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Introduction

Welcome to one of the most important and exciting experiences of your life :
The Elk Grove High School Band Program

You are encouraged to commit yourself fully to this worthwhile activity . You have a gift and talent that sets you apart from your fellow students. What you gain from participation will depend upon the depth of your commitment. In other words, you will gain from Band what you put into Band!

In order to assist band students and parents/guardians in understanding areas of responsibility, the following Handbook is set forth. Becoming familiar with the policies and information contained herein will enable each member to make the most of this great opportunity to become a better person and a better musician.

In the **Elk Grove Band Program**, we firmly believe that the most successful Band students are the ones who strive to improve their musical skills through regular habits of practice and daily progress. Such students develop a high sense of purpose and set regular goals towards which they direct their efforts. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within our program. We intend to conduct the **Elk Grove Band** in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves. Students should take PRIDE in their achievements, putting forth the extra effort needed in order to attain and maintain this goal.

BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT YEAR AHEAD!!

Mr. Ron Fiorito, Jr., Director of Bands
(847)718-4498

Goals & Objectives of the EGHS Band Program

1. To teach students about the art of music through band performance
2. To develop the performance skills of every student on their instrument.
3. To provide for the musical needs of the school and community
4. To develop informed, educated, and discriminating consumers of music
5. To acquaint students with music from a wide variety of historical style periods and to place them in perspective with regard to their own time
6. To provide opportunities for growth through teamwork, travel, and group experiences, leading to the development of esprit de corps and self-discipline.

The Elk Grove HS Band Motto:

EXCELLENCE

is the result of

CARING *more than others think is wise;*

RISKING *more than others think is safe;*

DREAMING *more than others think is practical;*

and....

EXPECTING *more than others think is possible.*

EGHS Grenadier Bands

Daily Expectations of an EGHS Band Member

Responsibility

*for your actions
for your attitude
for your assignments*

Respect

*to yourself
to your fellow students
to your director
to guests to our Band Room
to our facilities and equipment*

Commitment

*to your fellow band members
to the EGHS Band Program
to music-making
to the pursuit of EXCELLENCE*

Band Ensembles at EGHS

Symphonic Band - consists of the most advanced musicians at EGHS. Placement into the group is by auditions held each Spring, which are open to all current and incoming Elk Grove Band students. Symphonic Band studies challenging, high quality band literature, and seeks to develop advanced individual and ensemble playing skills. The group performs at several formal concerts annually, as well as various educational festivals and contests throughout the area and Illinois. The group has established an outstanding reputation for its performance excellence and was accepted to the prestigious Illinois Superstate Band Festival in 2003 and 2004.

Concert Band - is open to all Elk Grove students who have previous experience on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. The primary focus of the ensemble is on the development and improvement of fundamental individual and ensemble playing skills. The Concert Band performs at several formal concerts throughout the year plus various educational festivals in the Chicago area.

Marching Grenadiers - Consists of members of the Symphonic and Concert Bands. The MG performs at all home football games and various community parades. The group performs high-energy music aimed at providing pageantry and excitement. Membership in the Marching Grenadiers is voluntary, but participation is strongly encouraged of all Band members.

Color Guard - Provides a colorful visual element to the Marching Grenadiers through the use of flags, rifles, and other props. Membership is open to all EGHS students.

Percussion Ensemble - Open to all students who have previously played percussion instruments. Percussion Ensemble class will focus on techniques and skills related to snare drum, timpani, mallet keyboard, auxiliary percussion, and drum set. Our philosophy requires all students to work on all aspects of percussion performance and become "Total Percussionists."

Jazz Ensemble I - Entrance is by audition only. Auditions are held annually, and personnel is limited to a standard instrumentation. All EGHS Band students enrolled in Symphonic or Concert Band are eligible to audition. Jazz Ensemble rehearses approximately 4 hours per week, and has an active performance schedule, including "home" concerts, festivals, and contests.

