



Pearl Junior High School Eighth Grade Information

www.pearlpirateband.org

Dear Eighth Grade Students & Parents,

Welcome back to the Pearl ***"Pirate"*** Band Program!! Please read the items below so that you may become reacquainted with the band program, and how we will start off the beginning of the year. Our number one goal during the eighth grade is preparing students for the Pearl 'Pirate' Band when they move on to the high school.

1. **Eighth Grade Band** is a continuation of the skills learned in the seventh grade, and the development of further musicianship. This third year in band offers more performance opportunities for students as a group, and as individuals. **The main goal for this year will be to prepare you to be effective performers in the Pearl High School Band.**
2. **The 8th Grade Band offers many performance opportunities.** They are scheduled to include PJHS night September 21 @ PHS, pep rallies, some Junior High Football Games (Sept. 4, 11, 25), Christmas Concert (Dec. 3) and Christmas Parade (Dec. 15), one student to the State Band Clinic (December 5-8), PJHS Band Clinic Jan. 25-26, East Central Miss. Band Clinic Feb. 7-9, Band Festival - TBA, and the Spring Concert (May 13). The Junior High Band receives a portion of the concession stand proceeds at all home games. We will be calling on 8th grade parents for help on home game days. We would greatly appreciate parent help in the concession stand.
3. **Our uniform** We will wear our blue polo shirt and khaki pants for concerts. If you do not have a pair of plain khaki pants, you must invest in some. We also will be getting a dry-fit shirt and black shorts to wear for pep rallies and football games. These must be worn at performances. The cost for the dry fit shirt and shorts is \$25. ***If your polo shirt from last year still fits, wear it.***
4. **There is a band fee paid each semester.** Students who play their own instrument pay \$25.00 each semester. Students who play a school owned instrument pay \$60.00 each semester. These fees are used for the purchase of method books, solos, school bus travel, and instrument maintenance, etc. These fees are due at the end of September and at the end of January. You may pay this in the band office. Checks are payable to Pearl Junior High. ***All cash/checks must be turned into the band office in an envelope with the student name and purpose (dues, shirt, etc.) on the outside or pay through Charms. YOU MUST PAY YOUR FEES IN ORDER TO PERFORM ON CONCERTS.***

5. **Third Class Musicianship Pass-off system.** This year students will be required to pass off scales, arpeggios, and other requirements to be eligible for spring performance opportunities and membership in the Pearl High School band. Students will be given a list of these requirements, which are similar to what we took tests on in the past.
6. **We are very careful to stress** to the students the proper care and maintenance of their instrument. Please help us by keeping instruments in the assigned locker/place in the band hall while they are at school. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen instruments. For this reason, we insist that personal instruments be taken home at the end of the day. All band students except Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion will have an assigned instrument locker. Each student must have a combination lock (no keys) for this locker. We will keep a record of combinations in Charms. If a student forgets a combination regularly, the student will lose their locker.
7. **High School Band Helpers** will have the opportunity to assist with the high school band at their marching performances. We will have a sign-up for those interested. **There is a significant financial investment to be a band helper to cover travel to games and contests.** Students must demonstrate responsibility and be trustworthy to be selected. All that sign up may not be selected. The ten to twenty students selected must be available to attend all of the Friday night high school football games and the scheduled contests in the fall and pay their helper fees up front. It will also be necessary for them to attend some of the Thursday evening practices. We will notify you of the details in a future letter.
8. **All band members (except school owned horns)** will need to go purchase a lyre for their instrument from a music store. A lyre will hold their flip folder (provided by the band) on their horn for our football game performances. Each lyre is specific to the type of horn you have so take your horn with you to the store when purchasing to make sure it fits. These must be purchased by the first jr. high football game, Sept. 4.
9. **For instrument repairs,** please see a band director before you put a horn in the shop. Sometimes we can help speed up the process if we know about it ahead of time. We don't want you to be without an instrument in class because you will get behind.
10. **We want to stay in contact with you.** Please make sure you know how to log in to Charms to view your information. You can also keep up with fees online and pay them this way. Sign up for Remind101 by texting @pearlj to 601-714-2363.