

Poplar Bluff Music Department



Sho-Me Band

2026 - 2027 Handbook

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Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – the band! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding, yet rewarding, activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music-making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one at our school. The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for high-quality music and music-making!

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veterans.

Some of the information has changed, so make sure you're informed. For those new to the program, this is the "band bible," which keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting the handbook, and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained within this handbook will both inform and inspire!

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information, and sign the form in the back of the book. This form needs to be turned into a band director as soon as possible. I am honored to be your band director and am looking forward to a great year!

Mr. Winters
Poplar Bluff HS Head Band Director



BAND CLASSES OFFERED

Course Description:

Band is considered a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters. The Fall Semester is centered around the marching and concert music and the Spring Semester focuses on the Concert/Wind Ensemble/Percussion Ensemble music. During the course of the school year, members are required to participate in band for both semesters. Participants are expected to attend all Marching Band and Concert/Wind Ensemble related activities for the school year. The following band classes are offered on a yearly basis. ** indicates a required class/ensemble for all instrumentalists.*

***Marching Band/Large Concert Ensemble:** this is a 1 semester course during the Fall semester for all instrumentalists and color guard students. Percussionists will have a separate class period from the woodwinds, brass and color guard. Percussionists must audition for a position on the drumline or front ensemble - *the directors will decide based on audition results where students will be placed.* This ensemble is co-curricular meaning it includes mandatory rehearsals and performance during and outside of the class period. Students will perform at home football games, competitions, parades, concerts, basketball pep band concerts and any other possible performance opportunities made available.

***Concert Band / Wind Ensemble (Pep Band):** this is a 1 semester course during the Spring semester for all instrumentalists. Percussionists will have a separate class period from the woodwind and brass musicians. Students are required to audition for placement in either ensemble during the Fall semester - *the directors will decide based on audition results where students will be placed.* These ensembles are co-curricular meaning they include mandatory rehearsals during and outside of the class period. Students will participate in basketball pep band, State Large Ensemble Festival, the Poplar Bluff Concert Festival, the PBHS Spring Concert, and any possible performance opportunities made available.

Studio Jazz Band : this is a year-long course available to instrumentalists by audition only. Through the performance of jazz and contemporary music, students will study current styles, techniques, improvisation and harmony. This is a co-curricular class - students will be graded for events during and outside of the school day. Students will participate in numerous jazz assessments, competitions, concerts, and other performance opportunities made available. *Must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Concert band or Percussion class to enroll in Studio Jazz Band.*

Stage Jazz Band: this is a 1 semester course during the Spring semester available to instrumentalists by audition only. Through the performance of jazz and contemporary music, students will study current styles, techniques, improvisation and harmony. This is a co-curricular class - students will be graded for events during and outside of the school day. Students will participate in numerous jazz assessments, competitions, concerts, and other performance opportunities made available. *Must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Concert band or Percussion class to enroll in Studio Jazz Band.*

Membership Requirements and Policies of PBHS Sho-Me Band

Being a part of the band program involves many aspects and required events. Students in the band program will participate in marching band, concert band, basketball pep-band, and other band-specific activities. Many of the below requirements/policies apply to both marching, concert and pep band.

Marching Band Camp

Marching band camp is held at the end of July and beginning of August. ***Band camp is required for all students in band!*** Approximately eight weeks of normal rehearsal time is crammed into band camp so attendance is a requirement. On the final day of band camp, the band will perform for their parents and friends. See band calendar at the back of this handbook for exact band camp dates. You may also see the band calendar on www.shomeband.com under the calendar link (the band calendar will be updated throughout the year as needed).

After School Rehearsal Procedures

- Students are expected to be in their designated spots, with all necessary materials and equipment at the specified starting time of the rehearsal.
- Students are expected to stay for the entirety of each after school rehearsal. Leaving early for any unexcused reason will be counted as an unexcused absence and/or will result in lost rehearsal participation points.
- In marching band, each student is required to have a dot book, pencil, instrument, water bottle, and tennis shoes. Students can purchase a “fanny pack” to help hold their equipment.
 - Students will need a phone to access their marching drill through the Ultimate Drillbook App.
 - Water bottles need to be labeled with the student's name. The student will fill the water bottle at the beginning of rehearsal before going to the attendance block. Students should purchase a water bottle that can clip onto their clothes or hang on their shoulder.
 - Students are required to have tennis shoes for each marching rehearsal. Marching with sandals or barefoot is not allowed. Students not in appropriate footwear will be required to use their band shoes and will be deducted participation points.