Jazz Ensemble II - Open to all EGHS students who play a standard jazz ensemble instrument. The focus of the group is on the understanding and study of various jazz styles, literature, and the development of individual/ensemble skills toward placement in Jazz I. Members must be currently enrolled in Symphonic or Concert Band (exception for students who play guitar or piano).

Grenadier Pep Band - Includes ALL members of the EGHS Symphonic and Concert Bands. The group is a "fun band" designed to create enthusiasm and school spirit at home varsity basketball through current pop/rock tunes. GO GRENS!!

Chamber Ensembles - It is widely recognized that an active chamber music program is a vitally important component of an excellent band program. Students work in groups of 4-6 in which they learn tone, intonation, rhythm, and musicianship skills, and perform without a conductor. The skills learned in such small groups transfer to an outstanding large ensemble. A partial list of possible chamber ensembles includes, but is not limited to the following:

EGHS Music Department Grading Policy

The following grading outline represents a general policy for the Elk Grove High School Music Department, Each ensemble will further define the policy to meet specific course expectations. The following has been approved by Music Department Staff and EGHS Administration.

Daily Grade- 40%

Daily Grade is a broad category that includes such criteria as: musical preparedness, responsibility, behavior, punctuality, and class participation. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their performance skills and work habits. **Ten(10) points** will be assigned to each daily rehearsal.

- **Attendance** - to class and extra-curricular rehearsals
- **Punctuality** - on time to class, ready to play at designated time
- **Participation** - attentive, proper behavior, refrains from talking at inappropriate times, no gum
- **Preparedness** - has instrument, music, required materials
- **Performance** - evidence of regular practice, performs music at a proficient level

Testing/Assignments - 20%

Written tests(music theory, intonation, and other material presented in class)

Performance tests(Scales, etudes, and band music) Playing tests also determine chair placement.

Culture points(1 per quarter)

Performances - 40%

Although our daily rehearsals are the most important component in the musical learning process, performances represent the culmination of a unit of music study. Therefore, attendance at concerts and festivals is considered mandatory. For all performance events, students are expected to be:

- 1) Prepared - technically, musically, and mentally -for every performance.
- 2) On time to the pre-performance warmup
- 3) Dressed in proper concert attire
- 4) A positive role model as an audience member

Also included in the performance grade is participation in the Solo & Ensemble Festival.

The penalty for an unexcused performance absence will be significant and appropriate. Each musical ensemble's performance is judged by our school, community, our families, and in some cases, professional adjudicators. One person's absence greatly affects the entire ensemble's performance. The performance schedule is published well in advance in order to avoid conflicts. The best policy regarding any conflict is to communicate with Mr.Fiorito as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Significant personal illness
- School-sponsored activity that is equivalent to post-season playoff

In order for an absence from a rehearsal(outside of the school day) or a performance to be considered excused, a note or call from the student's parent/guardian must be received, reviewed, and approved by the director **at least 2 weeks prior**. The student must complete a **Request for Excused Absence Form**. In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note from the student's parent/guardian music be received on the first day the student returns to school. Significant prior notification allows the ensemble to make proper adjustments so that every other student in the group is not adversely affected. Students must complete make-up work in order to avoid having their grade lowered.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Jobs, birthdays, and family vacations are NOT considered excused absences, even with advance notice. Missing a scheduled performance event without an excuseable reason will result in the loss of one full letter grade for the current grading quarter. Make-up work is not permitted in the case of an unexcused absence.

