

John H. Pitman High School  
Bands & Color Guard

STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2007-2008



John H. Pitman High School  
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Ruben Modesto, Director of Bands

Concert Band  
Symphonic Band  
Marching Band (The Marching Pride)  
Jazz Ensemble  
Color Guard

## Instrumental Music

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Room C 102

### **PITMAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND COURSE OFFERINGS:**

**Concert Band:** Primarily a band consisting of freshmen and sophomores who study and perform music of grade ranges II through IV. The class meets one period per day, rehearses at night during the marching season and some after school rehearsal during the concert season. Members of the Concert Band are expected to be active participants of the Marching Band. The ensemble performs at CMEA offered festivals, the District Music Festival and public concerts.

**Symphonic Band:** The Symphonic Band is the principal concert organization, attending CMEA and NCBA sponsored events, and performing at public concerts. The ensemble performs music of grade ranges III through V. Membership is determined by audition of all band members. The instrumentation of the Symphonic Band is pre-determined by an ideal standard, and once that instrumentation is filled, additional members are rarely accepted. Members of the Symphonic Band are also expected to be active participants of the Marching Band, and any member who fails to maintain a consistently high level of musicianship may be rescheduled to the Concert Band.

**Jazz Ensemble:** The Jazz Ensemble is an ensemble made up of students interested in playing a wide range of jazz related literature. You must be enrolled in Symphonic Band or Concert Band to participate (please refer to school course directory). Auditions will be held in the spring of each year for the coming fall. The instrumentation of the Jazz Ensemble is pre-determined by an ideal standard, and once that instrumentation is filled, additional members are rarely accepted. The Jazz Ensemble performs at a wide range of events, but not limited to, including CMEA and NCBA sponsored events, home concerts, and public performances.

**Color Guard:** The color guard is open to ANY student who does not play a band instrument, and would like to become a part of the marching program. Specialized instruction is provided on flag, rifle, and identification shield. Extra rehearsals and performances are required beyond the school day. All members travel with the Marching Band to all performances: football games, parades, and competitions. After the marching season, the guard performs at basketball games, rallies, and community events. Members meet all financial obligations to the marching band and must purchase / fund raise their uniform(s).

## **Course Objectives**

- 1) Students will be able to read, notate, listen to, analyze, and describe music and other, aural information, using the terminology of music.
- 2) Students will apply vocal and instrumental music skills in performing a varied repertoire of music. Students will be able to compose and arrange music and improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments, using digital/ electronic technology when appropriate.
- 3) Students will be able to analyze the role of music in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting cultural diversity as it relates to music, musicians, and composers.
- 4) Students will be able to critically assess and derive meaning from works of music and the performance of musicians in a cultural context according to the elements of music and aesthetic qualities.
- 5) Students will be able to apply what they learn in music across subject areas. They will develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and management of time and resources that contribute to lifelong learning and career skills. Students will learn about careers in and related to music.

## **Rules and Expectations**

- 1) Students are expected to respect people and property
- 2) Throw your food, drink, or gum in the trash when you enter the classroom
- 3) Be ready to listen and/or play when the director is on the podium
- 4) Raise your hand and wait to be called on before you speak
- 5) Clean up your area before leaving class.

## **Consequences**

- 1) Verbal warning
- 2) Moved to another seat
- 3) Isolation
- 4) Parent contact
- 5) Referral to Assistant Principal

\*\*Severe Clause: Any step or steps may be skipped for severe violations

## **Rewards**

- 1) Verbal positive praise
- 2) Positive note or call home
- 3) Class may earn Preferred Activity Praise

## Required Materials

- 1) Notebook with staff paper
- 2) Pencil
- 3) Instrument including oil, reeds, mouthpiece, etc.

## Classroom Procedures

- I. Beginning of class
  - a. Enter class quietly
  - b. Be in your seat with your instrument, pencil, notebook, and music by 4 minutes after the bell rings
  - c. Warm up on your own until Mr. Modesto steps on the podium
- II. Rehearsal
  - a. Participate, follow directions, and be respectful
  - b. Always listen. You cannot listen and talk at the same time
- III. Ending of class
  - a. Put your instrument away
  - b. Clean the area around you
  - c. Put your chair and stand away before leaving

**Attendance Policy:** A student may make up work and/or tests as a result of an EXCUSED absence. Make up assignments and tests must be made up within the same number of days that the student was absent. Make up work and/or tests missed for any other reason may be made up for one-half credit. This includes work missed due to suspension.

