

**EAST CHAMBERS**  
**JR. HIGH/ INTERMEDIATE BAND HANDBOOK**  
**2015-2016**  
8/18/15 revised

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information for students and parents on the organization and operation of the band program at East Chambers Junior High/ Intermediate School. Band is a group activity that thrives on the hard work of all involved. This handbook will help as a guide and furnish you with useful information about rehearsals, performances, contests, trips, as well as opportunities for parent/volunteer opportunities. Answers to frequently asked questions are also contained within.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

- Leave food, candy, gum and drinks at the door
- Be ready to play 1 minute after the bell
- Silence is golden as you walk into the room
- Get all of your supplies out in the order up on the board (this includes a pencil)
- Write down name of song and composer playing when you walk in the room
- Always be focused and try your best
- Follow instructions
- Expect Excellence
- Wait to the end of class to pack up
- Take your instruments home and practice what we covered in class
- Always be moving forward and never backwards
- Pick up the area around you
- Correctly put your instrument away at the end of class.
- Be passionate and HAVE FUN!

**RULES FOR THE BAND HALL**

- Three basic principles to live by
  - Honesty
  - Hard Work
  - Respect for others
- The elements that make up John Wooden's pyramid of success (last page of handbook)

# BANDS AT EAST CHAMBERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students are placed into bands, depending on experience and level of ability. The bands are as follows:

- Beginning Band: 1<sup>st</sup> year students – 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade level. No experience required.
- Junior High Band: Students with at least 1-2 years of experience and capable of performing intermediate literature.

## BEGINNING BAND

1. Beginning Band is considered a training period with a limited number of performances. Students will not be involved in any after school rehearsals except when necessary before scheduled performance. Band attendance policies will be in effect for these extra rehearsals and performances. Students may be moved to another class at the semester.
2. **FORMAL UNIFORM:**
  - East Chambers band shirt
  - Blue jeans
  - Black socks and black shoes (athletic style shoes are acceptable, but must be **100% black**; no white logos, designs, laces, etc.)

## JUNIOR HIGH BAND

1. Students meeting scale and music criteria will be placed into junior high band. (Students who still need to meet playing standards will be placed into the correct beginner class.)
2. Purpose:
  - a. To insure a high standard of performance, appropriate attitude and behavior, and a desire to improve.
  - b. To make band a rewarding and positive life experience where students are placed in a band where they can develop and improve at the appropriate level.
3. All sectionals, extra rehearsals, and performances are required. Attendance policies will be in effect for these activities.
4. Seventh and Eighth grade band members will be expected to prepare/ participate in region band auditions.
5. All students will be expected to participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest.
6. **FORMAL UNIFORM**
  - Black Pants
  - Long Sleeve White Button down shirt
  - 100% black shoes and black socks
  - Cummerbund and Bow Tie \*

\*issued by band program

7. **GAME/PEP RALLY UNIFORM**
  1. East Chambers Band shirt
  2. BLUE jeans
  3. 100% Black shoes and Black socks

## **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is required at all performances, sectionals, and rehearsals. Any unexcused absence or tardy will result in the deduction of points from the 6-weeks grade. Continued unexcused absences or tardies will result in a parent conference and the student being prohibited from future band activities and may result in moving to a lower level band. Excused absences or tardies will be accepted for the following reasons if the director is notified PRIOR to the absence or tardy:

1. Personal Illness
2. Family Emergency
3. Special Circumstances approved by the Director

At East Chambers Band Concerts, students are expected to listen to all bands performing and should not leave after their portion of the concert has been completed, but rather at the conclusion of the entire concert.

## **GRADES**

The 6-weeks grade will be determined from the following:

-Daily Supplies – Having all necessary materials in class

- instrument care & maintenance
- pencil, music, & instrument

-Daily Grades –

- - Theory work
- - Playing Bench Marks

- Classroom Participation

-Test Grades –

- Playing test/Chair tests
- Sectional/extra rehearsal performance skill grades
- Written tests

-Performance Test grades –

- Attendance at performances, proper uniform, appropriate supplies, following proper concert etiquette, and staying for other performing bands.

-Extra Credit is sometimes offered based on performances in extra-curricular activities and may be applied to daily or test grades as seen appropriate by the director.

## CONDUCT GRADING

This part of the 6-weeks grade will be indicated with a letter grade.

E = Excellent    S = Satisfactory    N = Needs Improvement    U = Unsatisfactory

Each student will begin each six weeks with a conduct grade of “E”. As the 6-week grading period continues, misconduct will be documented by infractions if it should occur after one verbal warning. Consequences will be based on the frequency, seriousness, and amount of misconduct. For misconduct such as fighting, obscenities, and other serious infractions, the student will be dealt with directly by the Principals as outlined in the student code of conduct.

