

# Visual Ensemble: Color Guard, Dance Team, & Majorette

Pelham High School

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## **Course Information:**

Location: Competition Gym

Course Meeting Times: 1st Period (8:00-8:55)

Course Website: [www.pelhamband.com](http://www.pelhamband.com)      [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)

## **Course Description:**

Visual Ensemble The Pelham Visual Ensemble is composed of the Color Guard, Dance Team, and Majorettes. These teams are auditioned based and comprised of students of varying grades (9-12) who wish to rehearse and perform in the Visual Component of the Pelham Band Program. The group attends mini-camp, choreography camps, band camp, all weekly after school rehearsals, as well as additional rehearsals relative to the winter component of these programs. The Visual Ensemble performs at all pep rallies, football games, two marching band competitions, as well as various performances as scheduled by the VE Instructors/Mr. Ward.

## **Course Requirements:**

Students will participate in daily rehearsals for the entire duration of the class. The rehearsal will include a warm-up (stretching period, full ensemble rehearsal, as well as sectional or group rehearsals. The rehearsal also includes physical exercise as a source of conditioning and may include aerobic exercise, jogging/running, yoga, etc. Students are expected to be actively engaged in rehearsal and participate by stretching and rehearsing the physical elements of their routines. They are also expected to attend and actively participate in all required performances (football games, competitions, etc.). Students will also receive choreography assessments that are used to assess their proficiency of movement basics and their routine(s).

## **Classroom Expectations (General Expectations):**

- Students are expected to behave at a higher standard than other students at Pelham High School.
- Students are expected to follow all rules of Pelham High School and Pelham City Schools.
- Students are expected to be courteous, polite, and respectful at all times to faculty/staff members, parents, and other students. This includes not speaking while others are speaking and not using inappropriate language, profanity, or derogatory comments.
- Students are expected to be present and on time at all rehearsals and performances. It is imperative that we start and end on time and have all members present to maximize our rehearsal/performance time. More detailed attendance policies/procedures are listed below.
- Students are expected to have all materials needed for rehearsals and performances. No exceptions!
- Required footwear and clothing must be worn at all rehearsals and performances. Students must wear either dance/ballet shoes or tennis shoes with socks at all times. They must also be wearing athletic clothing at all times during rehearsal.
- Students are expected to keep the Band Room, Practice Area, and Pelham High School clean and organized. Our room and school is our home while we are here and should be treated with the upmost respect. Absolutely no food, drinks (water is acceptable), gum, or candy is allowed in the band room or gym. Students who do not adhere to taking care of equipment or the band room will be asked to clean up their respective area of the facility. Students will store their clothes and materials in their assigned lockers at all times. Lockers will be free of food, drink, and trash.
- Cell phones or other electronic devices should not be used during rehearsals or performances unless instructed by Mr. Ward relative to accessing or selecting music.
- Students are expected to fully participate in all activities and discussions.
- No jewelry will be allowed at practice. This includes earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces.

### **Classroom Expectations (Procedures):**

- Beginning Class: Students will show up to class dressed out in their gym clothes (shorts, t-shirt, and either tennis or dance shoes). They will also have the necessary equipment (sound equipment, flags, batons, etc.)
- Checking attendance: While students are beginning warm-up and stretching, attendance will be checked. Students should be in their assigned area and begin warm-up immediately.
- Restroom: Students are expected to use the restroom before or after class.
- Conclusion of Class: Students will put all materials back in their lockers and change out. After they have changed out they will move back to the small gym for the duration of class.

### **Failure to follow these rules will result in the following consequences:**

- 1st offense- Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Written Warning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Contact Parent/Guardian
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense- Detention
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense- Referral to Office

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to be present and on time for all class meetings. All students will follow the Pelham High School Attendance Policy. Please follow the Pelham City Schools Code of Conduct as well as the Pelham High School Band Musician & Visual Ensemble Handbooks for information on attendance and grading.

### **Grading Procedures:**

Daily Grade(s)	10 pts. (each day) 30 pts. (weekly)	Students will earn a daily grade for participation in class and having all materials.
Performance(s)	100 pts. each	Students will earn a performance grade for being at required performances with all materials.
Choreography Grade(s)	100 pts. each	Students will earn an assessment grade for performing the required choreography, etc.

