

Band Handbook

2009 – 2010

Plano Dist 88



Emily G. Johns School
430 Mitchell St.
1-630-552-9182
Kevin McCammon
kmccammon@plano88.org

www.quia.com/profiles/kmccammon

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Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Emily G. Johns Band Program! I am delighted to have you as a member. In the EGJ band, we strive to have an environment where all members of the band are included. What you gain from participation will depend upon the strength of your commitment. In other words, you will gain from band what you put into band!

This handbook is intended to let you know how things will work in our band. Please take the time to look through it and to complete the information forms on the back pages. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 1-630-552-9182 or email at kmccammon@plano88.org. I am always happy to discuss our program and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin McCammon, Band Director
Emily G. Johns School





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Mission Statement

"Plano Community Unit School District No. 88 aspires to create a positive educational environment for all students to achieve success and experience pride in their schools."

Goals

Music Education Goals

Based on the National Standards for Music Education, which are written in italics, basic musical standards and objectives have been determined. Students will:

1. *Play along and with others, a varied repertoire of music.* Using correct instrumental technique and forms of expression, students will perform a wide variety of band literature.
2. *Reading and notating music, and Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.* Music literacy will develop as musical theory and sight-singing techniques continue to grow. Students will write basic compositions, improvise, and further music theory knowledge.
3. *Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.* Students will develop as critical listeners, and aural skills will aid in musicianship skills. Listening to musical performances allows students to evaluate themselves and other performers while growing musically.
4. *Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts, and Understanding music in relation to history and culture.* Students will study composers, different musical periods, music of other cultures and how music applies to other art forms.
5. *Participate in a wide variety of music experiences, creating aesthetic experiences.*

Musical Goals

1. TONE - A beautiful sound on the instrument
2. PITCH - Accurate pitches, PLAYED IN TUNE
3. BALANCE - Correct blend of all the instruments
4. BLEND – No one in the section sticks out
5. RHYTHM – Accurate counting with a sense of pulse
6. TECHNIQUE -Facility in scales or rudiments and articulation
7. EXPRESSION – communicate feeling through the music
8. AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE - Playing music together is fun!

Scale Goals by Grade

Part of the students' grade will be to perform major and chromatic scales by memory for me throughout the school year for a grade. This is part of the band curriculum that is in place for the district. Below is a break-down of what scales they will need to know for each grade level:

5th Grade Scales

Concert Bb scale within expected range of the instrument
Play in (not necessarily memorize) Eb, F

6th Grade Scales

All scales from 5th grade
Concert Eb, F within expected range of the instrument
Chromatic scale, one octave, beginning on concert Bb
Play in (not necessarily memorize) Ab

Performing Groups

Membership in the band program is open to all students in grades five and six.

CURRICULAR BANDS

FIFTH GRADE BAND – Fifth graders attend band rehearsal at least twice a week during the school day. Students will participate in three formal concerts in the Emily G. Johns Gym in the evening. Selected students may participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Meeting times are arranged according to homeroom teacher.

Green	Monday, Wednesday 9:50-10:35
Wykes/Turner	Monday, Wednesday 10:35-11:20
Love/Lundeen	Monday, Wednesday 12:00-12:45
Michaelson/Alvarez	Tuesday, Thursday 10:35-11:20
Hamilton/Boyd	Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-12:45

SIXTH GRADE BAND – Sixth graders, preferably with one year of playing experience, attend band rehearsals at least twice a week during the school day. Some students do join the band program as beginners at this level *if* they arrange it with Mr. McCammon. Sixth graders will participate in three formal concerts in the Emily G. Johns Gym in the evening as well as the Memorial Day Parade. Meeting times are arranged according to homeroom teacher.

Phillips/Parge	Monday, Wednesday 8:50-9:35
Skinner	Monday, Wednesday 2:15-3:00
Long/Moore	Tuesday, Thursday 8:50-9:35
Secor/Herndandez	Tuesday, Thursday 2:15-3:00

*Classes will also meet on selected Fridays. The students will always know their schedule ahead of time. When in doubt, bring the instrument.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER BAND CAMP - Summer band camp is designed to provide individual and small-group instruction as well as challenging literature for 5th-8th grade band students. Students meet for one week from 9am-1pm to practice and prepare new music. Each day consists of full band, sectionals, lunch, and games. On the final day, the students present a Finale Concert. The cost is \$45.00 (subject to change).