1<sup>st</sup> Infraction: Student’s conduct grade will be lowered from an “E” to an “S”.

2<sup>nd</sup> Infraction: Parents will be contacted.

3<sup>rd</sup> Infraction: Student will receive an office referral and conference with Principal. Also, student’s conduct grade will be lowered from an “S” to an “N”.

4<sup>th</sup> Infraction: Student will receive an office referral and conference with Principal. Also, student’s conduct grade will be lowered from an “N” to a “U”, and will not be allowed to participate in any outside activities beyond the school day for the remainder of the 6-weeks (alternate assignments will be given in place of outside activities). Conference will be held with Director, Parent, and student.

## ELIGIBILITY: NO PASS/NO PLAY

Band is **curricular** as well as **extra-curricular**. This means that concerts and rehearsals outside of the normal school day are considered an extension of daily classroom learning, therefore, students receive a grade for these activities. **Extra-curricular** performances are defined as those that involve competition or charge and admission fee (including football games). Students who have failed any class during the previous six weeks are ineligible to participate in band activities that are extra-curricular. Curricular activities are not affected by ineligibility and students are expected to attend these activities, even if they are ineligible for extra-curricular activities. Please contact the band director if you are not certain if an event is curricular or extra-curricular.

## Parental Involvement

The East Chambers Band Boosters is an organization that exists for the sole purpose of further development of the East Chambers High School band, and East Chambers Jr. High/Intermediate School bands. All band students, parents, or guardians, are considered to be members of the booster club. The booster club is a service club, and its services shall include, but not be limited to, providing chaperones for events and trips, sponsoring payments to accompanists and special instructors for contest, sponsoring seasonal award gatherings or trips, offering scholarships, and other support functions.

## A SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS

Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical instrument is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and achievement. Always keep in mind that your support is a key element in your child's success with music study.

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. You can help your child by:

- ✓ Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- ✓ Scheduling a consistent, daily practice time
- ✓ Praise your child's efforts
- ✓ Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- ✓ Making sure your child's instrument is always in good working order
- ✓ Listening to your child practice and acknowledging improvement

Your child's progress will be greatly enhanced if you **DO NOT**:

- Use practice as a punishment
- Expect rapid progress in the beginning
- Insist your child play for others when he/she do not want to play
- Start your child on an instrument that is in poor working condition

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED

**Do students have band every day?** Yes. It is very important to also have students practice at home and that proper practice is done on a daily basis to insure maximum retention of information.

**How often do students have practice before or after school?** Beginners, as a general rule, have no extra rehearsals except the week before concerts. Occasionally, some students may be asked to attend tutorials for extra help. Junior High Band will have a thirty minute sectional per week. (Starting the second week in September.)

**How do I buy reeds and other supplies for my child?** Most small accessories needed for instruments can be purchased in the band hall. This saves you trips to the music stores.

**Are private lessons necessary?** While not "required", private lessons are a great investment in your child's learning. This is a personal time for your child and a specialist on their instrument to have a condensed lesson. Ask directors for a list of lesson instructors.

**Do we have fundraisers?** Yes. We will be selling Candy Bars from World's Finest Chocolate. We are asking that the Sixth and Seventh grade band members sell at least 2 box of chocolates. . More information will be sent home during the week first week of September.

**What is Region band?** Region Band is formed by auditioning band students from Region 10 Students tryout on pre-selected music etudes and scales to become members of the group. Later, the Region Band meets for a full day of rehearsals with a guest clinician followed by a concert that evening. This is the highest honor that a middle school band student can achieve. Students are awarded a region patch for their uniform, a certificate of recognition, and most likely, new friends and good memories!

**What is Solo & Ensemble?** At this competition, students will perform a solo/ensemble for a judge. The judge will offer constructive comments and issue the students a 1-5 rating (1 being the best). Students will be awarded a medal for each division 1 rating received.

**What is U.I.L.?** University Interscholastic League hosts a regional Concert and Sight reading Contest. Each band performs 3 selections for 3 judges who will then each rate the band with a division 1-5 (1 being “Superior”). The band will then demonstrate their abilities and musical knowledge in the Sight reading room. They will have 7 minutes to be taught how to play a song that they have never played before. Three judges will again give the group a 1-5 rating. Bands receiving a collective Division 1 rating in both Concert and Sight reading will be awarded the much sought after “UIL SWEEPSTAKES AWARD”.