Conflicting Sports Policy

Due to the fact that some fall sports practice at the same time as the marching band, the following is the policy that we will follow when a sport conflicts with the practice or performance schedule of the marching band:

- Fall sports that typically conflict with the marching band: Football, girls softball, girls golf, girls tennis, cross country, boys soccer and ROTC Raider Team.
- Students who play one of the above sports will participate in normal band class during the school day by playing their instrument and/or marching with the band.
- Students are required to give the band directors a calendar of their sport as early in the season as possible and will meet with the directors to figure out any of the schedule conflicts.
- Students will try to split rehearsal and sports practice time if that is possible. For example, students come to band practice for the first 45 minutes of practice and then go to their tennis practice for the remainder of the time.
- If there is a sports game on the same day as a marching band practice, students will participate in the sports game for the entire rehearsal time. For example, there is a girls softball game at 4:00 pm; the student will miss all of marching practice to prepare for and play the game.
- If there is a band performance at the same time as a sports practice, the student will perform with the band instead of attending the sports practice. For example, there is a football game performance at the same time as a soccer practice; the student would perform with the band instead of practicing with the team.
- Before students will be allowed to perform with the marching band, they will be evaluated to make sure they can play and/or march their position without endangering themselves or others around them. Excessive absences from sport conflicts may result in the student not being able to perform with the band and may result in the student becoming an alternate for the season.
- It is the student's responsibility to communicate and work through all conflicts with the director(s) and their coach(es). No communication from the student will result in a consequence(s) stated in the Band Handbook and/or PBHS Student Handbook.

Band Attendance Policy

Expectations of a Performing Ensemble

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." - Vince Lombardi

The nature of this quote is simply understood amongst members of a performing ensemble concerning the significance of their individual contribution. It is a small part of our culture or unspoken code of musicians. There are very few other activities or events that absolutely require your attendance and participation like that of a performing ensemble. Absences affect not only the individual who is absent but the entire ensemble. As a member of this group YOU are interconnected to every other member's performance and learning in an infinite number of ways. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns, as well as eliminating the opportunity to develop blend, balance, and precision with the other students in the ensemble. We cannot do what we do without you regardless of the circumstances. As you gain more experience in the band, this will become evident to you.

Excused Absences

- Excused absences include the following:
 - Death in the immediate family or attendance to a funeral.
 - Personal illness and/or doctor's and/or dental appointment – The student is expected to have a doctor's note stating the student's inability to perform/practice. Absence will not be excused without a doctor's note. Note: Feeling a little sick is normal at the end of a long school day. Eat a snack before rehearsal.
 - If you are absent from school for an illness, you are not allowed to participate in rehearsal on that day (MSHSAA rule).
 - If you are absent from school on Friday, you are not allowed to participate at the football game or on any weekend festivals following the absence (MSHSAA rule).
- Sports or activity conflict: Students who are actively participating and representing PBHS in an actual competitive activity (sport) may be excused from rehearsal at the director's discretion (please see above section titled "Conflicting Sports Policy").
 - Students who miss a rehearsal due to a field trip or other similar activity may be excused at the director's discretion. Directors should be notified as soon as possible about upcoming field trips so they can better plan the rehearsals.
 - Excused absences from performances (very rare) due to another competitive activity will be handled on a case by case basis in advance. All absences in this category must be discussed with and approved by the band director as soon as you become aware of the conflict and **at least two weeks prior to be excused.**
- Verified absences through the office - must still qualify for your position when you return.
- Planned absences must be communicated **at least two weeks in advance of that absence.**

Unexcused Absences

- Any absence that does not fall within the above categories will be classified as unexcused.
 - Examples: Work, No Ride, Oversleeping, "I did not know we had rehearsal", homework, etc.
- Unexcused absences will result in all points lost for the event.
- Band unexcused absence discipline procedure is as follows:

- **First unexcused absence** must be addressed with a director face to face before the student is allowed to perform.
- **Second unexcused absence** must be addressed in a meeting with the director, student, and the parent/guardian of the student before the student is allowed to perform.
- **Third unexcused absence** will result in removal from the marching show for the remainder of the season and placement as an alternate moving forward. This may impact a student's ability to participate in future band activities and ensembles. Students will receive alternate assignments to satisfy points missed for after school rehearsals, performances, and other required events.
 - Students are required to participate in the normal class period.
 - Students will not be refunded any band fees and will be required to pay any outstanding fees.
- Students who have an unexcused absence the week of a marching band performance(s) **will not** be eligible to perform at that performance(s). Students who are not eligible to perform are still expected to attend the performance(s). Failure to attend will result in another unexcused absence.
- Students will be subject to testing on marching or musical skills before they are allowed to perform with the band.
 - Playing music from memory (marching band)
 - Playing of scales and/or music exercises/warm-ups
 - Marching your drill
 - Execution of Visuals
 - Performance of concert music

