be available to students in the spring of each year.

Color Guard Awards

To receive the Color Guard Award the student must participate in fall and winter guard and have no unexcused absences from required rehearsals and performances. Excessive tardiness to rehearsals and performances may disqualify a student.

Outstanding Soloist/Ensemble Award

Students that receive a superior rating on a solo or ensemble at both District and State Solo and Ensemble Contests will receive the Outstanding Soloist/Ensemble Award. This is in the form of a certificate and recognition at the annual Band Awards Banquet.

Senior Awards

Seniors will receive special recognition and awards upon completion of their Senior Year in the Pioneer Band Program.

Letter Awards

Letter awards are presented at the annual Band Awards Banquet. First year letterman receive a chenille letter and a certificate. Second, Third and fourth year lettermen will receive a certificate and a gold bar to be placed on the chenille letter. To receive a Letter Award a student must:

1. Be a member of the Stillwater High School Band for the entire academic year.
2. The students will earn a minimum of 30 letter points.
3. The student must have no unexcused absences from a required rehearsal, sectional or performance. An unexcused absence will automatically disqualify a student from lettering or receiving awards. This includes participation in Symphonic Orchestra and Color Guard.
4. Letter points do not carry over from year to year.

Lettering Point System

I. Festival Entries – Solos	
a. District Level – First Division.....	4
b. District Level – Second Division	3
c. District Level – Third Division	2
d. State Level – First Division.....	6
e. State Level – Second Division	5
f. State Level – Third Division	3
II. Festival Entries – Ensembles	
a. District Level – First Division.....	3
b. District Level – Second Division	2
c. District Level – Third Division	1
d. State Level – First Division.....	4
e. State Level – Second Division	3
f. State Level – Third Division	2
III. Honor Groups	
a. Auditions (NCDA/All-State First Round).....	1
b. Auditions (OMEA Second Round)	2
c. Member of NCDA Honor Band	5
d. Member of OMEA All-State Band/Orchestra.....	10
IV. Large Group “T” Ratings (each)	
a. Marching Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble	1
b. Caption Awards (Outstanding Percussion, etc.).....	1
V. Misc. Points	
a. Perfect Attendance Band Camp Rehearsals	5
b. Special Service Groups: Color Guard, Section Leaders, Drum Majors, etc.....	5
c. Private Lessons (3 points per semester) total possible	6
d. Jazz Ensemble	5
e. Orchestra Wind/Percussion Section	5
f. Approved Summer Music Camp (2 weeks or less).....	2
g. Approved Summer Music Camp/Activity (more than 2 weeks)	5
h. Approved outside instrumental performances (3 points per semester max.).....	1
i. Approved outside instrumental concert/recital attendance (3 points per semester max.)....	1
j. Approved master classes or clinics (3 points per semester max.)	1
k. Band Staff	5

All awards and recognition of the Pioneer Band are contingent upon the student completing the entire school year as member of the Pioneer Band.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the school provide band uniforms?

Yes, the school provides uniforms for the marching band; however, students must provide their own black socks. They must also purchase their own band t-shirt (which is to be worn under the uniform jacket), black marching band shoes, black gloves, and band activity shirt which is worn to basketball games and other special events.

During concert season, the school provides tuxedo jackets and pants for the men, and dresses for the women. Men will need to provide a white undershirt, white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black socks, and black dress shoes. Women will need to provide black dress shoes and pantyhose.

What band fees can we expect to pay?

The school district does not provide all of the funding that is needed to support a quality band program such as ours. Fundraising activities and direct payments by parents/students must cover the additional expenses. Below is an estimate of the fees that may be incurred throughout the year:

Marching shoes – \$31 **Required** (except color guard.) You can use shoes from a previous year if they are in good shape.

Activity shirt – \$18 **Required**

T-shirt – \$15 **Required** You are encouraged to purchase two show shirts for competition weekends.

White gloves – \$3 **Required** for drum majors only.

Black gloves – \$3 **Required** for wind players.

Tuxedo shirt/bow tie/cummerbund – \$32

All-OMEA Audition fee – \$15 (Only available for 10th through 12th graders.)

NCDA Audition fee – \$8

Solo & Ensemble fees – \$10 Solos, \$13-\$36 Ensembles (depending on size of ensemble)

Trip fee – TBA

What is the trip fee?

In the past, the SHS Band traveled to out-of-state competitions every two years. Past trips have been to New York, St. Louis, San Antonio, Washington D.C. and Chicago. Now we make larger trips with the concert bands or full marching band every four years. In order for reservations to be made and deposits placed, a specific payment schedule will be announced as early as possible. Fund raising opportunities will be announced along with more specific information about trips as soon as possible. OSSAA eligibility will also affect participation in out-of-state competition. Please refer to the band handbook for more information on eligibility.

