

HELPFUL HINTS

Welcome to the PCHS Marching Band Program. Your student is now part of the PCHS Marching band, better known as the “Pride of Port Chester.” We hope you find the following information helpful throughout the Program.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

- ✓ **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>

REQUIRED FORMS

It is VERY important that you complete and your student hands in the “Band and Color Guard Permission Slip & Health Information” that was mailed to you and handed out during camp. Students will not be allowed to travel with the band if this form is not returned.

BAND ASSOCIATION

- ✓ **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. Parents must be Association members for every year their child is in Band in order for that student to be eligible for senior scholarships.

UNIFORMS & ATTIRE

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Uniforms** – Band members are each provided a Band Uniform, which includes pants, a jacket, and a belt. Certain band members may receive additional accessories. It is the responsibility of each band student to properly care for his or her uniform. Band members are not allowed to eat or drink (except plain water) while wearing their uniform. Uniforms are returned to the school right after the end of Band Night in June (exact date for Band Night will

be announced later). The uniform distribution day will be announced, and will take place in the Uniform Room.

- ✓ **Marching Shoes** – All PCHS Band members MUST wear Dinkles Marching Shoes with their band uniform. These can be ordered online at www.bandshoesonline.com. Select “Formal Marching Shoes”, Style #607 (Black). The approximate price is \$33.95. Order your Dinkles before Band Camp begins on **August 15th** 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 through the Band Association. Alternatively, you may purchase your own garment bag elsewhere. Please be sure to put you band member’s name on their garment bag.
- ✓ **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 \$64 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 shoes.) Boys attire may be purchased or rented at Ridge Squire Tuxedo, Bowman Ave, Port Chester, 914-939-4613 or any tuxedo shop.

PERFORMANCES & REHEARSALS

- ✓ **Regular Rehearsals** – During Competition season, band rehearsals occur every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-9pm in the PCMS parking lot. Full Band Rehearsals begin August 2nd and run through Thursday, November 3rd.
- ✓ **“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.

- ✓ **School Concerts** – The date for the Winter Concert will be announced. Please make arrangements for your concert attire in time for this event.
 - o **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.

FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

- ✓ **Fundraising Target PER BAND MEMBER** – Sending a large high school band on the road to competitions is costly. Each band and color guard student is expected to meet a fundraising target, which is used to help cover expenses for the Band Program. The 2022-2023 net target for each band and color guard member is \$600 in net profits from individual fundraising efforts.

The gross target fundraising 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 = \$300 credit towards fundraising target) plus \$600.00 in fruit sales (50% profit = \$300 credit towards fundraising target) as this equates to a gross total fundraising of \$1,000, which nets \$600 credited to the student's target. Students who don't meet annual target are not eligible for senior scholarships. Please keep in mind that meeting the target is very important to the survival of the program.

- o **Fundraisers** – Fundraising is **VERY IMPORTANT** for the band program. Our two major fundraisers are the annual Ad Journal/Yearbook and the Fruit Sale. From time to time, we sponsor additional fundraisers. Students will also receive credit towards their fundraising targets based on the amount they sell through other fundraisers, unless otherwise stated.
 - o **Donations** – If someone gives a cash donation towards a student's quota, that student will receive 100% of the amount as a credit towards their fundraising target.
- ✓ **Booster Drive** – Students **do not** receive individual target credit for the Booster Drive as this is a group effort.
 - ✓ **Why Is a Fundraising Target Important?** – Fundraising is what enables the Band Program to be more than just a class. Fundraising pays for: the band trucks, golf cart, gas, insurance, registration, repairs and maintenance for all three trucks, some instruments, sound equipment, the phone blast system, and various other expenses during the year. Without these items, the PCHS Marching Band would not be able to travel to and participate in competitions and events. Fundraising is the very reason why our Band Program is more than just a class, a couple school concerts, and the town parades. We rely heavily on our student Band members, Parent Association members, and our community to help give our Band members the extraordinary experiences that they enjoy today.
 - ✓ **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¢ deposit are collected between the hours of 10am and noon in the Port Chester Middle School parking lot. 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 will be posted on the band website and Facebook page.