

Helpful information for new Band Parents

Welcome to the PCHS Band Association. We hope the following information is helpful as your child becomes part of the “Pride of Port Chester” High School Band!

Phone Blast – The PCHS Band Association uses a recorded phone message system in order to transmit information to parents regarding upcoming band rehearsals, competitions, events, etc. The phone blast system is used frequently throughout the course of the year. More than likely, it will show up as “Team Care” on your caller ID. It is very important that we have your correct and best phone/mobile number so that you can receive these messages. Some find it best to NOT pick up the calls – if you let your answering machine record these messages, you can go back and listen to them again as needed.

Facebook - We encourage you to join the “Port Chester High School Band Parents Association” Facebook page!

Website: The PCHS Band Association maintains a website where you can find information on the competition schedule and driving directions. The website address is <http://www.portchesterhighschoolband.org>.

Membership - Be sure to become a PCHS Band Association Member. The annual cost is \$10.00 per parent or \$20.00 per family. Membership forms are available on our website at <http://www.portchesterhighschoolband.org> and will also be distributed at PCHS Band Association meetings.

High School Graduation: The band performs on the field for graduation exercises. This year’s graduation is on Friday, June 23rd at 6:30pm. Band members are asked to report at 5:30pm. Attire - White collared button down or polo shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes. Incoming freshman/ current 8th graders will perform with the band at graduation. It is hot on the field – bring water.

Summer Rehearsal: Percussion and Guard rehearsal is scheduled during the summer, please refer to Mr. Vitti’s Welcome Packet that was mailed in the beginning of June. This calendar schedule includes band camp and evening rehearsals held during band competition season.

August Band Camp: Band camp traditionally occurs during the last two weeks of August. For the 2017-2018 season, band camp begins on Monday, August 21st and ends on Thursday, August 31st. For the first week (August 21-25), the camp will be held at PCMS from 9am-3pm. For the second week, (August 28 – August 31), the camp will be held at Crawford Park from 7:30am-4pm. The last day of band camp (Thursday, August 31) is a longer day that goes from 7:30am-8:00pm. It ends with a 2017-18 field show preview. All family and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend. A pizza dinner will be provided for band/color guard members only. Please refer to the welcoming packet that was sent out by Mr. Vitti for more information.

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What to Bring to Band Camp: A great investment is a Coleman or Igloo Water Jug as it is insulated and will keep ice water cold all day. Bring plenty of drinks, a lunch and snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, your instrument, your music and your drill chart. Wear sneakers!

Booster Drive: Our first fundraiser of the season is our traditional Booster Drive. This year's Booster Drive will take place on Sunday August 27th. The Booster Drive is a mandatory event for all band and color guard members. Students will be assigned to cover certain streets and neighborhoods. Parent volunteers are needed that day to drive students to their assigned area. Students must wear their blue PCHS Band t-shirts for this fundraiser.

Regular Rehearsals: During marching season, band rehearsals occur every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-9pm in the PCMS parking lot. Full Band Rehearsals begin the Tuesday after Band Camp (September 5th) and run through November 2nd. Color Guard and Percussion have already started practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays; these groups continue to practice through the summer months.

Blue Band T-Shirts: All incoming band members will receive a blue band T-shirt. The band T-shirt is to be worn during the Booster Drive and under the band uniform or track suit during all competitions and some performances. Additional band T-shirts can be purchased for \$10 each. Given that some weekends involve back to back competitions, it is a good idea for each to band member to have at least two band T-shirts.

Uniforms: Band uniforms will be distributed in class order starting with seniors, then juniors, sophomores, freshmen and 8th graders (if applicable). Distribution times will be announced to all students during band rehearsal as well as through an email blast. The band uniform includes pants, jacket, white belt and helmet, all provided. You may have to get the uniform pants hemmed or let down for an ideal fit. In addition, students must wear the blue Band T-shirt, white gloves, black clip-on suspenders, black long dress socks, and Dinkle marching shoes. White gloves may be purchased through the PCHS Band Association or on the Dinkles website. Multiple pairs of white gloves are a good idea. Black clip-on suspenders may be purchased through the PCHS Band Association or at clothing stores like Kohl's, Target or online.