Rehearsal Etiquette

1. During daily rehearsals, students are to BE ON TIME with all materials(instrument, music, pencil, mutes, reeds, etc.). FIVE MINUTES will be allotted after the tardy bell to assemble instruments and equipment, find your seat, do your personal warm-up, and work on "trouble spots" in the music.
2. TARDY DETENTIONS will be issued if the student:
 - Arrives in the Band Area after the tardy bell
 - Is not seated and ready to play when the director steps on the podium
3. All talking and playing should cease when the director steps on the podium.
4. During the rehearsal you are expected to give your undivided attention and cooperation to the director.
5. When rehearsing of individual sections takes place, all other sections should sit quietly and listen to the instructions being given. Unnecessary talking reduces the effectiveness of the rehearsal and wastes the valuable time of EVERYONE in the ensemble.
6. PENCILS are required at every rehearsal by every member.
7. Disruptive Behavior will be dealt with as follows

1st offense	Verbal warning
2nd offense	Conference with director Parent phone call
3rd offense	Removal from environment Detention

Continued negative behaviors will result in the student being dropped from the Band Program.

Percussion Expectations

1. Upon entering the room, check the board for rehearsal order
2. All percussionists will be assigned organizational duties before and/or after rehearsal
3. If you do not have a part to play, sit quietly away from those who are playing(read, study, etc.)
4. Store all percussion equipment properly when not in use / smaller items are to be put away daily
5. All percussionists are expected to own their own set of sticks mallets as described by the instructor

Discipline

1. Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual student. Each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the EGHS Band.
2. The Band is governed by District 214 School Board policies at all times, during and after school hours. Any student that violates school rules while with the EGHS Band will be subject to all school disciplinary action.

Performance Evaluation Criteria

"A" (SUPERIOR - outstanding in every detail)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) correct posture | 5) proper musical interpretation of all dynamics and accents |
| 2) superior tone quality | 6) musical energy/emotional involvement |
| 3) all correct notes and rhythms | 7) well-prepared, confident, player knows the material |
| 4) steady tempo/no pauses or hesitations | |

"B" (EXCELLENT - but lacks high level of perfection)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) correct posture | 4) steady tempo |
| 2) excellent to superior tone quality | 5) most dynamics, accents, articulations executed properly |
| 3) 1-2 missed notes/1-2 missed rhythms | 6) music has been practiced but is not "A" quality |

"C" (GOOD - basic weaknesses in several areas)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1) correct posture | 4) several missed rhythms, tempo shifts, unsteady pulse |
| 2) good to excellent tone quality | 5) articulations, accents, and dynamics followed but irregular |
| 3) several missed notes | 6) music has been practiced, but clearly not well-prepared |

"D" (FAIR - basic weaknesses, unsatisfactory)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) correct posture | 4) many missed rhythms, tempo is unsteady |
| 2) fair to good tone quality | 5) very little attention to dynamics, accents, articulations |
| 3) many missed notes | 6) music has been looked at but has not been practiced |

"F" (POOR - failing, lack of effort)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) incorrect posture | 4) too many rhythms are missed |
| 2) poor tone quality | 5) no attention to dynamics, accents, or articulations |
| 3) too many notes are missed | 6) student has clearly not practiced; may be sight-reading |

Solo & Ensemble Festival

Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival is an important part of a student's musical growth. Held each year in February or March, this event provides the opportunity to prepare solo and small ensemble literature and perform for an experienced adjudicator. Students receive a performance rating and comments. The comments received are constructive in nature, and are intended to help the student improve and mature as a musician. Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival is required for all band students.

Private Lessons

It is well-known that private study with an qualified professional musician on a given instrument is the best way for a student to achieve their highest potential. Although not required, private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students. The band director maintains a list of recommended private teachers. Many private instructors provide lessons at school during and/or after school hours. Private lesson fees average \$16.00 per half-hour lesson.

Any student taking private lessons will be excused from 1 culture point per semester **if** their private teacher gives them a positive Progress Report.