Excessive Absences

- Three or more excused or unexcused absences during the marching season will be considered excessive.
- Students with excessive absences from band camp may be put on alternate status for a portion of or the remainder of the season.
- Students who have excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may be subject to skills testing before being allowed to perform with the band.
- Students with excessive unexcused absences may be subject to removal from the band or put on alternate status for the remainder of the season.

School Activity Hierarchy (Band)

- *Sports Rehearsals = Band Rehearsal*: split rehearsal time 50/50 (*example: 45 minutes each*)
- *Sports Game > Band Rehearsal*: attend athletic games over band rehearsals **if** there is a conflict of time. If the times do not overlap, attendance at both is expected/required.
 - not attending a rehearsal due to a sports game that takes place after the band rehearsal will result in an unexcused absence.
- *Sports Game < Band Performance*: attendance at all band performances is mandatory due to the small number of band performances and their grade requirement versus the large number of games in a sport's season.
- *State Sport Event = Band Performance*: for high level sport events, a meeting must be held between the student and director(s) to come up with a solution.
 - not meeting to create a solution in advance will result in an unexcused absence.

Marching Reserve (Alternate) Policy

Our marching numbers for the fall are set during the spring and summer marching sessions. To make sure we do not have students missing during a performance ("holes"), we make an educated guess at the number of students who we think will actually show up in the fall semester. While our objective is to maximize student participation on the field, we remain committed to maintaining the highest possible standard for the marching band's performance.

We have a reserve policy to help make sure we do not have holes during the performance of our show. A percentage of the band members in each section will be designated as reserves to help fill in if someone is sick, has an accident, moves out of the district or decides to stop showing up to practices or performances. Students who are in the marching reserves are expected to perform with the band during pre-game festivities, in the stands with the pep band, during parades, during pep rallies at the high school, and travel with the band on all trips. Reserve members are expected to attend all practices and performances. Reserves who are not marching at a festival will help the band with props, moving equipment, etc.

The Sho-Me Marching Band is a **team** effort, and like any team, we need to fill every position on the field without any empty spots. This is critical for two reasons:

1. The listeners and viewers (whether it is a parent, an audience member from another school or a judge at a contest) expect the best possible performance. An empty spot detracts from the performance of everyone on the field.
2. The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group. The critical factors of uniformity, balance, precision, spacing, and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences.

In order to give all members a fair opportunity and still maintain the highest standards of performance, we have established the following **Reserve Policy**:

1. To be guaranteed a marching position on the field, students must have good attendance, be able to play their music at a high level, and be working their way through the "Marching Levels Check-Off Sheet."
2. A reserve marcher may challenge another student for their marching position during a marching rehearsal. The challenger must let the other student know about the challenge at least a day in advance. They may not challenge the same student more than once in a week.
3. The reserve marcher may not challenge a marcher that is at a higher level on the "Marching Levels Check-Off Sheet." For example, someone who has not completed level one cannot challenge someone who has already completed level two.
4. In most sections, there are a few reserves **that take turns at performances and rehearsals**. If the students who share a position are equal in check-offs and ability, they will take turns in performances. If one member is clearly stronger, that person will march in the competitions. Every attempt will be made to include as many performers as possible, pending their level of achievement.
5. Students who are deemed ineligible by the school district due to suspension, grade problems, attendance issues, etc. may lose their marching position to a reserve member.

This system has been successful over the years. It has also helped to *motivate* the members to always do their best and stay on target. The marching skills demanded by the contemporary marching band are very complex, and many times the physical coordination of young members does not mature until their sophomore year. Rookies often "pay their dues" their first year and then become a "regular" in succeeding years. No positions are ever "set in concrete" and many changes occur as the season

progresses. Every effort to be as fair as possible and have as many members perform as possible will be made.