Marching Shoes: All PCHS Band members MUST wear Dinkles brand marching shoes with their band uniform. These can be ordered online at <http://www.dinkles.com/> Select "Formal Marching Shoes, Style #607 (Black)". The approximate price is \$28.95. Order your Dinkles before August 31st so that you will have them in time for the first competition. It's a good idea to use a Sharpie marker or a label maker to write your name inside each Dinkle – they often get mixed up on the bus.

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Band Track Suits: Each band/color guard member must have a band track suit which is to be worn during competition season when not in full band uniform (e.g. in the stands before and after a performance). These track suits cost \$55.00 and can be used for multiple seasons. The PCHS Band Association will be in contact to take orders.

Clothing Instructions: You may hear the term “come in street clothes.” This means that the student should arrive at the HS/practice area in regular clothes the day of competition. They will later change into their uniforms as directed, but they **MUST** have their track suit (top and bottom) with them. Another term used is to “come half dressed” which means to wear the blue Band T-shirt, the band uniform pants, suspenders and Dinkles shoes... but without the band jacket and belt on.

Band Garment Bags: All PCHS Band members are required to carry their band uniforms to and from competitions on a hanger, in a garment bag. The PCHS Band Association sells Navy blue garment bags with the PCHS band logo on them that work perfectly for this purpose. Alternatively, you may purchase your own garment bag elsewhere. Please be sure to put you band member’s name on their garment bag.

“Bring Dinner:” This is another term that you will hear used during competition season. The band usually rehearses on our field before an away competition. Prior to departure on the bus, parents are asked to “bring dinner” (food/drink to eat) for their students. Dinner can either be sent with your student at the beginning of the day or brought to them during the designated break. You will see a number of parents lining up with hot sandwiches and takeout food from local burger and fast food shops. This information will usually be given in a phone blast.

Home Football Games: The PCHS Band will perform at ALL home football games as marked on the schedule, this includes Homecoming on Saturday, September 16th. Attendance is required.

Band Quota: Sending a large high school band on the road to competitions is costly, and each band student is assessed a “quota” to help defray expenses. The 2017-18 net quota for each band/color guard member is \$1000; the gross quota is \$600. The gross quota is the amount you need to raise via the Ad Journal and Fruit Sale fundraisers –for example, we suggest each student sell \$400 in Ads (75% profit) plus \$600.00 in fruit sales (50% profit) as this equates to a gross quota of \$1,000. The Band’s Business Manager, Phil Gasparini, will address the importance of quota and fundraising with the students during the band season. Mr. Gasparini also attends the PCHS Band Association meetings and is happy to answer any questions you may have. Students who don’t meet quota are not eligible for scholarships as seniors. Please keep in mind that meeting quota is very important to the survival of the program.

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Fundraisers: Fundraising is **VERY IMPORTANT** for the band. Our two major fundraisers are The Ad Journal and Fruit Sale. For the past two years we have also sold Yankee Candles with success. Students will receive credit towards their quota based on the amount of Yankee Candles they sell.

If someone gives a cash donation towards a student's quota, that student will receive 100% of the amount.

****Students do not receive quota credit for the Booster Drive. The money raised during the Booster Drive goes directly into the Band Account****

Why Is Quota Important? Please keep in mind that the PCHS Band Association pays for: The band trucks, golf cart, gas, insurance, registration, repairs to not only the trucks but the instruments & equipment, the phone blast system, staff fees, equipment and various expenses during the year.

Recycling on Sundays: The Band holds recycling collection on the first and third Sundays of every month, 12 months a year, rain or shine. Recyclable cans and bottles with a 5 cent deposit are collected between the hours of 10am and noon on the College Avenue side of PCHS. Tell your neighbors, family and friends to save their recyclables and give them to the band. Again, parent and student volunteers are NEEDED to assist with recycling collection.

School Concerts: The PCHS band looks very professional on stage. All girls in the band must wear the "Dahlia Ladies" Gown #8864 from Stage Accents. The cost is approximately \$56 and the gown takes 2-4 weeks to ship. Please visit: www.stageaccents.com to place your order.

