

Pride of Pickens Band

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Greetings and welcome to Pickens High School - home of the Pride of Pickens Band. I hope that this manual will provide answers to many questions that band members and band parents may have. If you cannot find the answer to your question please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone, fax, e-mail or snail mail.

You will find a copy of the 2009-10 events calendar on the web site. Please refer to it often. We will publish and e-mail monthly copies and updates as necessary.

AT THE END OF THIS MANUAL IS THE 2009-2010 RELEASE FORM. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE WE HAVE INCLUDED THE MEDICAL, FIELD TRIP PERMISSION, INSURANCE DATA, BEHAVIOR CONTRACT AND MANUAL RECEIPT FORMS INTO ONE FORM. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS AND RETURN.

Thank you for your time and support of your child. Please contact me if there is anything that I can do to help make this an exciting and rewarding time for you and your child.

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Dear Band Member,

You are a member of the Pickens High School *Pride of Pickens Band* - a musical organization that ranks among the finest in the state. In becoming a member, you are joining a distinguished list of musicians who have established a proud and envied tradition. Just as the accomplishments of the present band are built upon the foundation laid by hundreds of past band members, the future success and reputation of the band depends on YOU. Be proud of your organization and its ideals, for you are now a part of what is truly a unique experience.

The motto of the Pride of Pickens is "STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE." PRIDE members have pride in their organization, its performances and objectives. PRIDE members hold the honor of representing Jasper, Pickens County, and Georgia with class, dignity and discipline. PRIDE members also have dedicated themselves to each other and to the organization.

It should be said that no one has ever quit the **PRIDE**, because in order to quit you have to be a member - a real member. A true member would never quit. School, family, work, and church - all must be carefully balanced. It is not always easy to be the best, but it is easy to be a failure. Failure is the road with the least resistance; it takes no hard work or special skills. Sometimes "outsiders" may ridicule the band because they don't understand, or that they are simply insecure or jealous of your abilities and success. Success is often the hardest road to travel, but it is a journey worth taking.

"Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions and the actions that speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none; coming through time after time. Commitment is the stuff that character is made of - the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism."

We think that this manual will be almost as valuable to you as you are to the band. This is a "we" effort, where there can be no benchwarmers. All for one and one for all!!

Patrick J Gallagher Jr.

Dear Band Parent,

Your child has begun a valuable and enjoyable experience. It will be fun, it will be challenging and it will be educational. We are trying to teach your child to be successful. The success we seek is a result of a ***commitment to excellence*** by each member, parent and director. Success is not tangible in terms of ratings, awards or trophies, though they are positive reinforcements and nice side effects for the members. The Pride of Pickens is successful when each member has given maximum effort and has done the best with their abilities. Awards are secondary to the personal pride and satisfaction of this experience. We want the performance opportunity for your child to be the very best experience possible. This philosophy carries over into other academic areas as well as adult life. Students learn that commitment, fortitude and the pursuit of knowledge is the road to success.

It is the nature of people to belong to a group. As a member of the band, students are in a social peer group with which they have much in common. Friendships will be made that will last a lifetime. Your child will be given opportunities to develop interpersonal and leadership skills. Your child will have many experiences that might not be possible without the band. We take educational performing trips to many parts of the country and beyond. We perform for large audiences and are often involved with special events.

Just as the band has a commitment to excellence, so must the individual make a commitment to the band and its goals. As a member of the Pride of Pickens, each individual is important. No one else can perform the function of the individual that was assigned that function. For the band to perform at its peak, every member must do his or her part. Acquiring personal responsibility and discipline are very important products of the commitment that must be made to the PRIDE. **Putting responsibility to the band before personal preference is sometimes a sacrifice, but it's a lesson in *work ethics* that must be learned for adult life.**

The success your child enjoys in band is largely due to your support as a parent. Encourage your child to practice at home, and see to it that they get to rehearsals and performances. Be there when they perform. YOU are their most important audience. You are the one they look for in the crowd - it means more to them than you might suspect. We have a fine Band Booster organization. Your help in supporting this organization is vital and much appreciated. Involvement will also help you receive information, help in the decision-making, and allow you to get to know some other quality people who like to work hard and have fun doing it!