Football Game Procedures

- Students are required to attend regular season and playoff games.
- Attire: students are required to wear the specified attire stated in the Band Syllabus - deductions in student's grade will be made if attire is incorrect.
- Before the game:
 - Only play in the band room or in the designated warm-up area – no playing in transit between rooms or the football field.
 - Girls will change in the small band room and boys in the choir room (make sure to have athletic shorts and t-shirt under uniform).
 - Uniform bags and hat boxes are to be placed on the correct uniform rack after changing.
- During the game:
 - All band members must stand and participate in the stands by playing their instrument and performing cheers.
 - Students are not allowed to be on their cell phones during the game.
 - All sections will clean trash from their row.
 - Students must sit in their required seats during the game.
 - All members must be back in their seats by two minutes left on the clock in the third quarter. Failure to do so will result in reduction or loss of third quarter break at the next game (for individuals or the entire band).
 - No student is allowed to hang out in the band room during the third quarter. The only students allowed in the band room are percussionists who are moving equipment back to the room. After moving equipment, all percussionists will be required to come back to the stands and sit with the band.
 - Non-band students are not allowed in band areas (stands, pre-game block or band room).
 - Treat visiting teams, visiting crowds and other band members with respect.
 - To receive credit for a football game, a student must stay for the entire game.
 - To leave a game or the stands area, students need to receive permission from a band director.
- Post-game:
 - Section leaders need to check their section members to make sure they have all the required uniform parts (coat, pants, gauntlets, sash, hat, socks, and shoes).
 - Band rooms must be clean before the band will be allowed to leave.
 - After changing, students need to take their uniform to be inspected by their section leader before being placed back on the correct uniform rack.

Marching Contest Procedures

- General procedures:
 - When the band arrives at a location, students should not leave the bus or stand up until they are told to do so by a band director or chaperone.
 - Medical emergencies – students should see a band director immediately. All festivals have a first aid station near the stadium. Students should have a friend go with them to the nurse's station.
 - After unloading instruments from the truck they should be placed in the designated storage area. After performing, the instrument should be placed back in the designated storage area. This area needs to be clean and organized at all times.
 - After the band performs and equipment is organized, students will walk to the stadium together and sit as a large group.

- Wear the current band show shirt to the marching festival and while sitting in the stands.
- No students will be allowed on the buses while the band is watching other bands at the stadium.
- Be a good sport even if we do not get the placement that we want at the contest.
- Bus changing area
 - Bus changing – separate buses will be provided for different sexes. No boys are allowed on girl's buses or vice versa.
 - There will be a band parent in charge of each bus – if you have any questions please ask them first.
 - Make sure you do not leave valuables out where they can be taken or damaged. You can put valuables in a band booster truck if needed.
 - Students need to have the current band show shirt and athletic shorts on under their uniform so no skin shows when they change.
 - Bus cameras – the cameras on the buses do not work unless the bus is on. Do not tamper with the cameras in any way.
 - You can block the view from the outside by hanging your uniform bag on the window.
- Hotel Situations
 - Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges.
 - Rooms are to be locked at all times.
 - There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
 - Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
 - All school rules will be enforced on trips.
 - No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with severely.
 - Profanity should not be a part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
 - Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, ready to go.
 - Food deliveries or Door-Dash orders must be delivered no later than 30 minutes prior to curfew. Food orders delivered after curfew without director permission may result in consequence or confiscation of food delivery.
 - Students will be checked in by an adult (director or chaperone) at curfew and are not allowed out of the room after that time.
- Bus procedures
 - All trash must be picked up before students are dismissed from the bus. Major messes may result in consequences and cleaning requirements communicated by the director(s) and/or the bus garage.
 - Students and parents are not permitted to operate the back door of a bus, only bus drivers are allowed to do that
 - Students are not permitted to enter or exit a bus through the back door.
 - Students are responsible for damages to school property, including buses.

Uniforms

- Students and parents are responsible for replacement or repair of the school owned uniform, whole or in part, if it should be damaged or lost. Students should avoid kneeling, sitting on or brushing up against surfaces that will soil the uniform (or pull the fabric - like brick walls or chain link fences).
- Students are not allowed to eat or drink dark colored drinks while in uniform.
- Students are required to hang their individual uniform up following all performances on the correct rack while following all instructions for hanging up each part of the uniform.
- Students will be required to purchase uniform parts or custom uniforms that are considered personal items that cannot be used again by other students. The items may include but are not limited to: gloves (one pair will be supplied by the band boosters), socks, marching shoes, dress shoes, black band shirt, etc. These items must be purchased through the band program (with the exception of socks) to ensure that models and styles match.