**However,** students are expected to be at ALL performances. Very few excuses are considered excused for missing a concert. Work is not an excuse to miss a performance. If you must miss a performance, notify Mr. Modesto verbally and in writing within one week of the performance to be missed. This does not guarantee that the absence will be excused. In the case of extreme emergencies, the absence will be considered excused.

**Tardy Policy:** Sent to Dean on 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy.

## Grading

The following will make up a student's quarter grade:

- 1) 20% In-class Participation
- 2) 30% Test Grades (Playing and written)
- 3) 40% Performance and Rehearsal Participation
- 4) 10% College or profession ensemble concert attendance

Semester grades will be determined by the following:

- 1) 40% 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter
- 2) 40% 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter
- 3) 20% Semester Final

### **Important General Information**

**Eligibility:** Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 in order to be eligible for performances! If students are ineligible, the director will give an alternative assignment(s) to make up for all performances missed. Ineligible students are still expected to show up for after school rehearsals.

**Rehearsals and Performances:** We will rehearse during our scheduled class time. Performances can be during the day, evenings, or on a weekend. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Occasionally, we may need to schedule an extra performance or rehearsal outside of our regular class time. These will be announced well in advanced and are also required. If you must miss, make sure you inform Mr. Modesto verbally and in writing. Keep in mind transportation and work, are not valid excuses for missing a rehearsal or performance.

**Sectionals:** A sectional is an extra rehearsal called for by either the section leader or Mr. Modesto. Any time a sectional is called, it is essential that all section members attend. The section leader should take roll and let Mr. Modesto know if a member does not attend without a good excuse. Sectionals are used to improve the overall quality of a section. These rehearsals, if handled properly, can do a lot toward building section unity both socially and musically. No band can truly be outstanding without regular sectional work. Section leaders should take it upon themselves to develop a regular sectional routine that fits the schedules of the section's members.

### **Uniform Issuance**

**\*\*Any student who is not wearing the prescribed attire for any performance will not be allowed to perform and will not earn points for that performance.**

**Marching Band:** Marching Band uniforms will be issued during band camp and during the first two weeks of school. However, these uniforms will not be going home with you. You will be given you uniform on the day of performances. The uniform consists of trousers, jacket, hat, plume, black socks, and black marching shoes. Occasionally the marching band uniform may consist of a band shirt and pants. Mr. Modesto will let the students know which uniform to wear for the performance.

The marching Band has just purchased new uniforms. These uniforms cost about \$450 each. Each student is responsible for their uniform while it is in their care. Students are not allowed to eat or drink while in uniform. (Water is allowed) Students are expected to remain in full uniform until they are allowed to change. When a student is in uniform, they are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner. Remember, when you

are in uniform, you represent yourself, your parents, Pitman High School, as well as the city of Turlock itself. So it is essential that you conduct yourself accordingly.

To make changing at band reviews easier, students are expected to wear shorts or spandex shorts and a band shirt. The shorts are to be worn underneath their clothes when they arrive and will be worn underneath their marching uniform during the parade.

### **Concert Attire:**

#### Symphonic Band

- Tuxedos for men (trousers, jacket, white tuxedo shirt, cummerbund, bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes)
- Long black dresses for women (black nylons, black shoes)

#### Concert Band

- Men: black dress pants, white dress shirt, tie, black socks, black dress shoes.
- Women: Black dress or black skirt and white blouse, nylons, black shoes (skirt or dress MUST be below the knee)

**Jazz Band:** Uniform is all black. Black dress pants, black dress shirt, black socks and black dress shoes.

### **Instrument Rentals**

The school owns an inventory of certain instruments for student use. These are free for the school year after a contract is signed by the student and Mr. Modesto. After the contract is signed, the student is then responsible for the care of the instrument. Repair of damage due to misuse and reed replacement will be the student's responsibility. This policy also refers to the percussion section.

