



Pearl Junior High School Eighth Grade Information

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.
2. **The Most Exciting Part of 8th Grade Band are the Performance opportunities.** Performances will include junior high football games and pep rallies.(if we are able to, considering that the gym is being rebuilt), Christmas concert and parade, band festival, and spring concert. The Junior High Band receives a portion of the concession proceeds at all JH Games. The Pearl Band Auxiliary concession chairman will be calling on 8th grade parents for help on JH game days. We would greatly appreciate your help if at all possible.
3. **Our uniform** this year will include the following: blue jeans w/belt, band t-shirt, and tennis Shoes (mostly white). Our first performance in uniform will be in early September, so must get shirt sizes as soon as possible from you. Cost of the shirt will be **\$15.00**. Checks made to Pearl Band.
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 the first and third nine weeks. 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.**
5. **The school will continue** to provide methods, music and materials. Students are responsible for these materials just as with other textbooks. Lost or misplaced items are the responsibility of the student. Eighth Grade students will be **given more material** to keep up with than last year so be prepared. Sheet protectors are a must!! They are available in the band office for .10 each.
6. **We are very careful to stress** to the students the proper care and maintenance of their instrument. Please help us by insisting that students keep their instrument 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 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 for this locker. We will keep a record of combinations in the office. After the third time a student forgets a combination, the student will lose their locker.

7. **With over 300 band students** in grades six through eight, we insist that students use the time before the tardy bell and on your way out of class to pay dues, get reeds, valve oil, etc. Do not wait until class starts to go pay money or get valve oil, reeds, etc. In the marching season, you will have more items to keep up with. Keep lyres, flip folders, valve oil, etc., in your case so you don't have to run to your locker or somewhere to get it at the last minute. Tardies will be enforced without excuse.
8. **The Eighth Grade Band** has one major goal this year. That is to prepare students to be successful members of the Pearl High School band.
9. **Several eighth grade band members** will have the opportunity to assist with the high school band at all of their marching performances. We will have a sign up sheet for those interested. Six to ten students selected must be available to attend all of the Friday night high school football games and the scheduled contests in the fall. 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.
10. **All instruments, except tuba, baritone, and French horn, will need a lyre for their instrument, flip folder for their marching music**, and a notebook(3 ring binder) as in past years. This is required for all students. These are extremely important, and students must have them in class every day.
11. **For colorguard**, those students that attended the colorguard camp in June will be eligible. We will rehearse during the band period at school and perform with the band at scheduled performances in the fall.
12. **Interested students** are encouraged to try out for the position of Drum Major. The person selected will conduct the band during their football game performances.
13. **Tryouts for State Band Clinic** will be held after school on a date to be announced soon. One student selected will get to go to Natchez, MS, and perform with students from all over the state. Be practicing on scales to prepare for this tryout. More info on this later.....
14. **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.