

Plymouth H.S.

**Winter Performance
Ensemble Handbook**

2014-15 Indoor Season

Winter Performance Ensemble Objectives

The Plymouth High School Winter Performance Ensemble provides an opportunity for students to refine their musical and movement skills through the art of dance/movement and percussion performance. It is designed to further develop and improve skills as a foundation for the fall marching programs while also building individual musical and movement skill levels. Finally, this program additionally serves to help build a strong work ethic, commitment, and teamwork.

What is Winter Performance Ensemble

The Winter Performance Ensemble is open to any student from Plymouth Community Schools that are active members of the music program. Auditions will be held in November for membership. Auditions for the performing spots will be held to select a total of approximately thirty members.

It is our goal to include as many students as possible. However, percussion students will be given priority over non-percussion students auditioning as a secondary/new instrument.

Since this is a competition-based activity, students are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. When anyone misses a rehearsal or performance, the entire pace of the season is slowed down in an effort to catch individual members up. Absences from rehearsals and/or performances will not be tolerated.

During a period of approximately five months, you will be given advanced instruction in the areas of both movement and musicianship. This includes the proper techniques involved to play the various instruments and dance/movement skills. This training will be expanded into a four to five minute visual and musical competitive production.

Our competitive circuit is the Indiana Percussion Association (IPA). While competitions are available nearly every weekend in February and March, we normally attend only the two required events in order to qualify for the State Prelims and State Finals. This allows students to participate in other areas of the band program as well as the Winter Performance Ensemble.

There are many different categories in which groups can compete in each our circuit. At the state and national levels there are “Scholastic” and “Independent” categories. Scholastic competition includes only members of a single high school program. Independent competition can include individuals from multiple schools and older age groups (college-aged students). In our circuit, the following classes of performance/competition are used:

- Festival Class: (does not qualify for state finals – may attend a divisional finals event)
- Class B: (younger developing programs)
- Class A: (moderately advanced competition)
- Open Class: (advanced level competition)
- World Class: (very advanced level competition)

All competitions are held on weekends, with a majority of the events being in Central Indiana. Bus transportation is provided and required of all members. The only time a student would not ride a bus to and from an event would be in a situation that has been pre-approved by Mr. Ames.

Code of Conduct

All members of the Winter Performance Ensemble are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct set forth in the Winter Performance Ensemble Handbook. In addition, all members of the Winter Performance Ensemble are expected to follow these guidelines during all rehearsals, travel time, and performances.

1. No gum or candy
2. No swearing or inappropriate language
3. No jewelry during rehearsals
4. No eating in uniform (exception is water)
5. No public displays of affection
6. No "horseplay"
7. Respect all members of the WPE
8. Respect all other organizations and their members
9. Any other etiquette as defined by the WPE staff
10. No CELL PHONES in rehearsals.

All Plymouth Community High School policies are in place whether the WPE is on or off campus at any event.

Casting

Each student will be defined with a specific "cast" role in the show. This is similar to a play or musical production.

Not EVERYONE can be the "center of attention" and "lead" in the production of our show. Drama related to assigned casting roles will not be tolerated. All performing members are expected to fulfill the role or cast assignment that is given to them.

EVERY performer may have to step out of their "comfort zone" in order to play the role that is asked of them.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at ALL rehearsals and performances. Everyone needs to fully understand that absences directly effect the ENTIRE TEAM.

Literally, student safety is a factor when members miss a rehearsal. Every performer will move equipment and props during the show and may also have "partnered" dance and body work. When a student misses a rehearsal and a prop doesn't get moved it can cause an injury to another student. Or, if a student misses rehearsal and there is partnered work, it is impossible to fully perform the show with someone missing.

Any student that needs to request an absence from a performance will need to do so PRIOR to the start of regular rehearsals in December. Any student that has to miss a performance will not be given any major roles in the production of the show (i.e. solos – featured positions, partnered routines, etc).

In case of emergency, please notify the your director immediately if you must miss a rehearsal or performance:

Percussion Students – Mr. Ames - 574-210-8757

Color Guard Students – Mrs. Horner - 574-329-8729

PHS Band Office – 574-936-2178 ext. 1232

All three numbers have active voicemail – if nobody answers, leave a message to verify that you called and what time you called.

Any student who misses a rehearsal may not be allowed to perform on that weekend's performance. The student is still required to attend the performance in full uniform.

Every member's role in the ensemble is crucial to our success. Unlike a sports team where substitutes are available, ALL of our performers are part of the show ALL of the time. We cannot rehearse or perform successfully and to the ensemble's full potential without every member in attendance. Should attendance become an issue with a cast member, the staff reserves the right to remove the cast member from the organization with no refund of fees paid to the organization.

Please, remember that communication is the KEY to working through any form of conflict.

Rehearsal Policies

The evening rehearsals will stick to the following timeline.

5:30-6:00 – students arrive and use this time for set up and to get prepared for rehearsal

6:00 – downbeat & rehearsal or warm-ups begin

-designated students will be in charge of starting warm ups if the staff is busy

-everyone begins rehearsal PROMPTLY at 6:00

8:50 – final run through

-only during this final 10 minutes are parents or family members allowed to attend rehearsal time

9:00-? - students clean up and tear down from rehearsal

-everyone helps until everything is put away

Sectional rehearsals may be called during SRT or after/before school. Everyone is expected to attend any sectional practice that is called.

Weekend rehearsals and camps will begin at the designated time. Parents should plan ahead to make sure that students are able to arrive at on time for set up and rehearsal.

Rehearsal Expectations

All students in the Winter Performance Ensemble are expected to wear sneakers or dance shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for movement and dance training (including pit percussion). The staff reserves the right to remove a student from rehearsal should their attire prove improper or dangerous for the activity. T-shirts and shorts are recommended as it is often warm in the rehearsal gyms.