Band Trips

A major highlight of a Band student's high school experience is the opportunity to travel. The purpose of band trips is to reward students for their commitment, loyalty, and dedication to the Band program. Students represent the school and community by participating in once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities in exciting destinations, such as Florida, California, Texas, and Europe. An important component of group travel is the bonding that takes place among band members. The recreational and social aspects of a trip are just as important as the educational benefits. Students may earn their trip costs through participation in the various fundraising projects offered during the year(s) leading up to the trip. Most EGHS Band trips are open to all members of the Band program

Facilities and Equipment

- 1) For security purposes, only band members are allowed in the Band Room
- 2) Food, Gum, Candy, and Drinks are not allowed in the Band Room
- 3) Respect our facilities and environment - pick up after yourself
- 4) Never leave money, books, or personal valuables in the Band Room. Band lockers are provided for securing instruments and other important personal items. Mr. Fiorito and EGHS are not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- 5) All instruments are to be stored in assigned storage areas when not in use.
- 6) Percussion equipment is to be used by percussionists ONLY!!
- 7) Practice Rooms are for practicing only. No food, gum, candy, or drinks are allowed in practice rooms. Students must have permission before using a practice room.
- 8) All announcements and notices will be posted well in advance. Students are to check bulletin boards daily for important information.
- 9) Students are expected to show proper respect for band property by:
 - a) not leaning on music stands
 - b) not putting books, cases, etc. on any percussion equipment(including piano)
 - c) properly disposing of trash
- 10) EGHS Band members will receive the necessary materials to function effectively within the various ensembles. The student will be charged for lost items as follows:
 - a) Marching Band Flip Folder \$5.00
 - b) Leather Concert Folder \$10.00
- 11) Concert Folders are to be kept in the folio cabinets, not in personal band lockers.
- 12) Student using an EGHS-owned instrument assumes responsibility for the proper care and maintenance of the instrument during the time the instrument is in their care. The student will be held financially responsible in the event of damage due to neglect.

Uniforms

Band students at EGHS represent the entire school and community when performing at athletic events, concerts, and festivals. The appearance of our students communicates the level of pride that we feel about our band. It is absolutely crucial that our uniforms reflect this level of pride

Marching Band Uniforms

Marching uniforms are provided by the school, and are kept in the Uniform Storage Room.

Students must provide:

- 1) Black DrillMaster marching shoes(purchased through the Band)
- 2) Black socks(solid black-no patterns)
- 3) White gloves(available through the Band)

Guidelines for Marching Band Uniform Wear:

- 1) No jewelry is to be worn, including earrings
- 2) No makeup is to be worn, including fingernail polish(Color Guard may use matching makeup)
- 3) The entire uniform is to be worn at all times, unless otherwise instructed by Mr. Valkema

Concert Formal Attire

Students in Symphonic and Concert Band wear formal black concert attire, provided by the school.

- 1) Boys - black tuxedo jacket & pants, white tux shirt, cummerbund, bow tie
- 2) Girls - black concert dress

Students must provide the following:

- 1) Boys - black dress shoes / black dress socks(solid black-no patterns)
- 2) Girls - black dress shoes / black hose

Recommended Instrument / Accessories List

It is suggested that high school students do not use their "beginning band" instrument past the 8th grade. Those instruments are designed for smaller bodies and are built to withstand the physical abuse that young students may inflict on them. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. A high quality instrument is a necessity for the student to reach their full potential. **See Mr. Fiorito for a list.**

Required Materials for Band Students

Concert/Symphonic-

All- Tuner, metronome, cleaning kits for instrument, PENCIL

Brass- All necessary oil, slide grease, cleaning equipment, and mutes (cup & straight)

Trombones- All should have water spray bottle for slide

All Valve- Instruments- Should be oiled on a daily basis!!!

Trumpets- Should all be at least on a Bach 3c mouthpiece

Woodwinds- All reed instruments should be rotating between at least 3 reeds. You will need to supply your own reeds, unless there are special circumstances, and all should be on at least a #3 or #3 1/2!!!!