How do I know who is on the SHS Band Booster Board?

The Pioneer Band Boosters meet monthly on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in the band room. All parents of students in the Pioneer Band Program are members of the Pioneer Band Boosters and are welcome to attend these meetings. A list of officers can be found at the end of this handbook and on the band website.

What happens on football Fridays?

Most students won't even come home from school that afternoon. They will come directly to the SHS Band Room. If it is an out-of-town game we will be leaving as soon as the buses can get to the high school (usually around 4:40 PM). Call times for each game will be announced by the directors during the week.

What band competitions are coming up this school year, and what time commitments can we expect for them?

The **Owasso Invitational** is Saturday, September 25 at Owasso High School. It is a preliminary/finals format. This means that first each band plays in a preliminary round performance, and then the bands that are judged the best proceed on to a final performance. Our preliminary round performance is usually early afternoon. However, the band will meet at SHS well before that time to allow for preparation and travel. The directors will announce the itinerary for all contests well ahead of time, although the band usually does not return to SHS until late in the evening after marching contests.

Renegade Review is Saturday, October 2 at Union High School. It is also a preliminary/finals format, and will follow the same process as Owasso.

The **Broken Arrow Invitational** is Saturday, October 9 at Broken Arrow High School. It is also a preliminary/finals format, and will follow the same process as Owasso.

On October 16, we will host the **Oklahoma Bandmasters Association (OBA) 4A-5A State Marching Championships** at Pioneer Stadium. This will be an all day event and we will need every student and parent to assist to make this a successful event. Further information will be coming home soon.

The **OSSAA Marching Contest** is Wednesday, October 27 at Broken Arrow High School Stadium. This contest consists of a single performance sometime during late morning or early afternoon. Again, the directors will announce the specific meeting times for this event. Typically we are back in Stillwater by late afternoon.

The **OBA Marching Championship** is Saturday, October 30 at Union High School. This competition is also preliminary/finals format, so the day's events will be very similar to the Owasso Contest.

What about Fall Break?

OSSAA does not recognize Fall Break as a holiday, therefore all students are required to attend any rehearsals and performances on that weekend. With no school on Thursday or Friday (October 21 and 22), the Pioneer Band will have rehearsals on Thursday and Friday to prepare for the two final marching contests of the season. Exact times will be announced as soon as they are available.

How are Shadow Squad positions determined?

Positions in the field show are determined by weekly playing and marching grades. Marching ability as well as performance and memorization of show music are factors. The evaluation process begins during pre-school band camp. Past academic history is sometimes a factor if a student has had a history of academic ineligibility. Every effort is made to have as many students as possible on the field for competitive events.

What time does my child need to be at school during marching season?

Daily marching band rehearsals start at 7:15 AM for all wind players. At that time each student should be on the marching field ready to rehearse. Some sections such as percussion or color guard meet slightly earlier (7:00 am) in order to deal with logistics specific to these sections. Each student must allow enough time to get marching equipment, shoes, etc. from the band room and get to the field on time. Each section of the band will also have a section rehearsal led by a director after school one day each week. These section rehearsals will be scheduled and announced as soon as possible.

What are "All-OMEA/NCDA auditions"?

All-OMEA/NCDA auditions are held at Owasso High School on Saturday, November 6, and are required for students auditioning for Wind Ensemble. This is a combined audition of the North Central Directors Association and the Oklahoma Music Educators Association. Ninth grade students may audition for the NCDA Honor Band, but are not eligible to audition for the All-OMEA Honor Band. Sophomore, junior and senior students will know by the end of the audition if they qualified to pass on to OMEA Second Round Auditions and/or if they were selected to the NCDA Honor Band. Acceptance into these prestigious ensembles presumes a commitment to perform with the ensembles as well. Any student who is accepted into the ensemble and does not participate may face action from the directors. The cost associated with these auditions is as follows: NCDA Honor Band Audition Fee - \$8 and OMEA All-State Honor Band Audition Fee - \$15. Second Round auditions will be held on Saturday, December 4 at Westmoore High School in Moore. Band members who are chosen for NCDA can expect rehearsals at OSU all day on Friday and again Saturday (January 7 & 8). The concert by the NCDA Honor Bands will be held on Saturday afternoon. Students that are selected to the OMEA All-State Honor Band will attend the All-State Band Clinic in Tulsa, January 19-22. The cost for participation in this event is approximately \$50.

How are schedule changes communicated to the band members?

The directors work very hard to communicate any changes to all members during drill practices, band classes, and other rehearsals. The band's website is the first place families should check for schedule changes. Every effort is made to update the band website frequently, so you are encouraged to bookmark the website. The address is www.stillwaterbands.org.

Only the directors will announce schedule changes to the students. Parents are encouraged to have an e-mail contact on file with the band parents association, so that you may receive updates on the schedule from the parents. Feel free to call or e-mail the directors at SHS or an executive board member if you have any schedule questions.

