

Pleasant Valley High School Music Department



2019-2020 Handbook

Greetings! Welcome back to school!

Welcome to the PVHS Music Department! The 2019-2020 school year will prove to be a great year, with many exciting and fun concerts, trips, and activities planned. Below you will find all of the dates, information, policies, and expectations for being a member of the PVHS Music Department. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Please keep this Handbook so that you may refer to it throughout the year. A copy of it will also be posted on the website.

We look forward to a fantastic year!

Mr. Heimlich, Director of Instrumental Music

Mr. Wolfe, Director of Choral Music

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pleasant Valley High School Music Department is to provide all students with a comprehensive, standards-based music education, fostering artistic development, critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of life-long learning. Through performing and responding to music, all students develop individual skills, realize a sense of belonging, and establish connections to the community. Furthermore, the PVHS Music Department strives to make connections outside of the school, performing for as many school and community events as possible.

Communication

Mr. Ryan Heimlich

Office: Pleasant Valley High School Center for the Arts Band Room, 1475 East Avenue, Chico, CA 95926

Email: rheimlich@chicousd.org (**email is the best form of contact**) ~ Phone: 530-891-3050 x401

Mr. Ethan Wolfe

Office: Pleasant Valley High School Center for the Arts Choir Room, 1475 East Avenue, Chico, CA 95926

Email: ewolfe@chicousd.org (**email is the best form of contact**) ~ Phone: 530-891-3050 x402

We strive hard to communicate as much as possible. Please be on the lookout for weekly update emails with important information. To help with this, I maintain a Texting service for parents and a PVHS Music Website (see below).

TEXTING SERVICE: We have set up a texting service to send out texts as occasional reminders for parents. To subscribe:

Band Parents:

Text the number: 81010

With the message: @fef2c3

Choir Parents:

Text the number: 81010

With the message: @pvhssings

WEBSITE: The website will have copies of this handbook, important forms (permission slips, etc.), calendars, instrument recommendations, and useful links. **www.pvhsmusic.com**

Google Classroom

The PVHS Music Department uses Google Classroom as a method of organization and communication with students. Students will turn in assignments and assessments on Google Classroom. Please see Mr. Heimlich or Mr. Wolfe for the login information.

Course Descriptions

Below you will find a list of music ensembles in the PVHS Music Department. All classes cover music fundamentals, music notation, music theory, sight reading, music history, ear training, instrumental/vocal fundamentals, and technique (scales, arpeggios, etc.). State and national curriculum standards will be covered throughout the year as well. We will have many performances during the year throughout the school, community, and North State.

Wind Ensemble is a year long course for students who have played an instrument for multiple years and would like to perform at an advanced level. **Audition required.**

Concert Band/Symphonic Band is a year long course for students who have played an instrument at least one year or would like to learn an instrument. No audition required.

Choir is a year long course for students wanting to pursue vocal music. No experience or audition necessary!

Jazz Ensemble I is a year long course for students who have played an instrument for multiple years and would like to perform at an advanced level. **Audition required.**

Jazz Ensemble II is a before school ensemble that plays a wide variety of music. The class meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:30am to 7:40am (no class on Wednesday). To be a member of the Jazz Ensemble II, you must be enrolled in concert band or choir. Furthermore, you must have minimum competency on your instrument. No audition required for Jazz II.

Small Groups are extracurricular ensembles that meet at various times. Admittance is based on audition only. The size of the ensembles will be at the director's discretion. Ensembles will be based on student interest and the director's discretion. Ensembles may include: Jazz Combo I, Jazz Combo II, Dixieland Combo, Chamber Choir, Jazz Choir, Glee Club, etc.

Note: Students may be switched out of an auditioned ensemble (Wind Ensemble and Jazz I) to a different ensemble if they are not meeting the standard of performance, as decided by the Director and/or the Principal.

Equipment and Supplies

1. Instruments (band): A VERY limited number of school instruments are available for check out on a first come, first serve basis. It is highly encouraged that each student purchase or rent their own instrument. If you are at all able to rent or purchase your own instrument, it would provide another student a chance to play that instrument, as we do not have enough for every student. However, I understand if this can not be done. A list of recommended brands is on the website. There are good and bad instruments, so please choose carefully!
2. Instrument specific needs (band): Each student will need to have the following accessories for their instrument. These items will need to be purchased at the music store. Please check the website for specific recommendations.
 - a. Flute: cleaning rod, cleaning cloth
 - b. Reed instruments: 2-3 good reeds, reed guard, cork grease, cleaning swab.
 - c. Brass Instruments: valve/slide oil/grease, mutes
 - d. Percussion: drum sticks, stick bag
3. Music: Each student will be assigned sheet music, a folder, and a method book. Students are expected to take care of it, as well as have it at rehearsal everyday. Students will be charged the following for items that are lost or destroyed: \$10 for method books and \$20 for folders.
4. Pencil: The prepared music student always has a pencil in rehearsal! I will test you on this.
5. Uniforms: It is expected that every student dress as follows for performances. If you do not have any of the above items, please see your instructor, as the school has a limited number of items available for loan.

Concert Dress for formal performances:

Option #1: PVHS Music dress. Black flats and black socks/stockings. Students will be charged \$75 for lost or destroyed dresses.

