

Park Vista Community HS
“Striking Cobra” Band
2011 - 2012
Band Handbook



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Band Room Phone #
561-491-8473

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Park Vista Community High School *Striking Cobra* Band! This handbook has been provided to help guide both parents and band members through the operation of the Park Vista band program. As a member of this organization, each member will be responsible for maintaining the outstanding reputation that the Cobra Band has established. This will only be accomplished when each member displays a consistent level of **SELF-DISCIPLINE**, **RESPECT**, **SPIRIT**, and **PRIDE** at all times. It is my wish that this handbook will inform both student and parent about the procedures and guidelines that will be enforced during the school year.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

COMMITMENT will be the key word in describing the 2009-10 *Striking Cobra* Band. This will require each member to have a positive attitude and implement their highest degree of help, cooperation, and effort. Band members must realize their **COMMITMENT** to the band by being a **TEAM** player and being on time to all rehearsals and performances. All of these times will be posted in advance so that each member can adjust their schedule and make it possible for the **TEAM** to participate and excel at all of its functions. All members must carry out this **COMMITMENT** and display the right **ATTITUDE**. The **ATTITUDE** you portray will directly affect the **QUALITY** you present!

DISCIPLINE

The members of this band will work very hard and spend many hours and days building a highly respected ensemble product. Pride is built on superior performance, self-discipline, hard work, genuine respect for other people, and a very high standard of personal conduct and performance. The reputation that we want to build for ourselves will be extremely hard to accomplish and will only be done when each member settles for nothing short of their very best. **Students may have their grade lowered, may become alternates, may be held out of performances, or may be dismissed from the band entirely if their attitude, attendance, or behavior does not comply with the rules of this handbook and/or with the BEST INTEREST of the Park Vista Community High School Band program!!!**

DESCRIPTION OF PERSONNEL

BAND DIRECTOR

In charge of the instrumental music program at Park Vista Community High School.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Qualified instructors that assist the Band Director during Band rehearsals.

BAND OFFICERS (Drum Majors, Upper Staff, Section Leaders)

Directly responsible to the Director. The student leaders have duties that assist the Band and the Director during both rehearsals and performances. These duties include calling sectionals, checking music and cleaning drill, always maintaining the proper performance attitude, and helping the Director with discipline throughout the Band at all times. Officers will be chosen annually. Students must have at least one full season of marching experience to apply for any office. All Drum Majors are required to attend a summer Drum Major camp as assigned by the Director and will be required to purchase his/her own marching band uniform.

BAND MEMBER

YOU! The person "in the trenches" that keeps focus on the task at hand and never stops working for the Band until the job is done!

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

State law requires all students participating with the band at a performance, a competition, or at an FBA sanctioned evaluation/festival must maintain a GPA of at least **2.0** from the grading period most recent to the date of the performance. Students failing to meet this requirement **WILL NOT PERFORM** with the band.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

Performances are the culmination of many long hours of rehearsal. We all look forward to the performance, but the degree of **QUALITY** wanted can only be achieved **DURING THE PRACTICE!!!** Any and all rehearsal time is extremely valuable and is necessary in producing any fine organization. With this in mind, all members of the Cobra Band will be required to follow a few basic rules:

****ATTENDANCE POLICY-** Each student will be given two "free" unexcused absences for the season. These should be reserved for **EMERGENCY** use **ONLY!** The **ONLY** excuses accepted are death in the family, court (along with documentation), severe family emergencies, and **SEVERE** illness (as deemed by the band director along with a **DOCTOR'S NOTE**). Jobs, doctor's appointments, detentions, and transportation problems as reasons are **NEVER** excused. Parents should schedule doctor's appointments around band rehearsal and performance times. After the 2nd unexcused absence, the student will automatically become an alternate. After the 3rd unexcused absence, the student will be removed from the marching band completely and replaced.

1. All performances and extra rehearsals are co-curricular and are required. A request to be excused from a rehearsal must be made **at least one (1) week in advance** from the date of the missed rehearsal. A request to be excused from a performance must be made **at least four (4) weeks in advance** from the date of the performance. This request must be **IN WRITING** and must still be cleared by the Director. Special cases will be considered.

2. Performances missed (excused) will have to be made up through written assignments and/or

playing tests issued by the Director.