Percussion: Snare sticks, timpani mallets, keyboard mallets, stick bag (brands and types to be specified at the start of the school year)

Tuners & Metronomes- These important accessories are now widely available, small enough to fit inside an instrument case, and affordable(\$15-20). (Can be purchased through the band)

Jazz-

All- Tuner, metronome, cleaning kits for instrument, PENCIL, Jazz C.D.'s and Manuscript paper

Brass- Mutes: Cup, Straight, Harmon mute, and plunger

Woodwinds- Rotating reeds, good ligature, mouthpiece

Rhythm- All necessary sticks(brushes, mallets), picks, strings, straps...

AREA MUSIC STORES

Quinlan & Fabish Music 9 Camp McDonald Rd.
Quinlan & Fabish Music 166 Shore Dr.
International Music Suppliers 681 Graceland Ave.,

Prospect Heights (847) 253-5592
Burr Ridge (630)654-4111
Des Plaines (847) 827-0707

Opportunities for Individual Achievement

IMEA All-District / All-State

The IMEA(Illinois Music Educators Association) holds auditions each October for selection to its District-level Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Bands. Auditions are competitive, and a limited number of students will be allowed to represent EGHS. Audition materials for Band/Orchestra woodwinds and brass include the IMEA Senior Scale Sheet(winds only) and two IMEA etudes. Percussionists are required to perform etudes on snare drum, timpani, mallet keyboard, and multiple percussion. All students must sight-read as part of the audition. Students auditioning for Jazz Band perform a required jazz chart, improvise on F Blues, and sight-read.

The District VII Senior Music and Jazz Festivals are held each year in November

The top players from each of Illinois' nine IMEA districts are selected to participate in the All-State Music Festival, held in late January in Peoria. Only junior and senior wind and percussion players are eligible to participate in All-State.

District 214 Honor Band

A limited number of EGHS Band students are nominated for selection to the District 214 Honor Band. Those students selected attend chair auditions in early February , followed by 3 rehearsals and a concert performance under the direction of a prominent guest conductor.

Band of America National Honor Band

The BOA National Honor Band is a group of approximately 90 of the finest high school musicians from across the nation, selected by audition tape. Students rehearse in conjunction with the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, held in Indianapolis. During this 3-day event, students are under the direction of a world-reknown guest conductor, and perform a special concert featuring a prominent guest artist. AUDITION TAPES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MID-SEPTEMBER. This is a very worthwhile opportunity.

Youth Orchestras

A number of youth orchestras exist within the northwest suburban area that provide outstanding students with an opportunity for additional quality musical experiences. Some of these include: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Metropolis Youth Symphony, Schaumburg Youth Symphony.

Student Fundraising

Students will be asked to participate in several fundraising projects during the school year which benefit **both** the Band and the individual student. With each fundraiser, the majority of profit earned is designated for the organization, with the largest profit amount being designated for each student's **Individual Band Account(I.B.A.)**. Money earned by a student may be used to pay for Band trips, Band Fees, private lessons, and more. Profits from fundraisers are vital to the successful operation of the band program.

Band Awards Program

Awards

Class numerals	50	points	Lyre logo	150	points
JV letter	100	points	Varsity letter	200	points

Activity

Points

Major Ensemble

Symphonic Band	20	Jazz Ensemble I	20
Concert Band	20	Jazz Ensemble II	20

Related Ensembles

Marching Grenadiers	15	I.M.E.A.(audition)	10
Orchestra Winds & Percussion	10	I.M.E.A. District VII Band/Orch	10
District 214 Honors Orchestra	10	I.M.E.A. District VII Jazz	10
Youth Orchestra	10	I.M.E.A. All-State	10
Musical Pit Orchestra	10	Color Guard	10
Jazz Combo	10	Senior Soloist	10

Related Activities

Private Lessons(taking)	10	Drum Major	10
Private Lessons(teaching)	10	Section Leader(Marching Band)	5
Instrument Switch	10	Band Aide	5
Solo & Ensemble Festival: I rating	10	Band Librarian	5
Solo & Ensemble Festival:perfect score	5	Church/Community Performances	5
District 214 Honor Band	5	Volunteer Work	1 per hr.
Summer Music Camp	5	(moving chairs & stands, concert set-up and teardown, etc.)	