Patrick J Gallagher Jr., Director

Expectations

- You are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances.
- You are expected to prepare for rehearsals and performances on time.
- You are expected to correctly perform all performance materials
- You are expected to be responsible for all equipment and materials needed for rehearsals and performances. (instrument, music, pencil, reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.)
- You are expected to refrain from casual conversations during rehearsals and performances.
- You are expected to have an alert rehearsal behavior - listen, count, play on time, and do the very best that you can.
- You are expected to display a good attitude through cooperation, discipline and intensity of achievement.
- You are expected to follow the behavior guide at all times.
- You are expected to complete all homework assignments on time.

Attendance

Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is vitally important. The band functions together as a unit, and anytime you are absent; it diminishes the results obtained by all other band members. Just as each link of a chain is important to the strength of the whole chain, you too are important to the whole band.

ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE MAY RESULT IN MISSED PERFORMANCE OR DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND.

An excused, tardy or early departure absence from a rehearsal may result in student being held from a performance.

Excused Absence: illness, death in the family, or permission from staff member or director.

Unexcused Absence: Absence without permission.

Student may be reinstated after a meeting with the director.

Behavior Guide

Students are expected to be ladies and gentlemen at all times. Band Members could be suspended from band and/or school for misconduct on buses, at rehearsals, during performances and at anytime during a band trip or function.

For any organization, particularly a large organization, to run smoothly and efficiently the overall discipline must be both strict and fair. The organization must come first! To insure fair treatment, and the Director's respect for the students, the following policy will apply to all members within the band.

Band and its activities whether at home or on a trip is an extension of school; therefore, **ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY 24 HOURS A DAY**. The Director or his assignees may search instrument cases, luggage or motel rooms. See the Student Handbook and the Pickens County Code of Discipline for more information and details.

1. Use of tobacco, drugs or alcohol will subject to Student Code of Conduct.
2. Use of "bad" or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
3. Students should not be in the main school buildings after 3:25 PM during after school rehearsals.
4. Students not participating in a performance due to illness, excessive absences, etc. must still attend "in uniform" unless excused by the director.
5. Students must follow the Uniform Code.
6. Band members must honor the position and leadership of all band officers. The officers have earned their position through experience, training and testing. Unfair or unauthorized treatment should be brought to the attention of the director.
7. Band Officers found guilty of misconduct will lose their ranking.
8. Follow the directions of directors and chaperons at all times.
9. Headphones must be used with radios/players on the bus. Respect the right of any individual to not want to hear someone else's music.
10. Follow the itinerary at all times - any changes will be announced or posted by the director. Bring and wear a watch. "Someone said" is not a reason to change the rules or the itinerary.
11. No girls in boy's rooms or hallways, no boys in girl's rooms or hallways.

REMEMBER: YOU REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR DIRECTORS, YOUR PARENTS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY - YOURSELF! DO IT WHILE

"STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE".

Rehearsals

Always refer to the most current Monthly Band Calendar for complete rehearsal and performance information.

Marching Band:

Percussion, Color Guard, Brass and Woodwinds may have Summer Sectional as designated on the current band calendar. Attendance at these rehearsals is required for participation in these groups. Family vacations are excused only if the director is notified IN ADVANCE by writing, FAX or e-mail.

Marching Season Schedule Please Check Calendar!!!

Concert Band and Symphonic Band:

Concert Band and Symphonic Band Rehearsals are usually completed during the regular band class. However; occasional rehearsals for the full band and specific sections are required and scheduled in advance.