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST – *New for 2009-2010* This contest will held on a Saturday in early spring (date TBA). Students will prepare a solo or ensemble to play for a judge. Judges rate the students according certain criteria such as note accuracy, tone, tempo, dynamics, etc. Students are then awarded a rating of first, second, or third. A first does not necessarily mean that the student was the best at their instrument, but they performed at a high level. Mr. McCammon can help in the selection of appropriate music.

Solo & Ensemble Contest is an excellent opportunity to work in a smaller group. Extra credit is awarded for participation.

Solos: Students will prepare a piece of music to play for the judge. Solos often require piano or recorded accompaniment. Students that study with a private instructor are *highly* encouraged to participate as soloists for contest.

Other Ensembles: This is a great chance to work in a small group. Examples of performing ensembles are brass quintet, woodwind quintet, trios, duets, as well as whole section features. In the few weeks before contest, a few extra rehearsals will be needed to polish the ensemble piece. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the band room for these extra practices.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION – Private instruction is the single greatest thing a student can do to become successful at their instrument. Private instructors are able to tailor instruction to meet the specific needs of each student and constantly provide input to improve musical skills. Most private lessons meet weekly from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Rates depend on the teacher. Contact Mr. McCammon for a list of recommended private instructors.



Classroom Expectations and Procedures

Classroom Rules

1. Respect yourself, each other, and the room/equipment.
2. Be prepared.
3. Food or drink, including candy and gum, is not allowed without the band director's permission.
4. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
5. Keep your hand and feet to yourself.
6. Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking/playing.
7. Participate in all activities and follow directions.
8. Do not talk or play while the director is on the podium, unless instructed to do so.

Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Verbal warning, subtract point from daily grade
3. Zero for daily grade, call home
4. Referral to administration
5. Possible removal from band

Before School Students may DROP OFF INSTRUMENTS in the band room before school. Remember to PICK UP INSTRUMENTS after school to take them home to practice. (Please be silent if entering the band room during a rehearsal).

Rehearsal Enter the band room quickly and quietly. Prepare instrument, music, chair, and stand for rehearsal and be ready to play **2 minutes after class starts**. Students may play during the first two minutes *at a respectful volume* to warm up. There must be no talking when the director is on the podium; that is the signal to be in the ready position to play. Every member of the band is important and every part, every note, and every rest is important. Therefore, when a director is working with one section, ALL other sections will be silently practicing their parts and listening to instructions. No student should play or talk without direction to do so. Disruptions will not be tolerated.

Equipment Emily G. Johns has a beautiful band room and excellent equipment that should receive proper and careful treatment. Students are expected to respect all equipment and maintain cleanliness in the room.

Fees, Money The registration fee for band is \$20.00, which must be turned in by September 14. All money should be turned in to Mr. McCammon. It should always be marked clearly in a labeled envelope with the student's name and purpose.

Storage Room Each student has a designated storage locker for his/her instrument. Students are to use the correct locker only and are NEVER to touch anything in the Storage Room that does not belong to them. During band rehearsal, schoolbooks may also be stored in the lockers.

Please be sure your instrument is labeled with identification! – Name tags are available from Mr. McCammon

Fundraiser Each student is expected to participate in the Poinsettia Sale that kicks off in late November. This is the primary source of fundraising for the band program so the participation of each student is crucial. Poinsettias are \$15.00 per plant and are available in red or white. They will be available for pick up after the December concert. The three students that raise the most money will be awarded a cash prize.

Instrument Care

It is the responsibility of each student to keep his/her instrument in proper playing condition. Maintenance and repair of musical instruments is necessary over time. Please refer to the vendor list below for reputable repair facilities. You may have a maintenance agreement with the dealer through whom you purchased your instrument.

Rockford Music

219 James Avenue
Rockford, IL 61107
PHONE (815) 399-5208
PHONE 1-800-MELODY-0
FAX (815) 399-5208

*Steve Roy from Rockford Music visits EGJ every Monday to pick-up and drop off repairs.