3. Tardiness will not be tolerated - ***Early is on time, on time is late!***

4. Work is **NOT** an excused absence. A calendar of activities is always posted at least 3-4 weeks in advance. **It is your responsibility to clear your work schedule with your employer.**

5. All appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.) should be scheduled for days when there is not any after school practice. There are at least two days a week in which we do not have any after school rehearsal. Appointments will not be excused.

6. You are personally responsible for all equipment, including music, that is issued to you. You will be held financially responsible for any equipment that is lost or damaged through negligence, whether caused by you or someone else. Students will be charged \$1.00 to the full band account for any replacement copy of music.

7. Bring a pencil to **ALL** rehearsals!!!

8. School books/folders are to be kept in your locker outside the Band Room. They will not be allowed in the rehearsal area or the storage rooms!

9. All band members are required to be in the band room by the final bell and be ready to begin rehearsal within two minutes after the final bell.

10. You must have all equipment (instrument, music, etc.) at every rehearsal and performance unless otherwise noted.

11. Use of vulgarity and/or profane language will not be tolerated in this band **AT ANY TIME!**

12. No food, drinks, or gum will be allowed in the band room.

13. There will be no public displays of affection between members on any band function.

14. There will be no eating while in uniform. The only liquid allowed in uniform is water.

15. There will be no smoking or use of tobacco products while in uniform or as a representative of the Park Vista Community Band.

16. Use of alcohol, drugs, and/or mood altering substances will result in **IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM BAND AND SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL!**

17. Alternates and students not allowed to participate because of discipline or grade-related reasons will still be required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

18. All Park Vista Community HS and Palm Beach County student conduct policies will be in full effect during all band functions.

19. **Students missing any rehearsal (for any reason-unexcused or excused) directly before a Friday night football game or Saturday competition will not be allowed to perform at that game/competition!**

***** FAILURE TO FOLLOWING ANY OF THESE PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN DETENTIONS, REFERRALS, LOWERING OF GRADE, AND/OR DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND *****

Please Note: All marching rehearsals are scheduled outside of class time. This is due to the fact that students in the marching band never meet together during the school day. Marching rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesdays (5:00-8:30) and Thursdays (5:00-8:30) during the marching season. Sectional rehearsals may be included as part of the rehearsal time and called on non-practice days. It is every student's responsibility to attend sectionals as they are called. In the event of inclement weather (often a problem in South Florida) it may become necessary to call a Monday/Wednesday or "non-school day" rehearsal. Students are required to have rain ponchos at all outdoor rehearsals as well as water,

Gatorade, sun-screen, hats, sunglasses etc. Bare feet, sandals, flip-flops, boots etc. are prohibited at all marching band rehearsals.

ALTERNATES

It should be noted that in any marching band, alternates are a necessary fact of life. Due to the complex nature of the marching band activity, it is necessary for alternates to be available for any marching spot which may come open. 10% of the total number of wind players will begin the season off as alternates. This is just the nature of the sport. However, alternate positions are not necessarily permanent and can change at any moment. Since all marching is taught and rehearsed after school, absence from a marching rehearsal may and probably will result in a change of personnel. Students in the marching band may be designated as alternates based on the following: One of the initial 10%, absence (whether excused or unexcused), unacceptable performance level, inexperience or attitude. Both students and parents must accept that alternate status does not excuse a student from attending all band activities.

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

1. All band members will report to the performance field at the assigned time for final run-throughs.
2. All band members will line up as directed for inspection at the roll call time, in full uniform.
3. Every student will be given a bus assignment. These assignments last for the entire year and can not be changed. Each bus will be assigned a student bus captain and at least two adult chaperones.
4. When entering the stadium, the band will remain in line as directed by the Director, remaining silent and marching in step to a tap/cadence. Move to your seat and remain standing in files at attention until instructed to be seated.
5. Remain in your assigned seat and row unless instructed by the Director or one of the Drum Majors to move around.
6. This is a **PERFORMANCE** under the watchful eye of the public! Football games will not be the place to practice music or display inappropriate behavior. Instruments will not be played unless the Director or one of the Drum Majors has instructed you to do so.
7. Guests and relatives of band members, unless official Band Chaperones, will not be allowed in the band area. This is not the time or place to be visiting with friends in or across from the band section. We have a job to do and a performance to complete that will be carried out uniformly by all.
8. All band members will remain in **FULL UNIFORM** at all times unless otherwise noted by the Director.
9. Restroom use will be allowed only with the accompaniment of a chaperone and only during proper times.
10. Water will be provided throughout the game. Accepting food or soft drinks from outsiders is not permitted.
11. After the half-time performance, the band will depart the field in line as directed by the Drum Majors and will march to the band area on tap.
12. After the game is completed, the band will line up by rows and will **MARCH** in line back to the busses / band room.

