

HELPFUL HINTS

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 “One Call Now” 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.

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 and run through November 1st.

Blue Band T-Shirts – All incoming band members have received a blue band T-shirt. The band T-shirt is to be worn 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.

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 \$30.00. 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 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 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.

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.

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.