- All students must wear black athletic shorts and their show shirt to the performance and wear it under their uniform enabling them to change in a designated area with all other band members.
- No hats are allowed unless provided by the band program for all members.
- Students must wear approved marching band shoes for performances (not tennis shoes, etc.).

Uniform & Equipment Inspections

It is required of all band members to keep their uniforms and equipment in tip-top shape at all times.

Personal Appearance

- No hair should touch the collar at any time, including time in the stands. Those members with long hair must put it in a pony-tail and put it up inside the band hat.
- There should be no visible jewelry: necklaces, large earrings and facial piercings.
- Members should not wear overly bright or distracting make-up.

Uniform

- Should be worn in the proper manner - the entire uniform should be worn until the directors tell you what to remove.
- Pant length should touch the top of the shoe without folding (this makes the band look taller and the legs straighter).
- With the hat on, no hair should touch the forehead bangs must to up inside the hat.
- LONG black socks must be worn and clean with no extra designs on them (short athletic socks are NOT allowed).
- Gloves should be clean and worn for all performances.
- The show shirt and black athletic shorts must be worn under the uniform (this allows us to remove the coat if needed and still look uniform).

Instruments

- Cleaned on the inside and the outside. Brass instruments and percussion must be polished.
- Mouthpiece must be cleaned and undented.
- Reed players need one extra reed at performances in a reed case or protector.
- Brass slides must move easily.
- Saxophone players must have solid black neck straps (no bright colors).
- Brass valves must be well oiled.
- Brass spit valve cords must be in good condition.
- All percussion instruments must be cleaned. Sticks must be uniform IF they are taped.
- All colorguard equipment should be clean and properly taped.

Music

- All members must have their flip folders with all stands, music and a lyre.
- Flip folders should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Water Jug

- All members must bring their official band water jug to all performances. This is required!

Basketball Pep Band Games

- Students are required to attend 3 basketball games. These games will be designated by the band directors.
- Students are expected to have their instrument, necessary music, and wear their black band polo.
- Basketball games are performance grades; unexcused absence from the games will result in all points deducted with no opportunity for makeup
- During games, students are expected to stand for the duration of the game and participate in cheers and performing songs. Failure to do so will result in point deductions.

- Cell phones should be put away while students are in the stands. Points may be deducted if a cell phone is seen being used.
- All members must be back in their seats by two minutes left on the clock in the third quarter. Failure to do so will result in reduction or loss of third quarter break at the next game (for individuals or the entire band).

Grading Policy

The vast majority of student work takes place during rehearsals with all efforts culminating in performance. Students are actively engaged in learning activities throughout every rehearsal and their participation counts as their academic grade. Their attendance and contribution to the rehearsals and performances are paramount to their learning experience. Individual student practice is not required for a grade but is highly encouraged for advancement and to prepare for formal assessments (tests).

- **Class Preparation** - pencil, music folder, sheet music, working instrument and equipment needed.
 - Students who fail to prepare for class are unable to rehearse and learn within our performance based art. If your instrument is in the repair shop, please see a band director for help on acquiring a loaned instrument (you need your own mouthpiece and reeds).
- **Rehearsal Participation** - during and after school rehearsals.
 - Rehearsal is where we learn all of the skills, techniques, music and marching required to put together a good public performance. All learning in this setting is group learning. We learn by watching, listening, modeling, assessing, critiquing and supporting each other. Every person is linked to every other's learning, thus making their presence absolutely necessary.
- **Performance Participation** - concerts, football games, basketball games, and parades.
 - A performance is the most important event that we have. It is the culmination of all the hard work we do in class, during outside school rehearsals and is what we are preparing for. It is the showcase of our student's amazing talents. It is also a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in any other ways as we are a performance art. As with any sports team, a band has many players, each and every player has a part to play in the performance that cannot be replaced or made up. Every person is counting on the next; this is an aspect of the band that makes it so great (working together)! We encourage you to make each and every performance a family event!
- **Assessments** - formative and summative
 - These may include, but are not limited to: Playing tests, written tests, listening assignments, homework assignments, or theory work.

****Any unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal will result in losing all possible points for that assignment in addition to band program disciplinary actions.****

Behavior Participation Requirements

All band members must follow the school rules and regulations to be eligible for participation in band. Any of the following areas may result in removal from band, band performances or trips. Students who do not come to school or have excessive disciplinary actions against them may not be allowed to participate in band.