Option #2: Black suit jacket, black collared dress shirt, PVHS tie, black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Students will be charged \$20 for lost or destroyed PVHS tie. There are a number (not a lot) of PVHS suit jackets that can be borrowed – Students will be charged \$50 for lost or destroyed suit jackets.

Informal performances: music t-shirt and jeans/shorts.

Marching Band Uniforms: Marching Uniforms will be checked out to band students. Uniforms include bibbers (pants), jacket, cape, hat, spats, plume. Students are expected to take good care of the uniforms, and they are to remain at school. **Students will be charged \$355 for lost or destroyed complete marching uniforms, or individually: Jacket - \$140, Cape - \$75, bibbers - \$50, hat - \$60, spats - \$15, plume - \$15.**

Marching Band/Dress Shoes: Band students need to purchase a pair of marching band shoes – a specific pair. They can be used for all four years, and can be used for ALL formal band performances as well. Information for purchasing is below.

Grading

Students will earn points on a point system in the following categories:

1. Music Theory/History/Listening Assignments (15%)
2. Performance Assessments: Students will earn points for various musical performance (playing/singing) assessments. Students are expected to practice and know the music they are assigned. (15%)
3. Attendance/Participation: (70%)
 - a. Students will earn points for each performance. **Please check the calendar for required dates and times** (there are events that are not required). Students are expected to attend every **REQUIRED** performance. In the event of illness or emergency, please email me as soon as possible to alert me of what is going on. In all instances, **COMMUNICATION** is the key – please communicate with me.
 - b. Additionally, each student will earn points for being prepared and engaged in the ensemble. Points will be deducted for lack of participation and preparation.
 - c. **FOR MARCHING BAND ONLY:** Every Tuesday night is a combined Marching Band rehearsal from 5:30pm-8:30pm. It is expected that students attend these rehearsals. If a student misses a rehearsal during the week of a Marching Band performance, they may be ineligible to perform that week.

~Late Work: Late work will be accepted up to one week past the due date, with a deduction of one letter grade per day.

~Grading Scale: The Pleasant Valley High School Grading Scale will be used to assign grades.

Classroom Management/Policy:

PVHS Music Students will always follow the Viking Circle: EXCELLENCE, COMMITMENT, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, CHAMPIONS, LEARNING. This includes towards yourself, others, equipment, the purpose, and the music. If a student chooses not to respect any of the above, the following steps will be taken: Student/Parent/Teacher conference, Counselor referral, Administrative referral.

Additionally:

1. Tardies: You are tardy if you are not in your seat when the tardy bell rings. Your participation grade will be affected.
2. School Rules must be obeyed at all times. **This applies on field trips and off campus events, as well.**
3. Cleanliness and Organization: There is a lot of equipment in the band and choir room and we expect you to help keep it clean and organized. Students will be expected to put away their equipment everyday.
4. Students will not use equipment that does not belong to them.

Fundraising

Every member of the PVHS Music Department is asked to fundraise in order to fund the many activities and events that we put on. All money goes towards trips and supplies. Non-participation may result in ineligibility for trips and other fundraised events, as decided by the Principal and Director.

Music Boosters

The PVHS Music Boosters – a registered 501c3 non-profit - is a group of parents and students who work hard to raise funds in order to support the PVHS Music Department. The Booster Meeting schedule is on pvhsmusic.com. For more information, please see the website, and please try to attend a meeting! Many hands make light work!

Grades and Participation

Co-Curricular and extra-curricular participation is critical to the success of our program. To participate in co-curricular events, students must maintain a grade of C or higher in their particular music class, and an overall school GPA of 2.0 or higher with no Fs. Additionally, all student discipline must be cleared prior to participation. Lastly, any disciplinary incidents resulting in a Saturday School assignment or Suspension may result in exclusion from participation, subject to review by the teacher and/or an administrative designee. Separate trip agreements with its own set of rules and regulations, will be sent home for certain trips.

Music Council

Students may participate in the Music Council, which will be responsible for planning and implementing many of the activities that the band and choir will participate in. Meetings will be held during lunch regularly, exact time TBA. Officers will be elected by the band and choir classes.

Honor Band and Select Choir

There are several Honor Bands and Select Choirs that students may take part in. All require an audition. Students must meet the behavior expectations as set forth in this handbook to participate in such ensembles. See the calendar for dates.

Private Lessons

It is highly recommended (but not required) that students receive private lessons. There are many people in Chico that are excellent musicians and teachers. Private lessons are THE single BEST way to improve playing ability! Please ask me for more information.

Extra Help

We are ALWAYS here to help! This applies to both students and parents. Please feel free to contact me at anytime – email is best.

**Pleasant Valley High School Music Department
2019/2020 Handbook and Calendar of Events Agreement**

Please sign and return. This counts as a grade in the gradebook!

We have read the above Handbook and Calendar of Events and understand and agree to the requirements for being a member of this quality organization. We realize it takes full cooperation and dedication to help us meet our potential. We also realize that failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from Band/Choir and participation in extracurricular activities.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

**There will be a Music Boosters meeting on Monday, August 19 at 6pm in the Band Room.
Please plan to attend to help support the Band and Choir!**