Band Camp

Each year during the month of July, band members assemble for the annual Band Camp. This is a five-day session of hard work necessary to adequately prepare for the 12 weeks of Marching Season. Band Camp is scheduled, and times are mailed to each prospective member. Band members should always plan in advance for this week. Band Camp is required for assurance of a "place" in the show. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the director. Please refer to the Band Calendar for specific dates. A \$150.00 participation fee is charged to help provide instructors, equipment, meals, t-shirts and snacks.

Concert Etiquette

The following is a list of standard concert etiquette procedures for all concert functions. The Pickens Music Department would like to thank our audiences for their continued cooperation and support in our endeavor to teach everyone, young and old, proper concert etiquette and to create a concert environment that acknowledges respect for the student's hard work.

- Parents should try to attend all performances. You are the student's most important audience.
- If you happen to arrive late, enter the performance room only between musical selections. It is distracting to the audience and the performers when someone enters during a performance.
- Please stay for the entire program. If you must leave, do so between musical selections. Remember - all performers must stay the duration of the concert. Part of the educational process is that the younger players hear the more advanced players.
- Please do not talk, pop chewing gum, or allow watches, cell phones, or beepers to go off during a performance.
- Please applaud at the end of each selection performed by concert groups. Hold applause until all movements are completed in a multi-movement selection as indicated in the concert program.
- Please applaud immediately after a soloist's performance in a Jazz Ensemble performance only.
- Please do not take pictures that require a flash during a performance.
- Please wear appropriate concert attire. Remember that adults are a visual role model for young people.

Respect for the Podium

This is a courtesy among musicians. Whoever is on the podium - Director, Band Officer or Band Parent - must be given the undivided attention of everyone in the room. All talking and playing must stop.

Awards

Successful participation in the band offers several outstanding awards. Most of these are presented each year at the Annual Band Awards Banquet. This Banquet is open to all band members, their parents, school and community officials and other people interested in the Pride of Pickens Band.

P.H.S. Band Letter - For Underclassmen and Seniors. To receive recognition for participation a Band Member must be active BOTH SEMESTERS. Woodwind, brass and percussionist must be enrolled in a band class for the entire year. Color Guard members must be active during the entire year (including Spring performance such as: Performances for the Middle Schools, Spring Trip or other performances.)

Service Bars will be provided for the Letter Jacket for each successful year in the band program as described in the Participation Awards section above.

John Philip Sousa Award - Presented to the Senior Band Member as chosen by the director for outstanding musicianship, leadership and commitment to the Band.

S.F.E Award - Presented to the Senior Band Member as chosen by the fellow seniors for "Striving for Excellence" to the Pride of Pickens.

Medals - Medals may be awarded by the Georgia Music Educators Association for Superior and Excellent Ratings in Concert Festival, Solo and Ensemble Festival, District Honor Band and All-State Band.

Other Musical Opportunities

All-District Band - The Georgia Music Educators Association's All-District Honor Band selects its members from the best players in District 9. The audition is held the first Saturday in January following the Winter Holidays. Registration fee is \$15 and is due by October 10th. The audition consists of scales and etudes located at www.gmea.org. This audition also serves as the preliminary All-State Audition. Please see the director for registration and audition information.

All-State Band - The All-District Band Audition serves as the preliminary All-State Band audition. All students who pass the preliminary audition will be members of the All-District Honor Band and can be eligible to compete in the final All-State Audition. There is no fee for the final audition. This final audition will consist of two prepared exercises and two sight-reading selections. Students selected to the All-State Band or Orchestra are considered to be the best in the State.

UGA JAN-FEST- The JAN-FEST is held each year at the University of Georgia in January. Students may be recommended. Students should expect to pay for rooms & meals if selected to JAN-FEST.

Private Lesson - Serious music students are strongly urged to take private lessons from a qualified private instructor. Many music stores in the area offer lessons on weekday evenings and Saturdays and throughout the summer. There are also several good instructors that are available locally.