- Poor attendance to school - each student must maintain at least a 90% attendance rate to be eligible for participation in band activities and trips.
- Excessive discipline issues in school or on trips may result in removal from future band performances or trips. Discipline issues may include but are not limited to suspensions and/or excessive discipline referrals.
- Damage to school property or band equipment may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from band activities and performances.

Student Leaders

All Band Members are leaders in making good choices within their lives, in band, on campus throughout the school day and in our community.

Student leadership is the most vital part of a successful band program. What we do can only be done well if we have everyone onboard with our shared aspirations and goals. Always do your best and never have any regrets. Your actions today sow the seeds of our future leaders; we are all connected throughout the history of our band program. Never underestimate the power of your words and actions. Your service to the band will benefit you for years to come with the leadership experience gained.

The following are expectations, eligibility requirements, responsibilities and descriptions of the leadership positions:

Expectations of All Positions

- Serve as a model band student in all aspects of performance and attitude.
- Promote band spirit and morale whenever and wherever possible.
- Maintain a constant sense of service to the band program.
- Be prepared to assist with teaching marching and music skills throughout the year.
- Help to maintain discipline (appropriate behavioral choices) within the band.
- Arrive at rehearsals and performances prior to all other members of the band to help set up and remain after until all work is completed.
- Attend all student leadership meetings.
- Act as a liaison between the director and students.

Requirements to be a Leader

****Grades will be checked at the end of the semester. You may be removed from your leadership position if you fail to meet these requirements.****

Students must:

- Have and maintain an unweighted 2.5 GPA or greater with no failures in any class for the past semester.
- Have no major disciplinary action at PBHS for the past academic year (minor infractions like tardies are acceptable as long as they do not become excessive).
- Attend all officer leadership camps, regular band camps and rehearsals with no unexcused absences.
- Be willing and able to serve for the entire upcoming school year.

Failure to meet or maintain any of these requirements will result in ineligibility and/or removal from the position.

Responsibilities and Descriptions

Drum Major-Marching Band Conductor

- Conductor for all marching band rehearsals and performances.
- Responsibilities include memorization of all scores exhibited musically with a discernible conducting pattern that maintains a steady pulse.
- Functions as the morale leader of the band at all rehearsals and performances encouraging all members to constantly perform at their best.
- Mandatory attendance at a drum major camp (if one is available to attend).
- May not miss rehearsals or performances for optional school related activities.

Equipment Manager

- Coordinates all equipment transport with section leaders, parents & director.
- Responsible for instrument check-out/check-in.
- Responsible for the care and maintenance of instruments.
- Assists Vice President with stage setup.
- Strongly suggested attendance at a Music/Leadership Camp (if one is available).

Section Leaders (Assistant Section Leaders as needed)

- Must be model band students and know their music, marching, and be able to conduct sectionals.
- Assist individual members within their sections with all aspects of band.
- Assist the band director during inspections.
- Color Guard Captain - mandatory attendance at a Leadership/Flag Camp (if one is available).
- Section Leaders – strongly suggested attendance at a Music/Leadership Camp (if one is available).

Marching Uniform Manager

- Duties include fitting, repairing, organizing and collecting uniforms for cleaning.
- Responsible for communicating the correct way to care for and wear the uniform.
- Responsible for communicating the uniform needs of the band to the director.
- Must be prepared to fix uniforms at all times (sewing kits, extra buttons, etc.).
- Will maintain a list of uniform infractions at all inspections.

Band Librarians

- In charge of all activities related to the band sheet music and music library.
- Duties include distributing, collecting, organizing, copying, documentation and filing music.
- Librarians must communicate to the band director the sheet music needs of the band.

Historian

- In charge of documenting (taking pictures and video) of every band event for the entire year.
- Prepare a photo video for the spring band banquet (if you have the computer technology to do so).
- Create a digital archive of all band historical documents for the current year and previous years.

Social Committee

Financial Obligations

Each band student is assessed a dollar amount determined by the budgeted needs of the band for that year divided by the number of students in band and guard. The student earns credit toward this assessment by selling items during the various fund-raising activities held throughout the year. If the student does not earn enough credits to meet his or her fund-raising obligation, he or she is responsible for the remaining balance. Invoices will be sent out periodically by email and/or written letters.