13. The band will be dismissed back at school from outside the band room by the director. Please remember that the performance is not over until you are dismissed.

14. All students will leave the band room neat and clean when leaving. All instruments will be put away in their correct places and all uniforms will be hung up correctly. **THERE IS NO BAND ROOM MAID SERVICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

15. Chaperones of the band are considered agents of Park Vista Community High School and are therefore due all considerations and respect from the students. Anyone not following instructions, being disrespectful, or talking back to a chaperone for any reason will be dealt with accordingly. This is grounds for dismissal from the total band program!

16. The bottom line is, if you are not sure whether something you do will be acceptable by the Director, **DON'T DO IT!**

INSPECTION GUIDELINES

1. Stand at parade rest. You will be called to attention.
2. Uniforms must be clean and properly pressed.
3. Each student must have their Band Bag with a rain poncho.
4. Uniform accessories will be clean and properly worn.
5. The correct color gloves will be clean and will be properly worn.
6. Black socks. Clean shoes.
7. The hat will be worn properly. All hair that reaches below the jacket collar will be worn in the hat in either a braid or a pony tail.
8. Instruments are to be clean, polished, and in good working order.
9. Each member will have all of their music.
10. No jewelry is to be visible.
11. No colored nail polish is to be worn.

***** FAILURE TO PASS ANY PART OF INSPECTION MAY RESULT IN YOUR NOT PARTICIPATING IN THAT PERFORMANCE *****

BAND UNIFORM

Each qualified band member will be issued a marching band uniform at the start of the school year. Each band member receiving a uniform shall pay a dry cleaning/uniform fee for that uniform for the upcoming school year.

All members of the marching band will be required to purchase a pep rally uniform. This uniform will consist of a band polo shirt or t-shirt, black dress pants or jeans, and black marching shoes or tennis shoes. Students will be able to purchase the band polo shirt/t-shirt and the marching shoes through the Band Parents Association. Each student must supply their own pair of black dress pants.

It is the responsibility of each band student and parent to return all Park Vista Community uniform parts at the end of the school year or when asked to do so. Each uniform part is numbered and students will be held responsible for the exact uniform part issued to them. Failure to return complete uniforms will result in the financial replacement of all missing parts through the school treasurer in the

front office, and may result in the withholding of grades/diplomas.

Color Guard members will be required to purchase their uniform for the school year and more information will be sent home during Band Camp.

FOOTBALL GAMES and INCLEMENT WEATHER

Students in the PVCHS Band will perform at all home football games as well as the majority of the away games. All football related performances are required of band students. In the event that a regularly scheduled football game must be postponed and re-scheduled due to weather or other unforeseen events, the PVCHS Band is expected to perform on the newly selected date. Re-scheduled games may be played within a few days of the originally scheduled date or may be played as a make up game at the end of the season. In either event, students should be aware of this possibility and plan accordingly.

TRAVEL

In as much as the band will travel a great deal, special regulations are set up for this type of activity.

- The mode of travel will be provided or approved by the school. Students must travel to the performance by the means provided. Exceptions, in the case of emergency, must be approved by the Band Director and Principal.
- Students may not return by any means of transportation other than that provided with one exception. Students may RETURN from a band trip with their parent or legal guardian only, provided that written request is submitted to the Director a minimum of 24 hours prior to the departure from school, AND the parent or legal guardian must personally take custody from the Director. DO NOT ASK THE DIRECTOR TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION WHILE ON A BAND TRIP.
- Each student is responsible for loading his or her own equipment prior to departure and for securing all equipment prior to dismissal. Those returning from a band trip with your parents must take your instrument or other equipment with you!
- Students may not change busses once assignments are made. Sign-up for the bus you wish to ride and stay there. Do not ask the Director to make an exception to this rule.
- Students are advised to leave expensive personal items at home while on band trips. Personal stereos, cd players, or ipods are never to be played except through headphones. These items are to be turned off when asked to do so. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the confiscation of that item.
- Obey staff, chaperones, and drivers
- NO chaperone or parent may give you permission to change PVCHS Band rules.
- Movies (on charter busses so equipped) must be approved by the Director.