Duties of the Band Officers

It is the responsibility of all officers to provide positive leadership and guidance to all band members through experience, knowledge and by example. It is the duty of all band members to honor the positions attained by the band officers!

Drum Majors

- Maintain discipline within the band
- Must be a playing member of the band
- First student assistant to the director
- Presides over all other officers
- Performs any other necessary duties as required of a drum major
- Conducts the band in rehearsals and performances
- Supervises uniform inspection before each performance
- Oversees instruction of marching fundamentals for new band members
- Assigns service work (with director's approval) for behavior or procedure violations

Band Captains

- Maintain discipline within the band
- Must be a playing member of the band
- Second student assistant to the director
- Assists drum major
- Teaches drill and oversees drill instruction by Lieutenants
- Assists in uniform inspection before each performance
- Assigns service work (with director's approval) for behavior or procedure violations

Auxiliary Leadership

- Maintain discipline within the Auxiliary
- First student assistant to the director in charge of the Auxiliary
- Oversees the other color guard officers
- Assures that all equipment is cared for and stored properly
- Teaches drill and oversees drill instruction by Auxiliary Lieutenants
- Supervises uniform inspection of the Auxiliary before each performance
- Assigns service work (with director's approval) for behavior or procedure violations

Lieutenants

- Maintain discipline within their sections
- Responsible for drill instruction in their sections
- Responsible for music memorization or equipment work checks
- Responsible for attendance reports
- Work with individual students or sections when needed

Band Travel and Trips

- Students sign-up for the bus that they wish to ride. Seniors sign up first and may sign-up one other band member.
- All students must ride the bus to all band functions unless special permission and arrangements have been made between the director and the student's parents in advance.
- Students may ride home with a parent or other responsible and authorized individual provided that the student turns in a permission note from the parents to the adult chaperones on his or her bus.
- Each student is responsible for assuring that their instrument, uniform, etc. is loaded and unloaded from the bus or the equipment truck.
- Always adhere to the policies under "Expectations" and "Evaluations."
- Always adhere to the policies in the "Behavior Guide."
- The bus driver and chaperones are in charge while on the buses. Listen for roll call and other instructions.
NEVER EXIT THE BUS THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY!!!!
- Nothing should ever be thrown from the bus windows. Keep heads, arms and legs out of the windows.
- When needed, an itinerary is provided to each band member with specifics about the trip.

Stadium Responsibilities

- Report on time as indicated on the most current Band Calendar.
- Band members must sit in assigned areas by sections.
- Uniforms must be properly worn at all times unless instructed otherwise by the director. Band Members must wear the Band T-shirt in order to be allowed to remove their uniform coats.
- The third quarter can be designated "break time" by the director.
- Drinks and Food are allowed only during third quarter break.
- Following third quarter break, band members must be seated and ready to play the fight song at the end of third quarter when the clock reads "00:00" before the beginning of the fourth quarter.
- No individual or sectional playing unless approved by the director.

Inspection

Inspection may be conducted before each public performance. Infractions could result in the student not being allowed to perform. Infractions will result in loss of third quarter break. The following items will be checked:

- Promptness (don't be late!)
- Neatness and cleanliness of the uniform
- Uniform properly worn, including T-shirt
- Black band shoes and black socks
- Instrument in proper working order (reeds, tuning slides, etc.)
- No large visible jewelry
- No long hair over the collar while wearing a band hat
- Identification numbers for uniforms must be memorized

Uniforms

The Band Uniform should be worn at such times and places as designated by the director. It must be worn properly and with the respect that it commands. Remember the uniform represents you and the Pride of Pickens! The uniform coat, pants, hat and plume are provided to the student. In the event that the uniform or any accessory is damaged or lost, the student will be required to pay for the replacement of that item. The thematic Band T-shirt is paid for as part of the band camp fee.

Color Guard and Dance Team members will be required to purchase uniform items as prescribed by the directors and sponsors in accordance to the particular show theme and needs. These items will include shoes, dance hose, black spandex uniform base any other items to be determined.