The band fee amount will be announced in the spring semester before students leave for summer break. Please note that this assessment does not pay for extra band trips or for incidental expenses (band shoes, gloves, flip folder, etc). All Fall accounts must be paid in full by the last full week of November. Any additional costs for the Spring semester (solos & ensembles, all-state participation, Spring trips, etc) must be paid in full by the first full week of April. Any additional funds raised by the student will be added to the band's general fund after the first full week of April. *Please note - no member will be denied the opportunities of the organization due to financial difficulties. Please talk with the director.*

Financial needs exist within the program itself to help maintain, purchase and/or replace school instruments and equipment along with pedagogical tools utilized by directors and students to enhance learning and provide additional opportunities. To help keep up with additional needs within the band program, 10% of all profits raised by students for each fundraiser will go directly to the band's general fund before being added to the student's account. For example, if a student raises \$100 profit on a single fundraiser, \$10 will go to the band's general fund and \$90 will go to the student's account. Additional fundraisers may be introduced specifically to assist with larger band needs.

Marching Band Lettering

Students in band are eligible to earn a marching band letter. This lettering system rewards students who are truly dedicated to the band program and helps maintain the overall integrity of the band program.

To be eligible for a band letter, students must meet the following basic requirements:

- ☐ Be enrolled in band or color guard.
- ☐ Attend all required band camp rehearsals (unless excused by a director).
- ☐ No unexcused absences from after-school rehearsals for marching and concert seasons
- ☐ No unexcused absences from required performances for marching and concert seasons
- ☐ All band fees or outstanding invoices paid (or fundraised).
- ☐ No serious disciplinary actions by the band or the school (example - out of school suspensions) that excludes the student from being eligible for marching practices and/or performances.
- ☐ Complete four of the following:
 - ☐ Participate in a jazz band.
 - ☐ Attend all required basketball pep band games.
 - ☐ Be a part of marching band leadership.
 - ☐ Complete one service project for the band (see band director for guidance).
 - ☐ Audition for All-District concert or jazz band.
 - ☐ Make the all-district concert or jazz band.
 - ☐ Take a solo or ensemble to contest in the spring semester.
 - ☐ Make a one rating at solos and ensembles contest in the spring semester.
 - ☐ Make a one rating at state solos and ensembles contest in the spring semester.
 - ☐ Take documented private lessons.
- ☐ 1st year letterers: you will receive the large PB letter and one chevron.
- ☐ 2nd-4th year letterers: you will receive one chevron per year.

Expectations of Participation

All students are expected to give their best effort in attendance, participation and skill development while conducting themselves in a manner that upholds the Poplar Bluff High School's student code of conduct.

- Students who receive a semester grade lower than 70% for the band class may be dismissed by the director(s) from the band program or placed in an alternate position. Further consequences may be incorporated including but not limited to: reduced opportunities within the band program, loss of privileges including field trips, loss of leadership role(s), and potential alternatives resulting in loss of performance privileges.
- Multiple or severe behavioral violations may result in dismissal from the band program by the director(s). This includes but is not limited to: acts or speech considered bullying, excessive negative comments or acts undermining the director(s), staff, band students/parents or band program, and physical violence or damaging of equipment (school or personal).

Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band

2026-27 Tentative Band Dates

Please be aware that this calendar is subject to change due to elements out of our control (school events that take precedence over our events, etc). The most up to date calendar available is on the band website: <https://www.shomeband.com/calendar>. Dates will be updated on the website calendar in real time.

June 11-25	The Complete Musicianship Camp (no camp on June 19) • Optional enrichment camp - please see paperwork that was handed out in class.
July 2-3	4th of July practices (8-11 am at PBHS)
July 4	4th of July parade (9:00 am in downtown Poplar Bluff)
July 21	Possible DCI trip to St. Louis
July 30	Free physical night at PBHS - All students are required to get a sports physical to participate in band.
July 27-31	Color guard and percussion band camp • Percussion - 9 am to 4 pm (lunch 12 pm to 1 pm) • Color guard - 5 pm to 8 pm due to Ms. Knight's schedule.
August 3-7	Full band camp (all band students) - times announced when finalized
August 10-14	Full band camp (all band students) - times announced when finalized
August 14	Band camp parent performance (6:30 pm in football stadium)
August 28	Football game 1 - Tailgate night
September 18	Football game 2 - Senior night
September 25	Football game 3 - Rivalry night
September 26	Fox Marching Festival
October 10	Potosi Marching Festival
October 16	Football game 4 - Homecoming and Pink Out night
October 24	Ste. Genevieve Marching Festival
TBA	Band bonfire
November 3	All-District Auditions (Jackson HS)
November 21	All-District Concert Band practice and concert (Cape HS)
December 4	Poplar Bluff Christmas parade
December 4-5	All-State Band Auditions (Columbia, MO)
December 15	High School Winter Concert (Call Time 6:30 pm Start Time 7:00 pm)
December 17	Junior High Winter Concert (Call Time 6:15pm Start Time 7:00 pm)
TBA	Basketball games
February 19	SEMO Jazz Festival (jazz bands only)
March 2	Poplar Bluff Concert Band Festival (Poplar Bluff Middle School)
March 16	MSHSAA Large Ensemble Festival (Three Rivers College)
March 17	District Solos and Ensembles Festival (Three Rivers College)
April 20	Junior High Spring Concert (Call Time 6:15pm Start Time 7:00 pm)
April 30-May 1	All-State Solos and Ensembles festival (Columbia, MO)
May 6	High School Spring Concert (Call Time 6:15pm Start Time 7:00 pm)