- Grading rubrics are attached to this document.
- All students will receive a semester exam grade for the last choreography grade of the semester. Grading will follow the rubric for choreography grades. The assessment will feature all of the elements of dance or movement that are comprehensive.
- Grades will be updated each week and our accessible in INOW.

### **Make-Up Policy:**

- Students will have one week to make-up choreography grade(s). If a student misses a performance for an unexcused reason he or she will receive a 0. If it is excused the student will have to watch a video of the performance and submit a two-page critique of the performance.

### **Digital Procedures:**

- Cell phones or other electronic devices should not be used during rehearsals or performances unless instructed by Mr. Ward relative to accessing music.
- Communication will be handled through our previously setup Remind 101 accounts, email, and our websites: [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) & [www.pelhamband.com](http://www.pelhamband.com)

**Materials and Supplies Needed:**

Class: Visual Ensemble:

Practice Clothing: Shorts, T-Shirt, Tennis Shoes or Dance Shoes, Water Bottle,  
Proper Equipment (flags, batons, sound system, props, etc.)**Pacing Calendar:****1st Nine Weeks (Performance Grades)**

Football Games/Marching Competitions/Pep Rallies

Routines: Halftime Show Routines, Pep Rally Routines

**2nd Nine Weeks (Performance Grades)**

Football Games/Marching Competitions/Pep Rallies

Routines: Halftime Show Routines, Pep Rally Routines, Begin Winter Routines

**3rd Nine Weeks (Performance Grades)**

Winter Competitions and Basketball Performances: Dates TBD

Routines: Basketball and Winter Routines

**4th Nine Weeks (Performance Grades)**

Spring Trip/Mini Camp

Routines: Winter Routines, Basics for Spring Auditions

**Other Information**

- Disclaimer: Syllabus is subject to change.
- All Parents & Students must sign and return the agreement form that is attached to this document.

**Daily Grading Rubrics**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>0-2</b>
Participation (5 points)	Student fully participates in all activities and discussions.	Student sometimes participates in activities and discussions.	Student rarely participates in playing activities and discussions.
	<b>5</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>0-2</b>
Materials (5 points)	Student has all needed materials.	Student has some to most of the needed materials.	Student has little to none of the needed materials.

## Choreography Grading Rubrics

Criteria	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Needs Work	Unacceptable
	<b>25-20</b>	<b>19-14</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>1-6</b>
Knowledge of Choreography (25 points)	Demonstrates excellent knowledge of the choreography. and does it well.	Demonstrates good knowledge of choreography. Keeps up with group. Few errors, however it does not interfere with performance.	Demonstrates some knowledge of choreography, but unsure of some movements. Sometimes hesitates/ watches others and makes several errors	Remembers a few of the steps/ movements and tries, but looks lost and out of sync with others.
	<b>25-20</b>	<b>19-14</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>1-6</b>
Technical Skills (25 skills)	Dance performed with great attention to quality of movement, body position, placement on stage and other details of dance. Also demonstrates an excellent understanding of dance style.	Dance performed with attention to details of technique, has attained proficiency in dance style.	Only some understanding of technical elements (ie. footwork, quality of movements, body positions) demonstrated in performance.	Although remembers some of dance, little attention paid to how movements are done or other details of dance.
	<b>25-20</b>	<b>19-14</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>1-6</b>
Performance Skills (25 points)	The dancer draws the judge in to want to watch them and is able to engage the audience completely through their performance. A true joy to watch!	The dancer communicates with audience/judges through eye contact and facial and body expression. Is able to engage the judges.	The dancer is generally focused, but only some attempt made to grab attention of the judges with eye contact and good facial expression.	The dancer is not very focused on making eye contact, concentrated or committed to performance.
	<b>25-20</b>	<b>19-14</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>1-6</b>
Rhythm/Tempo (25 points)	Shows a complete understanding of tempo and beat and stays on rhythm throughout the dance.	Accurate in beat, tempo, rhythms of dance sequences throughout the dance.	Shows a basic understanding of tempo and beat, but falls behind and/or speeds up in places or makes errors in rhythm.	Attempts to keep a rhythm, but gets off beat and speeds up or falls behind often. Doesn't follow beat in music.

**2019-2020**  
**Syllabus Agreement Form**

I have received and read the class syllabus and understand all of the information contained in the document. The syllabus is a supplemental document to the 2019-2020 VE Handbook and outlines the details of each this course.

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(Student's Name)

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(Student's Signature)

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(Parent's Signature)

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(Date)