Does the high school band perform at basketball games?

The high school band is called upon to perform at home basketball games. At these games we play pep music in the stands. The band is usually divided into two pep bands. We do not travel to out-of-town basketball games and we do not play at tournaments or play-off games. The uniform for basketball band is the activity shirt with jeans.

What is solo/ensemble contest and who can participate?

Solo & ensemble contest is open to all band students in the seventh grade or higher. Students may play a solo or participate in a small ensemble. Typically music performed at solo & ensemble contest could be classified as chamber music. This is a great opportunity for students to further their musical education by performing chamber music. This type of music fosters musical independence and confidence not typically gained by performing in a large concert ensemble. Specific fees associated with participation in solo & ensemble contest will be announced at a later date. Students in the Wind Ensemble are required to play either a solo or an ensemble at this event. Students may enter multiple events for this contest.

What is the Band Awards Banquet?

The Band Awards Banquet is a dinner that is a celebration of a successful year of band. This year, the banquet will be on Monday, May 2 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. The dinner typically includes a senior tribute, presentation of awards as outlined in the handbook, etc. All high school band students and parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

HOW CAN I HELP?

By now, you've figured out how active the SHS Band Booster Board is in supporting all of the activities of the band! In addition to serving on the SHS Band Booster Board, there are always numerous ways for band parents to become involved. At this time, hopefully many of you have already volunteered to help by serving on one of our committees that support the band. If you have not already volunteered and would like to help out, please contact an Executive Board Member to find out how you can help. As always, we are very grateful for any assistance you can provide.

STILLWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HEAT RELATED ILLNESS

RED FLAG ALERTS

- Level of heat index: Air temperature combined with relative humidity. (85 degrees and 85 % humidity)
- Staff/students taking medications such as antihistamines or diuretics.

PREVENTION

- Drink plenty of water before starting an outdoor activity.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Drink one to two cups of water in the hour preceding practice or competition.
- Continue drinking every **15-20 minutes** during activity.

HEAT CRAMPS: Least severe

SYMPTOMS:

- Painful muscle spasms

FIRST AID:

- Rest in a cool, shaded area
- Give cool water or commercial sports drink
- Lightly stretch and gently massage area

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Often affects athletes

SYMPTOMS:

- Profound weakness and exhaustion
- Cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin
- Dizziness
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea

FIRST AID:

- Rest in a cool, shaded area
- Slowly sip water or a commercial sports drink
- Remove excess clothing and loosen tight clothing
- Apply cool, wet cloths to the skin

HEAT STROKE: Medical Emergency

Least common, but most severe. Usually occurs when signals of heat exhaustion are ignored.

SYMPTOMS:

- High body temperature
- Red, hot, dry skin
- Confusion or loss of consciousness
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Frequent vomiting

FIRST AID:

- CALL 911 and transported to Emergency Room
- Move to cool place
- Cool the body without causing to shiver by immersion in cool water
- Fan vigorously

Stillwater Public Schools Administration

Stillwater High School - 533-6450

Uwe Gordon – Principal

Frank McClain – Assistant Principal

John Fields – Assistant Principal

Stillwater Junior High School - 533-6420

Trent Swanson – Principal

Walter Howell – Assistant Principal

Jessica Watts – Assistant Principal

Pioneer Band Booster Organization

Executive Board Members

President – Rose Bonjour

Co-Vice President – Melanie Eick and Amy Storm

Secretary – Brenda Nipp

Treasurer – Tina Krysiak

Committees:

Student Account Manager – Laurie Eastman

Concessions – Melanie Eick and Amy Storm

Fundraising – Denise Christy, Edmond Bonjour

Hospitality – Toni Coleman

Chaperones – Jeanine Schnelle

Color Guard – Michelle Kuehn

Uniforms – Tammy Davis

Publicity – Roba Smith

Web Site – band directors

Transportation – TBA

Marching Contest – Ed Davis

Stillwater High School Band Room

533-6463

Stillwater Junior High School Band Room

533-6420 ext. 5321

Stillwater Middle School Band Room

533-6432

Stillwater Bands Website

www.stillwaterbands.org

HANDBOOK CONTRACT

STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL

PIONEER BAND

(Please return to the band office)

Please sign below to indicate that you have received, read, and filled-out the following documents/forms:

Pioneer Band Handbook
Co-Curricular Activities Student-Parent Contract

The following forms need to be filled out and submitted only if changes have occurred since last fall. If we do not receive updated forms from you we will assume that last years' files are current.

Authorization for Emergency Care to Minor
School Provided First Aid/Non-Prescription Medication Authorization
First Aid/Non-Prescription Log

Date_____

Student's signature_____

Parent's signature_____