FUND RAISING AND STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Fundraising for the Park Vista Community Band is a must if we are to run as a first-class program. A percentage of all of the funds raised by students will be put into a student account which can be used for instrument rental, uniform cleaning, or trips. It is important to remember that when you are asked to help with a fund raising project, you are supporting both yourself and your own band program and that with your help, we should be able to reach our fund raising goals. Each student will have a fairshare that they will be responsible for paying. This fairshare is the overall band budget divided by the total number of kids in band. Each student enrolled in the band program must pay their fairshare or they will be placed on the school's obligation list. A student is still responsible for the full fairshare amount, even if they do not complete the full year of band.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Wind Ensemble - The top level of Band class offered at Park Vista. Students in this class will work on very high level music for performance throughout the school year. Membership in the Striking Cobra Marching Band is required. This group has rehearsals and performances which require co-curricular participation. Students in this class may be required to take private lessons to maintain their status in this prestigious organization. Students in this ensemble will be required to perform either a solo or an ensemble at the FBA District evaluation or some other qualified jury process. Membership in this Band is based on an audition and Director's approval.

Symphonic Band - The intermediate level of Band class offered at Park Vista. Students in this class will work on music for performances throughout the school year. Membership in the Striking Cobra Marching Band is not required but highly encouraged. This group has rehearsals and performances which require co-curricular participation. Students in this class are encouraged to take private lessons to help prepare them to audition/move up into Wind Ensemble. Students in this ensemble will be required to perform either a solo or an ensemble at the FBA District evaluation or some other qualified jury process. Membership in this Band is based on an audition and Director's approval.

Cobra Concert Band - The entry level Band class offered at Park Vista. Students in this class will work on music for performances throughout the school year. Membership in the Striking Cobra Marching Band is not required, but is encouraged. This group has rehearsals and performances which require co-curricular participation. Students in this class are also encouraged to take private lessons to help prepare them to audition/move up into Symphonic Band. Membership in this Band is open to all students at Park Vista even students with no previous experience.

Jazz Band - Advanced styles of Jazz, Swing, Rock, Pop, and Latin are learned in this class and are performed throughout the year. Members of the Jazz Band **MUST** also be members of one of the concert bands, with the exception of guitarists, and pianists. Membership in this Band is based on an audition and Director's approval. **All jazz band students who are not in marching band are still responsible for paying the same fair-share amount as concert band only students!**

Color Guard - These students are members of the Cobra Marching Band as dancers, flags, rifles, and sabres. During the second semester they are involved in one of the Park Vista Winter Guards. Guard members who participate in marching band in the fall are obligated to also do Winter Guard in the

spring. The color guard class is a TWO semester class. Students who drop out after the first semester will still be responsible for paying the full colorguard and winterguard fees. This group has performances which require extra-curricular participation. Membership in this group is based on an audition and Director's approval. Attendance to all rehearsals/functions is required.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades are based on the following criteria for all band department performance classes. Grades are based on a 100 point scale.

1. Daily participation= 45 %
2. Co-curricular rehearsals and home/classroom assignments/quizzes=25%
3. Public performance, guest artist workshops and tests=30%

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

It is each band member's duty to practice his or her music outside of band rehearsal time on a daily basis. Practice should be spent on music, scales, etudes, long tones, and/or lip slurs. The best practice is practicing the things that may not be enjoyable but are beneficial! Effective individual practice can reduce the time spent in group practice after or during school. Color guard members are expected to practice their equipment work and/or choreography at home as well as during class and co-curricular rehearsals.

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons from a qualified instructor. This is the very best way for a student to improve his or her performance level. It is permissible for students to use class time for individual or group lessons IF approved by the director. Remember, the better a student becomes on his/her instrument, the more fun he/she will have playing it!

TRIPS

The band will take various trips to concerts, competitions, etc. throughout the year and at least one of them will be an overnight trip. All such trips will be announced several months in advance, so students will have ample time to raise enough money in their student account.

BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The objective of the Band Parents Association is to help Park Vista Band students via their director in every way possible. Some of the major areas of assistance are:

1. To provide chaperone to the Band for all performances/trips.
2. To find ways to increase the number of Band students taking private music lessons to improve their playing ability.

