

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" aka The Port Chester High School Marching Band!

Phone Blast – The PCHS Band Association uses a recorded phone message system in order to transmit information, updates, and reminders 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 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 Page – We encourage you to join the "Port Chester High School Band Parents Assoc." Facebook page for reminders and updates.

Band Website – The PCHS Band Association maintains a website where you can find information on the Competition Schedule and driving directions to the show locations. The website address is <http://www.portchesterhighschoolband.org>.

Band Association 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 Ceremony – The Band performs each year on Ryan Field for the PCHS Graduation ceremony. This year, graduation is on Friday, June 22nd at 6:00pm. Band members should arrive at 5:00pm. Proper attire is white collared button down or polo shirt, black pants, black socks, and 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. Miceli's Welcome Packet that was mailed in 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 2018-2019 season, band camp begins on Monday, August 20th and ends on Thursday, August 30th. For the first week (August 20-24), the camp will be held at Port Chester Middle School from 9am-4pm. For the second week, (August 27 - August 30), camp will be held at Crawford Park from 7:30am-4:30pm. The last day of band camp (Thursday, August 30) is a longer day that goes from 7:30am-8:00pm. A pizza dinner will be provided for band and color guard members only. The Band Association will hold a meeting of all parents at 6pm. Finally, all family and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Field Show Preview at 7pm. Please refer to the Welcome Packet that was sent out by Mr. Miceli for more information.

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!

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Booster Drive – Our first fundraiser of the season is our traditional Booster Drive. This year's Booster Drive will take place on Sunday August 26th. The Booster Drive is a mandatory event for all Band and Color Guard members. Students will be assigned to cover certain streets and neighborhoods in the Village. 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 Competition 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 4th) and run through Thursday, November 1st. 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 or events, it is a good idea for each band member to have at least two band T-shirts.

Uniforms – Our new uniforms have been ordered, and we expect that they will arrive, on schedule, before our first competition. More detailed uniform information will be available at the Band Association meeting on August 30th on the last day of Band Camp.

Marching Shoes – All PCHS Band members MUST wear Dinkle 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 \$29.95. Order your Dinkles before August so that you will have them in time for the first competition in September. It's a good idea to use a Sharpie marker or a label maker to write your name inside each shoe – they often get mixed up on the bus coming home from competitions.

Band Track Suits – Each band and 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 \$60.00 and can be used for multiple seasons. Orders are being taken now for delivery before the first competition.

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. These garment bags will be available for purchase on August 30th before the Band Association meeting begins. Alternatively, you may purchase your own garment bag elsewhere. Please be sure to put your band member's name on their garment bag.

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“Bring Dinner” – This is another term that you will hear used during competition season. The band usually rehearses on our field before a 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 time. You will see a number of parents lining up with hot sandwiches or takeout food from local delis, restaurants, etc. Leave a little extra time if you are planning to buy food, as you should expect to run in to other Band parents doing the same. The timing information for meals will always be communicated in a phone blast, email and/or Facebook.

Home Football Games – The PCHS Band will perform at ALL home football games as marked on the schedule.

Band Quota – Sending a large high school band on the road to competitions is costly. Each band and color guard student is assessed a “quota” to help defray expenses. The 2018-2019 net quota for each band and color guard member 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 at least \$400 in Ads (75% profit) plus \$600.00 in fruit sales (50% profit) as this equates to a gross quota of \$1,000 which nets \$600 credited to the student’s quota. Students who don’t meet annual quota are not eligible for senior scholarships. Please keep in mind that meeting quota is very important to the survival of the program.

Fundraisers – Fundraising is **VERY IMPORTANT** for the band program. Our two major fundraisers are the annual Ad Journal/Yearbook and the Fruit Sale. For the past two years, we have also sold Yankee Candles with success. Students will also 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 one, but three trucks, some instruments, sound equipment, the phone blast system, 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. Parent and student volunteers are always needed to assist with recycling collection. Reminders regarding recycling and new location (once PCHS construction begins) will be posted on the band website and Facebook page.

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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 Dinkle black shoes (same as marching shoes.) Boys attire may be purchased or rented at Ridge Squire Tuxedo, Bowman Ave, Port Chester, 914-939-4613 or any tuxedo shop.

The Winter Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19th 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.

Mr. Miceli's Band Information Packet – Please be sure to review the "Welcome Packet" that Mr. Miceli mailed out in June. The packet includes a practice, band camp, competition and football game schedule. Please ask any of the PCHS Band Association board members for a copy of the packet if you did not receive one and confirm that we have your correct address. Also included in the packet are the Ad Journal forms and a merchant letter. We suggest that you fill out the Ad Journal forms with your student's name, grade, and phone number and copy the forms as needed.

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. Miceli's packet by the first day of Band Camp. Students will not be allowed to travel with the band if this form is not returned.