All boys in the band are required to wear a black sports jacket, black slacks, white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks and Dinkles black shoes (same as marching shoe). Boy's attire may be purchased/rented at Ridge Squire Tuxedo, Bowman Ave, Biltmore Shopping Plaza, Port Chester, 939-4613 or any tuxedo shop.

The Winter Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st this year. Please make arrangements for your concert attire in time for this event.

Note: 8th graders do NOT perform in PCHS concerts (Winter, All District or Spring Concerts). During Port Chester parades, 8th graders will march with the Middle School Band.

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Mr. Vitti's Packet: Please be sure to review the "Welcome Packet" that Mr. Vitti mailed out in June. The packet includes a practice, band camp, competition/football game calendar. Also included in the packet are the Ad Journal forms and a merchant letter. Please ask any of the PCHS Band Association board members for a copy of the packet if you did not receive one. We suggest that you fill out the Ad Journal forms with your band member's name, grade and phone number and then make copies of it.

It is VERY important that you complete and your student hands in the "Band and Color Guard Permission Slip & Health Information" that was included in Mr. Vitti's packet by the end of Band Camp. Your student may turn the completed form to their section leaders. Students will not be allowed to travel with the band if this form is not turned in.

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Packing for Band Competitions:

Before packing anything, label the following with your name:

Dinkles (band shoes) – inevitably, single shoes are found on the bus!

Garment Bag – make it easily identifiable for your student.

Suspenders – also often found on the bus.

Find out what your helmet number is and memorize it!!!

Arrive to the pre-competition rehearsal in “street clothes” unless otherwise instructed.

Wear blue band T-shirt and regular pants and the track suit jacket if you wish.

If the weather is cold, layer black UnderArmour under Band T-shirt. Buy in advance!

Wear whatever undergarments you don't mind wearing when changing on a bus full of other students, e.g. spandex shorts (girls).

Wear sneakers.

Bring lunch and water or arrange for parent to drop off food during lunch break.

Bring instrument and reeds, etc.

Girls: hair should be up. Minimal makeup, no long jewelry, and no fingernail polish please.

If told to arrive “half dressed,” this is what you should wear:

Blue band T-shirt

Band Uniform Pants

Suspenders

Black long socks (dress socks)

Dinkles (band shoes)

The following items need to be packed in a garment bag. This can be done well ahead of a competition

Band Uniform Pants – folded over sturdy hanger – plastic ones hold up better than thin wire ones

Band Uniform Jacket – placed on hanger over folded pants

White Uniform Belt – keep it on the jacket

Suspenders (attach to pants and adjust size ahead of time)

White Gloves – can be snapped to each other on shoulder epaulet of jacket
(Note: clarinet players will wear fingerless gloves – check with section leader)

Black Dinkles (band shoes)

Long Black Socks

Band T-Shirt – if not already wearing it

Track Suit Pants – folded over second hanger

Track Suit Jacket – placed on hanger over folded track suit pants

Consider tying multiple hangers together with elastic hair ties.

(Helmets are kept on the helmet truck when not in use.)

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Other items to bring to a competition (could be placed in garment bag or tied around the hanger tops in one of those drawstring bags).

In cold weather, UnderArmour is a must. It can get very cold sitting in a stadium in late October.

Hoodie sweatshirt to layer under track suit. (The students will change out of uniform and into track suits right after they compete.)

Hat and gloves.

Hand warmers. Did we mention, it gets cold?

Hair ties (girls with long hair).

Money for concession stands – they usually sell dinner items, hot chocolate, etc.

Cell phone. Portable charger.

Snacks and water for bus ride.

Note: Remind your son/daughter to use the bathroom after a competition BEFORE getting back on the bus to come home. The bus does not generally stop on the way home.

After a competition:

Go through your son/daughter's garment bag as soon as you can.

Hang up and air out uniform. It will likely be balled up in a heap.

Make sure all pieces you sent them with are in there (Dinkles, suspenders, belt, gloves, etc.)

Wash band T-shirt, UnderArmour and white band gloves if needed.

Return all pieces to garment bag to make packing for next competition easier.

Helpful Hints:

It helps to have a second band T-shirt to avoid laundry emergencies. These may be purchased from the PCHS Band Association for \$10.00

Keep a schedule of the band competitions and note if there are back to back Saturday/Sunday competitions on a weekend (helps to know how quickly to repack)