Senior Plaques

Senior plaques will be awarded to each senior band member who has successfully completed 4 years in the EGHS Band program. Each senior will also have the opportunity to present a short speech at the Annual Band Banquet.

John Philip Sousa Award

The Sousa Award recognizes a senior band member who has demonstrated superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation both in and out of the Band program. The student is nominated by the band membership and selected by the director.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

The Armstrong Jazz Award recognizes a member of the jazz program who has demonstrated superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation both in and out of the Band program. The student is nominated by the band and selected by the director.

Senior Medallion

The Senior Medallion recognizes the most outstanding Senior in the EGHS Band program. The award is selected solely by the band director, and is presented annually at the Senior Awards Ceremony

Symphonic / Concert Band Awards

- OUTSTANDING BAND MEMBER(Symphonic / Concert Bands)
- MOST IMPROVED BAND MEMBER(Symphonic / Concert Bands)

Jazz Awards

- OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE MEMBER(Jazz 1 / Jazz 2)
- OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN (Jazz 1 / Jazz 2)
- OUTSTANDING SOLOIST (Jazz 1 / Jazz 2)

TEAMWORK

The Ability To Work Together Toward A Common Vision

The Ability To Direct Individual Accomplishment

Toward Organizational Objectives. It Is The

Fuel That Allows Common People To

Attain Uncommon Results

Elk Grove High School Bands

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Print

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Grade(2005-06): 9 10 11 12 Instrument(s) _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Father's Work Phone _____ Mother's Work Phone _____

Parent e-mail address: _____

Student e-mail address(if different) _____

Private Lesson Teacher _____

Other school activities _____

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"We have read the EGHS Band Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the Band activities as described in this handbook within the guidelines presented. We understand that our student is responsible for attendance at all performances and rehearsals as printed the Band Calendar.

We also grant our student permission to travel by school transportation to band events.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

"I have read the EGHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band program. I understand my responsibility for attending all performances and rehearsals as printed on the Band Calendar.

Student Signature _____

SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AND THE BAND FEE FORM
Keep all other parts of this handbook

2005-06 BAND FEE

The basic Band Fee for the 2005-06 school year is \$25. This fee covers a variety of costs that are not covered by the school budget. These include the following:

- Festival & contest entry fees
- Transportation(bus) to band events
- Guest conductors and clinicians
- Band t-shirt(**NEW for 05-06**) - required for ALL students
- Concert Uniform useage fee

Students are also issued a Band Locker for storage of instruments and other music-related items. Locks **must** be purchased from the Band. Returning members may continue to use the lock previously purchased. Students are not permitted to use locks other than those purchased through the Band.

.....

Student's Name _____

Please enclose a check payable to ELK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL for the amount listed below.

Return with **Student Information Form** by Friday September 9

Basic Band Fee	\$25.00	<u>\$25.00</u>
----------------	---------	----------------

Combination Lock	8.00	_____
------------------	------	-------

TOTAL	\$	_____
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RETURN THIS FORM AND THE STUDENT
INFORMATION FORM BY FRI. SEPT. 9

The Foundation of Excellence

Tentative Efforts Lead To Tentative Outcomes.

Therefore Give Yourself Fully To Your Endeavors.

Decide To Construct Your Character

Through Excellent Actions

And Determine To Pay The Price Of A Worthy Goal.

The Trials You Encounter

Will Introduce You To Your Strengths.

Remain Steadfast

And One Day You Will Build

Something That Endures.....

Something Worthy Of Your Potential.

*Epictetus
Roman Teacher - Philosopher
55-135 A.D.*

ATTITUDE

By Charles Swindoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you...

we are in charge of our ATTITUDES."

The Elk Grove High School Band Motto

P.R.I.D.E.

Personal

Responsibility

In

Daily

Effort