3. To review the need for new instruments and equipment for the Band and to secure the needed items when possible.
4. To assist all Band students in raising the funds needed to meet these objectives as well as the normal expenses encountered during the school year. These include such items as:
 - a. Uniforms
 - b. Instruments
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Entrance fees and evaluations
 - e. Trips
 - f. Medals and Awards
5. To aid the Band Director in any way possible.

The Band Parent Association will have regularly announced meetings each month. All parents are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Full attendance at **ALL** rehearsals and **ALL** performances is both **100% REQUIRED** and **NECESSARY!!** (This includes being on time and not leaving early!) All pre-arranged rehearsals/performances that are announced with at least 3 weeks notice are considered requirements for successful completion of the band course. Only through pre-arranged plans with the Director may a rehearsal or performance be excused (see Rehearsal/Performance Procedures). All rehearsals and performances held after normal school hours are considered to be an extension of the school day and are to be treated as such.

In the case of an emergency which would cause you to miss a scheduled band function, you must be sure that your parent(s) call the Director **BEFORE** the function is missed, if at all possible.

A LITTLE BAND STORY

This is story about four Band members named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY. There was an important event to prepare for and EVERYBODY was positive that SOMEBODY would do the work. ANYBODY could have taken care of it but NOBODY did. SOMEBODY was angry because they realized that EVERYBODY should have done their part. SOMEBODY thought that ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY thought that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done and what EVERYBODY should have done!



PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Striking Cobra Band

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PVHS Band/Guard Website: pvhsband.net

AARON SNIPES, III
DIRECTOR

REGINALD MYERS
PRINCIPAL

The Creed

**UNITED WE RISE;
DIVIDED WE FALL.
UNWAVERED IN OUR RESOLVE,
WE ARE THE BAND**

**WITH RESPECT, INTEGRITY, AND PERSEVERANCE,
THERE ARE NO FAULTS.
WITHOUT RESPECT, THERE IS REBELLION;
WITHOUT INTEGRITY, THERE IS NO TRUTH;
WITHOUT PERSEVERANCE, THERE IS NO SUCCESS.**

**OUR AMBITIONS KNOW NO BOUNDS;
OUR STRENGTH IS LIMITLESS.
PRIDE IS THE EPITOME OF WHO WE ARE.**

**WE ARE WINDS;
WE ARE GUARD;
WE ARE PIT;
WE ARE BATTERY.
WE ARE...
THE PARK VISTA STRIKING COBRA MARCHING BAND.**

**-YEAR OF '09-'10
CELIA AGADO
SEAN BELLAFIORE
ELIZABETH BOOR
NICOLE DARBY
CAITLIN DREHER
BRAD GANOE
MATTHEW MEDEROS**

BAND PARTICIPATION CONTRACT

To insure proper participation at all Band functions (including rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, trips, etc.) when applicable, we, the undersigned, agree to the following terms of this contract and the information presented in the PVHS Band handbook.

Excused absences from any Band function, as specified in the *BAND HANDBOOK*, must be cleared in writing with the Director either one week (rehearsals) or four weeks (performances) in advance, and a make-up assignment will be issued at that time. Each student will be given two “free” unexcused absences for the season. After the 2nd unexcused absence, the student will automatically be replaced and will become an alternate. After the 3rd unexcused absence, the student will be removed from the marching band completely.

The correct and proper attitude towards the Band will be displayed by the student at all times, including spending the necessary practice time out of school to assure high quality efforts. Anything done by a Band member (positively or negatively) reflects upon the image of the Band, its leaders, and Park Vista H.S. as a whole. Just as musicianship must never falter, the manner in which each Band member conducts themselves must always be unquestionable.

This contract must be signed by both the parent and the Band student before he/she will be allowed to participate in the performance aspects of the Park Vista Band Program. Un-excused absences from band functions include but are not limited to:

1. Work
2. Outside clubs
3. Bands/musical activities outside of school
4. Detentions (You shouldn't be receiving detentions anyways!)
5. Weather conditions
6. Doctor/dental visits (Please work them around our schedule)
7. Transportation issues
8. Mild illness
8. Anything else that you know the directors would not approve of!

Failure to meet any and all aspects of the *BAND HANDBOOK* may result in the following:

1. Detention / Referral to the office
2. Parent conference
3. Physical exertion (laps, sit-ups, etc.)
4. Lowering of Band grade
5. Loss of participation from Band performances
6. Becoming a marching band alternate
7. Removal from Band

Parent _____ Date _____

Student _____