Ellman's Music

508 W. 5th Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540
PHONE (630) 355-5880
PHONE (800) 272-4600
FAX (630) 355-3345
www.ellmansmusic.com

P.M. Music Center

651 S. Route 59
Aurora, IL 60504
PHONE (630) 978-9927
FAX (630)978-9972
www.pmmusiccenter.com

As a convenience for the school community, the list is provided by Mr. McCammon for informational purposes only. The companies listed are independent entities. They are not in any way affiliated with or sponsored, recommended, or endorsed by Plano District #88, and the District is not responsible for arrangements entered into between families and vendors.

School Owned Instruments: EGJ owns some instruments that are available for student use based on instrumentation and student interest. Instruments are available on a first come, first served basis. Special consideration is given for families that participate in fee waiver and/or free and reduced lunch plans. The cost is \$45.00 for the school year. The instrument will need to be returned to EGJ at the end of the school year. Any damage that occurs to the instrument due to mishandling by the student will be the financial responsibility of the parents. Students are also responsible for the purchase of reeds, oil and other supplies depending on the instrument.

Concert Attire/Concert Etiquette

Attire

Students are to wear dress clothes to performances. Please do not wear tennis shoes, jeans, shorts, or t-shirts.

Concert Etiquette

Concerts are a very important part of your child's participation in the music program. This is the culmination of weeks of preparation and hard work. The following is a list of what you the audience can do to help make tonight's performance an enjoyable experience for everyone, performers, as well as the other audience members.

- Please be seated prior to the start of the program. If entering or leaving the performance area after the program has begun, do so only during applause or performance breaks.
- Remain quiet during the performance. Please do not talk (including whispering) during the performance. You will distract other audience members as well as the musicians. Noise from candy wrappers and whispering can be very distracting.
- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and watch alarms
- Please do not ask to take your child away from the performance early. Listening to other groups perform is just as important as performing.
- If you are bringing small children, please stress the importance of being quiet while music is being performed. If you have a crying child, please take him/her out of the room quickly and quietly.
- Please avoid taking flash photos during the performance.
- Applaud only at the end of an entire piece. Hold your applause until the conductor has indicated the end of the piece by lowering his/her baton. Do not applaud after each movement of a multi-movement work. However, it is appropriate to applaud for a soloist during a jazz ensemble performance.
- Concerts are not the same as sporting events. Whistling or yelling out your child's name is not an appropriate form of expression.
- After the concert, please let your child know that he or she did well and that you appreciate their hard work.

By following basic edicts of respect and consideration, performers and the audience will have a more pleasurable and meaningful experience as they perform and attend live concerts.

Grading Policies

Students earn a grade each quarter based on the following:

Rehearsal Points (daily)

- On Time
- Instrument and supplies
- Book, Music, Pencil
- On Task

Playing Tests

- Accurate notes, rhythm
- Improvement
- Other considerations depending on the test

Written Work

- Music Theory

Performance

- On time
- Prepared
- Participation
- Dressed appropriately

Extra Credit

- Private Lessons
- Attending Concerts (as audience member), turn in written report
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Special Performances

To support the mission of the Emily G. Johns Band I hold to the following expectations.



The Director Will:

1. Be organized, prepared, and punctual.
2. Design and deliver effective instruction that is learner centered.
3. Create and maintain a safe classroom environment.
4. Apply rules consistently and fairly with a positive disposition.
5. Keep open lines of communication and respond to requests in a timely manner.
6. Model the behavior of a life-long musician.



The Students Will:

1. Be respectful toward the director, peers, materials and equipment.
2. Be punctual to class and performances, equipped with music, instrument, and supplies.
3. Demonstrate their best effort in rehearsal and performance by remaining on task.
4. Practice routinely to advance their skills and make a positive contribution.



The Parents Will:

1. Read the handbook and note all required performance dates and times.
2. Assist students in maintaining instruments and acquiring supplies.
3. Encourage students to practice.
4. Support the students by attending concerts and participating in band activities.
5. Communicate concerns to the directors as soon as they are apparent.

HOW AND WHEN TO PRACTICE

“You only have to practice on days you eat.”

Students should practice their instrument every day! Practice makes progress and that progress can only occur with regular practice. 10-15 minutes per day is the minimum amount of time that kids need play to see improvement. Of course, more practice is always welcome!

Choose a **quiet place** to work with good light, a hard chair, and a music stand.

Listen to an expert (your director can recommend a recording) while you are setting up. Include this time in the minutes you record for the day.

Warm up low and slow. Play long tone scales (8 counts per pitch) and check your intonation with a tuner. BRASS should buzz on the mouthpiece, play sirens and mouthpiece music.