Instruments and Accessories

Students and Parents are reminded that a craftsman is only as good as his tools. Musicians must have quality instruments that play well in order for them to perform to the best of their abilities. Unfortunately, many beginners start out on "beginner" instruments that do not play as well as "intermediate" or "professional" type instruments. Serious High School Musicians should consider stepping up to one of these type instruments. If that is not possible, please make sure that the instrument that you have is of excellent working order. Please talk to a director before purchasing a new instrument.

Reeds - Clarinet and Saxophone players must have at least 4 reeds in good playing order at all times. Reeds are available from many area music stores.

Mutes - Brass players are required to have their own mutes when called for in the music.

Sticks and Mallets - Most drum sticks and keyboard mallets are provided for the students. Students will have to replace broken or lost sticks and mallets. Percussionists are encouraged to build their own collection of sticks and mallets in their own stick bags.

Printed Music - Each band member is provided with a music folder and individual copies of all music. The student must bring their own folder and a pencil to each rehearsal. Make sure that the music is not left on the stand, on the floor, in a chair, etc. Do not store your folder inside your case, unless there is a compartment designed for that purpose, damage to the instrument could occur. Students may be charged 25 cents for each replacement copy.

School Owned Instruments

Certain instruments are available, free of charge, for student use. These are generally the larger instruments such as Tuba, Baritone, Bass Clarinets, French Horns and the Percussion Instruments. All students are reminded that they have a responsibility to school owned equipment and instruments. Unnecessary damage or loss of these instruments is the responsibility of, and must be paid for by, the student who checked out the instrument. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the use of the instrument. The student's name will also be placed on the school's obligation list and could result in the holding of grades and class schedule.

Care of the Band Room

1. You may enter the Band Room at the following times:
 - In the morning before first period
 - During your scheduled class time
 - Before and after rehearsals and performances
2. The music library is "off-limits" to everyone except music librarians and designated officers.
3. Keep trash, litter and drink containers cleaned up at all times. Use the trash cans! Do not put trash in instrument shelves.
4. Students are not to be in the director's office without his permission.
5. Students are not to use the director's phone.
6. Storage rooms are used with director's permission only.
7. Instruments should be stored in the storage shelves or other designated areas. Please don't leave folders or cases on the floor or on chairs.

Pickens High School Band Boosters

The P.H.S. Band Boosters organization provides funding for the band program for such items as uniforms and instruments. All interested adults are eligible for membership. There are individual and family dues. Parents of every band member are needed to help with the many fund raising projects that are held throughout the year. There are many committees and projects from which to choose. The Band Boosters welcome your support in any form. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the band room.

Participation in the Band Boosters offers easy access to current information about the band and its activities. It offers opportunities to assist the band and your individual child with financial obligations. It also provides a great social organization with some other very interesting, hardworking, and fun-loving people in which you share a great interest; that is: YOUR CHILDREN AND THE WONDERFUL PRIDE EXPERIENCE!

Chaperones

On all trips the band takes, whether to away football games, festivals, contest or concert tours, we like to take as many chaperons as is possible. The only limitation is that of available bus seats or limitations by the event that we will be attending. In most cases, these events allow one chaperone per 10 band students.

Procedures to follow for signing up as a chaperone. Each year the Band Booster President appoints someone to head the chaperon committee. This person will know the availability of chaperon space for each trip. Sign-up sheets are completed at the booster meeting in the early part of the year. Please contact the head of the chaperon committee for questions or to be placed on the chaperon list. When there is limited space for chaperons, the chaperons with the "most experience" will receive first choice. Parents wishing to chaperon the "Spring Trip" should get "experience" during the Fall.