-exception will be shoes not being worn ON THE TARP as directed by staff

This activity is physical by nature. All members will be subject to conditioning exercises during rehearsals to increase stamina, flexibility, and agility. Water and sports drinks are the best refreshment to keep your energy up.

With any physical activity, there is potential for injury. Should a student suffer from an injury or illness, they should immediately notify a staff member. Injuries that are not properly taken care of can result in complications that keep cast members from performing in rehearsals.

Attitude is a major factor in a successful rehearsal. Students are expected to have a generally positive and understanding attitude. In any competitive activity, there will be constant feedback and criticism from the staff. Anyone involved in this program is expected to have a sense of understanding how to deal professionally with criticism and how to use this as a tool to become a better performing member of the ensemble. Negative attitudes will not be tolerated.

Competitions

The competition schedule is included with this handbook. Every competition will vary in starting times and locations, but these usually consume the entire day and evening on Saturdays.

There will almost always be a rehearsal on the morning of competitions.

Parents should be understanding and patient of the timeliness of weekend schedules. Often, the staff does not receive final performance time information until the week of the performance. The staff will make every effort to get schedules out to students and parents as quickly as possible after the contest host sends out final information.

Parents should also be understanding that the group will NEVER run perfectly on schedule with arrival times returning home from events. Travel conditions, traffic, road construction, contest delays, and many other factors involved can drastically effect the actual time that the WPE will arrive home after events. While we do provide schedules to help parents plan, the most efficient way for students to communicate the time for pick up after an event is to use a cell phone and call when the bus is arriving in Plymouth.

Financial Obligations

The membership fee for the Winter Performance Ensemble will be \$250. This fee will be due before February 1st. Anyone that does not have their membership fee paid in full by February 1st, may not start the February competition season as a performing member.

Anyone that will have financial difficulty should speak to Mr. Ames before season rehearsals begin in November.

While we do our best to cut down on costs, there are still numerous expenses involved in the operation of the WPE season. The membership fee is used to pay for things such as:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -support staff | -copyright fees | -travel expenses (bus and trailers) |
| -music arrangements | -choreography and drill | -props |
| -uniforms | -instrument repairs | -percussion supplies |
| -percussion equipment | -circuit membership fees | -competition entry fees |
| -sticks and mallets | -sound system equipment | |

The membership fee does not cover all of the expenses of the season. The music boosters and fundraising events also provide financial support to the WPE to cover additional expenses not covered by the membership fees.

All checks must be made payable to: **Plymouth Band**

Three payment plans are available for parents to use.

Payment Plan 1:

\$250 payment at or before Christmas Break camps

Payment Plan 2:

3 payments (\$75, \$75, \$100) are made on or before December 16th, January 6th, and February 3rd.

Payment Plan 3:

4 payments of \$50-\$75 are made on or before December 16th, January 6th, February 3rd, and March 3rd.

Coupons for Payment Plan 2 and Payment Plan 3 are included in this handbook.

Membership Contract

All Winter Performance Ensemble members are required to turn in the signed Membership Contract BEFORE the first rehearsal begins. NO MEMBER will be allowed to attend any practices until this contract has been turned in to Mr. Ames. Failure to turn the contract in before the second rehearsal may lead to removal from membership.

Proposed Competition Dates

All Winter Performance Ensemble competition dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. The following schedule is what has been planned in advance for this season.

January 24 – possible performance at an IHSCGA show at DeKalb HS

February 14 – possible performance at WGI Indianapolis (this is a national competition)

February 21 – performance at the Carroll HS competition

March 7 – performance at the Warsaw HS competition

March 14 – perform at the IPA State Prelims

March 21 – perform at the IPA State Finals (if the ensemble advances from prelims)

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan #2 Coupons

Please, return these coupons with payment on or before the required date.
Cut coupons off from BOTTOM to TOP.

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 2 – Payment #3 \$100.00 Due February 6

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 2 – Payment #2 \$75.00 Due January 2

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 2 – Payment #1 \$75.00 Due December 15

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan #3 Coupons

Please, return these coupons with payment on or before the required date.
Cut coupons off from BOTTOM to TOP.

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 3 – Payment #4 \$50.00 Due March 6

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 3 – Payment #3 \$50.00 Due February 6

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 3 – Payment #2 \$75.00 Due January 2

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Payment Plan 3 – Payment #1 \$75.00 Due December 15

Student Name: _____

Send payment to: Plymouth Band – c/o Bryan Ames
1 Big Red Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Winter Performance Ensemble

Membership Contract

Parent
Initials

Student
Initials

I have read the Winter Performance Ensemble Handbook.

I will commit to attending all camps, rehearsals, and performances for the Winter Performance Ensemble.

I understand the financial commitment of \$250 must be paid on time based on one of three payment plans listed in the WPE Handbook.

I will work to my fullest potential to achieve the goals of the WPE. This includes personal dedication to practice and memorization of my role as a cast member.

I will show respect for the staff and other members of the WPE.

I will follow all guidelines and expectations listed in the WPE Handbook.

I understand that schedules do NOT always run as planned and due to unforeseen events, it may cause the WPE to run behind schedule when traveling.

I understand that membership fees are non-refundable for any reason. I understand that once I begin attending rehearsals, I will owe the full \$250 membership fee regardless of my continued participation in WPE.

I, _____ hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of this handbook. I recognize and fully understand the rules and regulations by which I may participate, and I am prepared to face the consequences of violating the contents of this handbook.

I understand that by participating in the Winter Performance Ensemble that there will be a role and cast position specifically created for me. I, therefore, enter into this contract in good faith that I will fulfill the duration of the season. I enter this contract with sincere commitment, dedication, and integrity.

student signature

date