Technique practice should include scales and your sectional assignment.

Band music – find a work spot and use the strategies from your card to improve. Please try to “fix” something – do not simply play it wrong over and over!

Fun music should be part of every session. Play old pieces you like, get the latest pop music written for your instrument, or figure it out by ear!

Warm down by playing low and slow again, rechecking your intonation.

Attendance

The effort of the entire group is dependent on individual attendance. Band is much more than individuals learning to play an instrument; it is a team to which each individual must commit. Because band is a *co-curricular activity*, mandatory performances are scheduled outside of the school day. Unexcused absences will result in points missed toward a student’s band grade. Performance participation comprises about 50% of the student’s grade.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES include birthdays, vacations, oversleeping, babysitting, detentions, unfinished homework, and no transportation (the dates are available early enough to find accommodations).

EXCUSED ABSENCES include significant personal illness and major family emergencies that have been communicated to a director by a parent/guardian. This needs to be done two weeks prior to the event.

Be advised that the band calendar is available well in advance so that efforts can be made to work around band commitments. Please contact a director with questions or concerns, as everything possible will be done to assist you in conflicts.

Band Supply List

ALL band members need to have a ***PENCIL** and their current method book with them in daily rehearsals! I will be providing a folder to hold music.

Supplies per Instrument:

- Brass
- * 1 bottle of valve oil (trumpet, cornet, baritone, and tuba)
 - * 1 bottle of rotary valve oil (French horn)
 - * 1 bottle of slide oil or Slidomix (trombone)

- Woodwinds * 2 **good** reeds at all times

Clarinets and Saxophones:

5th graders should purchase strength 2 ½

6th graders should purchase strength 3 or 3 ½

(Mitchell Lurie and VanDoren brands are best)

- * Reed holder
- * Cleaning swab
- * Cork grease (oboe, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon)

Percussion

- * 1 pair of snare drum sticks – size 2B or 5A
- * 1 pair of hard plastic bell mallets



2009 – 2010 Band Calendar



NOVEMBER

16 – Poinsettia fundraiser begins

30 – Poinsettia orders due

DECEMBER

8 – Band Concert – EGJ Gym, 5:15 call time, 6:00 start time
Poinsettia pick-up after concert

FEBRUARY

16 – 6th Grade joining High School Pep Band for basketball game and pizza party

TBA – Solo and Ensemble Contest

MARCH

16 – Band concert – EGJ Gym, 5:15 call time, 6:00 start time

TBA – Band Extravaganza

MAY

25 – Band Concert – PHS Auditorium, 6:00 call time, 7:00 start time

27 – 6th Grade joining Middle School band at PHS Auditorium, 7:00 start time

31 – Memorial Day Parade, Plano Cemetery, 10:20am

6th Grade and auditioned 5th Graders

BAND HANDBOOK CONTRACT 2009-2010

All Emily G. Johns band members and parents – please read the following pages carefully. Then complete and return this contract by Friday September 4, 2009.

The Emily G. Johns Band Program is dedicated to excellence in performance. Its members share a unique musical and social experience. Membership involves making a commitment to band. This is not a decision to be taken lightly. If you commit, do it completely. Please understand the expectations of the organization by reading this handbook. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Kevin McCammon at 1-630-552-9182 or kmccammon@plano88.org.

1. I have read and understand all of the guidelines and procedures stated in this handbook and agree to abide by everything stated within for the 2009-2010 school year.
2. I have received a calendar of events for the 2009-2010 school year and agree that I/my child will attend every scheduled rehearsal and performance unless absence is excused.
3. I understand the consequences if the guidelines and procedures outlined in this handbook are not followed.

STUDENT NAME (Print): _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PARENT NAME (Print): _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Email Address: Please email Mr. McCammon with your email address to ensure its accuracy. kmccammon@plano88.org This is so I can send notes and reminders home through email on a regular basis.

Parent Volunteer Information

Please check any events for which you are interested in assisting our program. We will then contact you about details for each event. This gives us an idea of who is willing to help. We appreciate ALL of the parents who donate their extra time and hard work to us! Thank you!

____ Poinsettia pickup, December 8

____ HS Basketball game, February 16

____ Solo and Ensemble Contest, February
(Need lots of volunteers)