General Guidelines for Chaperons

1. Chaperons, are serving as "volunteer" employees, therefore, they must abide by the same guidelines and professional standards as any other school employee. This applies to use of bad language, smoking in view of students, supplying students with tobacco, etc. 2. Please be familiar with the Band Manual "Behavior Guide" and the "Pickens County Board of Education Code of Conduct."
3. Chaperons should make every attempt to prevent discipline problems from occurring; however, if problems do arise they should be reported to the director immediately!
4. Chaperons should never discuss a student problem with other students, including their own children. Much damage can be caused by rumors, innuendoes and incomplete information.
5. Please be familiar with the student officers and their positions. They can do a lot of the work. Please assist them if they ask you for help.
6. Please be pleasant but firm with the students. Remember that they participate primarily because they want to have fun with their friends. Students have been told to obey the chaperons and band officers at all times.
7. Please do not waive or modify trip regulations or itinerary without direct verbal or posted notification by the director. Do not believe the "somebody said....." story.
8. Make sure students have watches and that the itinerary is followed as closely as possible. Please assure that the students are doing what they are supposed to do when they are supposed to do it. Tardiness cannot be tolerated. The whole band must come first.
9. Never administer any type of medication without checking the student's medical form. The medical forms are taken on every trip.
10. Always have one chaperon on the bus before the students start to load. Always leave one chaperon outside to board last after doing a general check of the area.
11. Call the roll each time the bus is loaded. Do this as soon as possible. Insist that the students be quiet and try to make a visual contact with each person as their name is called. Get assistance from other chaperons to do this quickly. Note any missing or tardy students on the Bus Roll. Report to the Head Chaperon ASAP so that we can depart on time. Collect parent notes from students not riding back on the bus. Turn in Bus Rolls and notes to the Head Chaperon who will turn them in to the director.
12. Make sure that the students remain seated and quiet at railroad crossings.
13. Students may not be allowed to scream, yell or run around at restaurants, shopping areas, motels or other areas where that type of behavior is not acceptable.
14. Remind students to put garbage in trash cans. If necessary, have students clean the bus before they are allowed to unload.
15. Please assist students with their uniforms, hair, jewelry, money, etc. Remember that they are all somebody's "babies."
16. Please keep a high profile. Your visibility will prevent most problems and help to quickly solve others.
17. Assure that students never go anywhere alone. At football games students may go in small groups to the bathroom. While sightseeing on longer trips students will be in groups with a chaperon.
18. On overnight trips, you will have assigned rooms to assist and supervise.
19. In motels, have Room Captains meet you at their room at check-out time. Do not allow them to hand you the key without doing a room inspection for damage or excessive mess.
20. Do your best to work together and have a good time! Get to know the "new" parents and make them feel welcomed.

**Pickens County - Pride of Pickens
Medical and Travel Consent Form 2009-10**

Full Name of Student: _____

Mailing Address: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Home Phone _____

Parent or Guardian _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Parent or Guardian _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Name of Another Party If the Above Cannot Be Reached _____

Relation _____ Phone _____

Student's Personal Physician _____ Phone _____

Student is Allergic to the Following Medications: _____

Student has the Following Allergies: _____

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____

Check if any of the following apply: Heart Disease _____, High Blood Pressure _____, Asthma _____,

Seizures _____, Brochitis _____, Diabetes _____, Contacts _____, Glasses _____, Dental Appliance _____

Other Pertinent Information Concerning Student's Medical Condition: _____

<p>The Student Should Carry Health Insurance of Some Kind! If Family or Employer Insurance is Not Available Then the Student Should Carry 24 Hour School Insurance! Students Without Insurance Must Provide a Signed Waiver Letter From the Parents.</p>
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The Following Must be Complete:

Health Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____ Social Security # of Policy Holder _____

Name of Policy Holder _____

I hereby authorize Mr. Patrick J Gallagher and whomever he may designate as his assistants to seek medical attention for the student listed above. I also give my permission for this student to participate in all scheduled, school approved band trips. I also testify to receiving and reading the PHS Band Manual and agree to abide by the policies and procedures of the PHS Band.

Signed _____ Date _____