PB Sho-Me Band Payment #1 of 4

Due by July 31, 2026

Student Name: _____ Instrument/Section: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

- ☐ Enclosed is the 1st (non-refundable) payment of \$25 toward the total Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band cost.
- ☐ Enclosed is full payment of \$100 (\$25 discount from normal band fee)

Make check payable to *PB Sho-Me Band* with the students last name on the memo line.

Payments can be mailed or submitted to the director in person.

If mailing your payment, please include this slip and mail to:

Poplar Bluff High School, 3209 Oak Grove Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901



PB Sho-Me Band Payment #2 of 4

Due by September 18, 2026

Student Name: _____ Instrument/Section: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

- ☐ Enclosed is the 2nd (non-refundable) payment of \$25 toward the total Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band cost.

Make check payable to *PB Sho-Me Band* with the students last name on the memo line.

Payments can be mailed or submitted to the director in person.

If mailing your payment, please include this slip and mail to:

Poplar Bluff High School, 3209 Oak Grove Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

PB Sho-Me Band Payment #3 of 4

Due by October 16, 2026

Student Name: _____ Instrument/Section: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

- ☐ Enclosed is the 3rd (non-refundable) payment of \$25 toward the total Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band cost.

Make check payable to *PB Sho-Me Band* with the students last name on the memo line.

Payments can be mailed or submitted to the director in person.

If mailing your payment, please include this slip and mail to:

Poplar Bluff High School, 3209 Oak Grove Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901



PB Sho-Me Band Payment #4 of 4

Due by November 20, 2026

Student Name: _____ Instrument/Section: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

- ☐ Enclosed is the 4th (non-refundable) payment of \$25 toward the total Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band cost.

Make check payable to *PB Sho-Me Band* with the students last name on the memo line.

Payments can be mailed or submitted to the director in person.

If mailing your payment, please include this slip and mail to:

Poplar Bluff High School, 3209 Oak Grove Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901



2026-27 Poplar Bluff High School Sho-Me Band Student/Parent Membership Contract



I agree to conform to all rules and expectations of Poplar Bluff Public Schools and of the Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band as stated in my school's handbook and in the Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band 2026-27 Handbook. I have read, understood, and agreed to all conditions stated in both handbooks including any consequences of negative or inappropriate behavior. I understand the expectations of conduct and professionalism required of all band members and will do my best to uphold them. I understand that failure to return the signed contract and/or violation of the Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band Handbook may result in my dismissal from the Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band.

Student's Name (print): _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Grade (2026-27): 9 10 11 12

Marching instrument/section: _____ Shoe Size: _____ T Shirt Size: _____

-----PARENTS/GUARDIANS-----

Please initial the following to verify agreement.

* _____ I hereby grant permission for my child (full name) _____ to participate in the 2026-27 Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band program. I understand the rules, regulations and time commitments as stated and that if my child breaks any of the rules, he/she will face the consequences of their choice(s) including the possibility of dismissal from the ensemble without reimbursement.

* _____ I hereby give permission for images of my child, captured during the 2026-27 school year through video, photo and digital camera, to be used solely for the purposes of Poplar Bluff promotional materials, publications, and social medias, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto. Any exceptions to this policy will be registered through the high school office.

* _____ I grant permission for my child to attend performances off the grounds of Poplar Bluff High School. Performances include (but not limited to) competitions, concerts, honors bands, rehearsal, trips, etc. throughout the 2026-27 school year.

* _____ I agree to pay the cost for my child to participate in the 2026-27 Poplar Bluff Sho-Me Band and understand that all Fall Semester costs must be paid by November 20, 2026 and all additional costs accrued from then must be paid by April 9, 2027.

Parent's Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____