### **Tryouts and Challenges**

**Tryouts:** Jazz Band and Symphonic Band require an audition.

**Band Challenges:** If after auditions, you are not content with your placement within the section, you may challenge to advance your position. Challenges will be over music that the band is rehearsing. Mr. Modesto may add technical exercise to the challenge if he wishes. Short excerpts will be performed and there will usually be two or three of these. Those challenging must notify the section at least 4 days before the next challenge date. The person being challenged must accept the challenge or automatically lose their position. A student may only move up one chair per challenge.

**Honor Bands, Solo and Ensemble Festivals:** Students will have the opportunity to audition for the county honor band NCBA Nor-Cal Honor Band and the CBDA All-Sate

Honor Band. Students will also be encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble festivals. To make an honor ensemble is a real honor for any student. To participate in solo and ensemble festival, students will either prepare a solo with piano accompaniment or an ensemble of three or more people.

**Audition Tips:** Get the audition music as early as possible and really learn it. *Go for more than just the notes.* Dynamics, expression, pitch, and most of all tone are the ways to impress the judge. It is normal to get nervous during your audition. Play for family and friends to minimize the negative effects of nerves. The only way to practice sight-reading is by doing it. Make it a regular part of your practice. Remember: ***accuracy is more important than speed.***

**Tips on Preparation of Solos and Ensembles:** When you prepare a solo you are actually performing a duet with your accompanist. Therefore, **it is essential that you line up a competent pianist as early as possible.** I would suggest getting your piano player as soon as you decide you will be performing a solo, months ahead of the performance. **Expect to pay your pianist for their efforts!** This assures a commitment of time and quality from them. Plan adequate rehearsal time with your pianist. Include a few time when your pianist, private teacher (or Mr. Modesto), and yourself can all be present. **When choosing music be careful.** Select a work that shows off your talents yet is technically and musically attainable. Look at the piano part too (better yet, have your pianist look at it). Is it going to cause any special problems? Mr. Modesto or your private teacher should have plenty of input.

The best tip for preparing ensembles is to plan plenty of rehearsals. Start months ahead so that your group can really work out ensemble balance, intonation, phrasing, etc. Being part of a regularly practicing ensemble can be the most enjoyable playing outlet you can get involved in, and it is a great way to develop your musicianship.

### ***Special Note to Parents***

Nothing can aid your student more than regular practice augmented by private lessons with a trained musician. Also, nothing can hinder your child's progress more than an instrument in poor repair. Give your young musician every opportunity to reach their potential. Please consult Mr. Modesto or an other trained musician before you purchase an instrument for your child.

Parents are invited to join and/or attend the Booster Club. Our Booster Club meets on the 1st Thursday of each month.

### ***Fund Raising*** ☺

Running the Pitman HS music program is an expensive project. Fund raising is absolutely essential to develop and maintain a quality program. Expenses include: instrument purchase and repair, travel, music, hiring clinicians, audiovisual equipment, replacing old drum heads, mallets, mouthpieces, etc. The quality and number of

activities we undertake depends on our success in fund raising. The responsibility for fund raising is shared among the instructional staff, the parents, and the students. Nobody likes to do it, but to succeed everyone must do his or her fair share.

**Pitman High School**  
**Band and Color Guard Handbook Agreement**  
**(please return to the Director by the end of August)**

My son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read the PHS Bands and Color Guard Handbook. We understand the dedication and expectations listed in the manual that it takes to be part of an outstanding band and guard program. We understand the grading and attendance policies set by the Director and all performances throughout the year will be attended (unless absences are excused ahead of time by the Director). We are aware that even excused absences, whether for after school rehearsals or performances, must be made up by performing for the Director and/or writing a paper to make up the points. Unexcused absences from after school rehearsals will not give a student the opportunity to make up the points missed and an unexcused absence will drop a student two full letter grades without making it up.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

It is very important that your personal contact information is correct. Even though you are mailed through the school data base, sometimes that information isn't always up to date. Often mail is returned to sender and phones are disconnected. We, the band director and boosters, would also like to have information sent to you via e-mail (notices, announcements, reminders, newsletter, etc.). We feel it would be more convenient to contact you by e-mail so you can read and answer back at your own leisure and reduce the amount of phone tree calling. Please give us an e-mail address that you desire information can be sent.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Group(s): Symphonic Band    Concert Band    Jazz Ensemble    Color Guard  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phones: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_