**Any other questions?** If you have any questions about the information in this packet, or other questions about band in general, please feel free to call us anytime. The band hall number is **409--296-8168**. Please remember the following motto: If there is something you dislike about the band, tell the director immediately. If there is something you really LIKE about the band program, TELL EVERYONE! Our door is always open!

Let’s have a great year!!

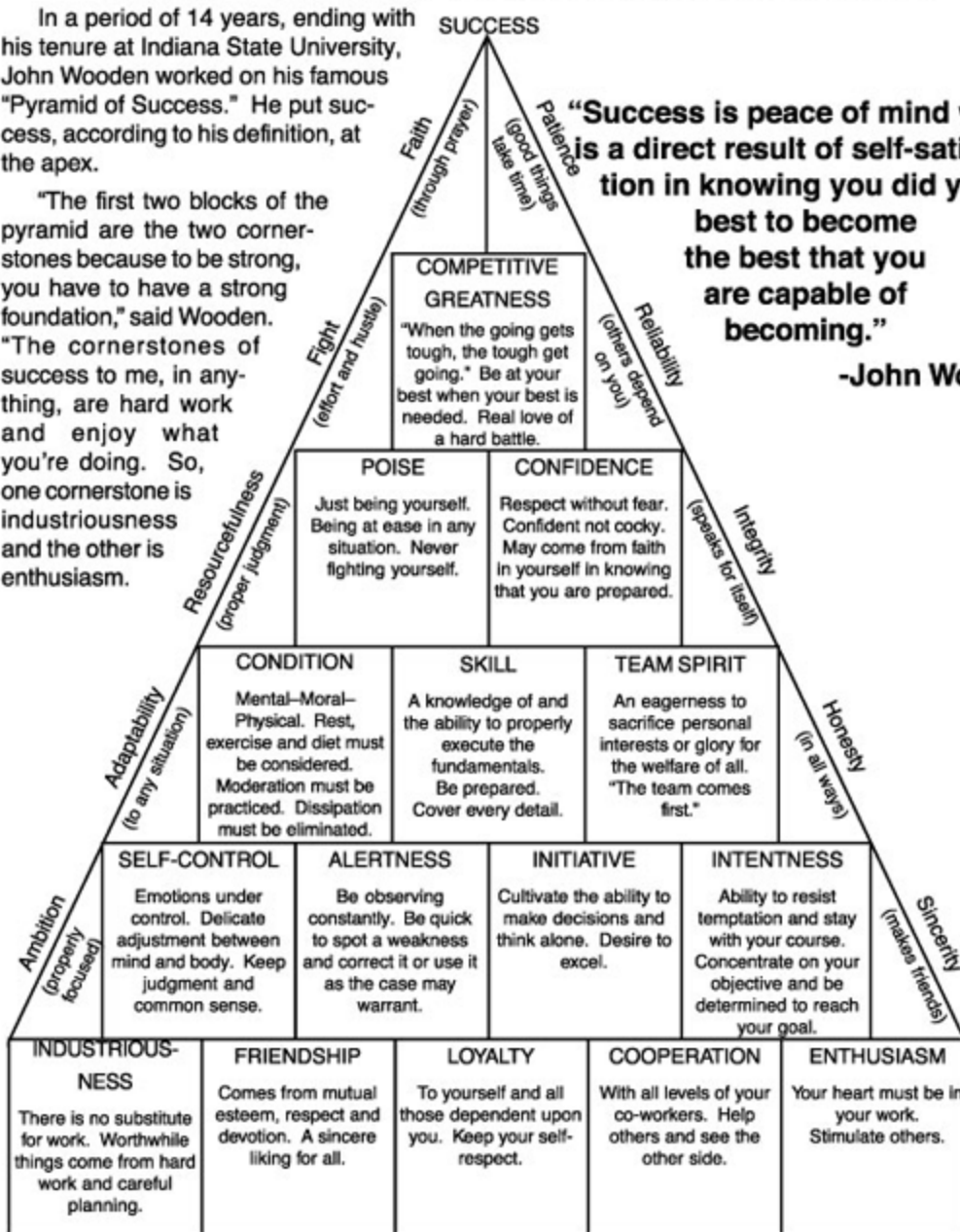
Musically yours,

Holly Cravy and Jeff Collier  
Band Directors

# John Wooden's Pyramid of Success

In a period of 14 years, ending with his tenure at Indiana State University, John Wooden worked on his famous "Pyramid of Success." He put success, according to his definition, at the apex.

"The first two blocks of the pyramid are the two cornerstones because to be strong, you have to have a strong foundation," said Wooden. "The cornerstones of success to me, in anything, are hard work and enjoy what you're doing. So, one cornerstone is industriousness and the other is enthusiasm.



**"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."**

**-John Wooden**