

Petoskey High School
Instrumental Music Department

PHS Band Handbook

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Foreword

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met, and the welfare of each individual member is best served. By accepting membership in the Petoskey Bands, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with your teammates and instructors in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, and respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the tenets of the Full Value Agreement.

The Directors will do their best to ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation. This handbook has been developed to familiarize each band member with general operation and procedures of the Petoskey Bands and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

Philosophy

It shall be the goal of this department to further the artistic musical experiences of all students and faculty of this school and citizens of this community, state, and country who come within its influence. Through artistic performance and study, we shall attempt to pass along our great musical heritage and offer a means to further the aesthetic experiences of those with whom we come in contact.

Any student attending this public supported institution shall be eligible to be given instruction and audition for entrance into any instrumental organization supported by or affiliated directly with the school. Rules and regulations concerning membership in any instrumental music organization shall be in the best interest of the student, the group in question, the instrumental music department, the school, the community and the art of music itself.

Ensembles

Petoskey Marching Northmen

The Petoskey Marching Northmen is the most visible performing arts organization in Petoskey. All high school band students must participate in marching band. The Marching Northmen perform at all home football games, Petoskey Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Santa Parades, and at competitions around the state. With the exception of parades, marching season lasts from mid-summer to late October. Band Camp is held at Ferris State University for one week during the month of July. Additional information about Band Camp, summer rehearsals, and sectionals comes out in May.

Wind Symphony

The Petoskey High School Wind Symphony is the premiere instrumental ensemble at Petoskey High School. High school students are invited to participate in this group through audition on a standard band instrument only. The Wind Symphony performs at the Winter Concert, MSBOA Band Festival, High School Spring Concert, Memorial Day, and PHS Commencement. This ensemble rehearses and performs from the end of the marching season (late October) until the end of the school year (early June).

Symphony Band

The Petoskey High School Symphony Band is composed of roughly 50% of the members of the Petoskey High School Band Program. Chair placement in this group is determined following the marching season by audition on a standard band instrument. The Symphony Band performs at the Winter Concert, MSBOA Band Festival, and the High School Spring Concert. This ensemble rehearses and performs from the end of the marching season (late October) until the end of the school year (early June).

Jazz Band

The Petoskey Jazz Band is composed of band students whose primary or secondary instruments are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, or percussion. All PHS band students are invited to participate in this ensemble. The Jazz Band performs at the Winter Concert, select home basketball games, Elementary Jazz Tour, the High School Spring Concert, Band Aid, and Jazz Night at the Perry. This ensemble rehearses before the start of the school day from the end of the marching season (late October) until the end of the school year (early June).

Petoskey Steel Drum Band (PSDB)

The Petoskey Steel Drum Band is composed of Petoskey High School Percussionists. The PSDB performs at engagements around Michigan throughout the holiday and summer seasons. This ensemble rehearses and performs from the end of the marching season (late October) until Band Camp (mid-July).

Chamber Ensembles

At the discretion of The Directors, students may be assigned to perform as part of a chamber ensemble. Chamber ensembles are composed of 2-10 students and offer members an opportunity to take a larger role not only in performance, but in preparation of the music they are learning. Petoskey High School chamber ensembles often perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble, the Winter Concert, the High School Spring Concert, and at engagements around Petoskey. Rehearsal and performance schedule will be entirely dependent on the membership and function of each ensemble.

Attendance

"We succeed or we fail as a team."

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. Performances and rehearsals outside of class are a normal function of each performance ensemble class. Every student is expected to participate in all scheduled functions.

In addition to the regularly scheduled band class during school hours, extra rehearsals and performances shall be expected of each student participating in band.

Attendance records for rehearsals and performances outside of the school day will be kept by band directors. Absences should be communicated directly to band directors; excused absences will be defined as the following:

1. Sudden illness or injury
2. Family emergencies
3. Unavoidable conflict, which has been previously approved by the director, at least three weeks in advance.

A note from the parent(s) or guardian(s), which will be filed in the director's personal files in case any question should be raised at a later date, must verify each of the above listed absences. Any unavoidable conflict must be brought to the director's attention **at least** three weeks ahead of time in the form of a note from parent(s) or guardian(s).

Repeated absences may result in removal from the band program.

Grading

The purpose of grading in the Petoskey Band Program is to communicate with students and parents an accurate representation of a student's level of achievement. Any questions about grades should be directed to the student's primary director.

Each Marking Period, students will receive grades that reflect their Effort (based on reasonable best effort in rehearsals), Preparedness (based on being prepared for class with working instrument, music, and all other necessary equipment to fully engage in class), and Performance (based on playing ability; are students playing at the grade-appropriate level).

For each scheduled performance, students will receive a participation grade that equates to credit/no credit.

At the discretion of The Directors, graded playing tests may be assigned. These playing tests will be communicated to students via their school email.

Communication

All performance dates, times, and locations are available at www.petoskeybands.org.

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' office phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the band website and on ParentVue (PowerSchool).

The Band Program uses Remind 101 to communicate with students while traveling and to communicate last minute logistical changes.

Concert reminders, time changes, fundraiser announcements, and other relevant information will be sent to parents via email to the address found in PowerSchool.

Calendar

As with any schedule, dates are subject to change and other events may be added. You will be notified in writing well in advance of any changes and/or additions to the schedule. Please remember that each student is required to attend all concerts in their entirety. This is a big part of each student's grade and is important to the success of the music program! Event dates are planned well in advance so each student can make plans to attend.

For calendar, see www.petoskeybands.org.

Band Boosters

"We don't need a few people who can do everything, we need a lot of people who can each do a little bit."

The function of the Petoskey Band Boosters is to support all 6-12 band students enrolled in Petoskey Public Schools. This organization is composed entirely of volunteers, primarily parents/guardians of current band members. Band Boosters meet on the second Thursday of every month in the PMS Band Room. We encourage all band parents to join us for a meeting and find a way that they can get involved with the organization.

Band Letter Requirements

Band Letters are awarded at the Senior Banquet. Students who successfully complete eight semesters of high school band are eligible to receive their Letter.

Materials

Students are expected to have the following materials every day:

- Music in binder or flip folder with student's name on the front
- Instrument
- Appropriate clothing for marching (when applicable)
- PENCIL

Code of Conduct

All Petoskey Band members are to exhibit an extraordinarily high degree of behavior. We expect this, the school expects this, and therefore, you should expect this of yourself and your peers. When we travel, the reputations of your school and community are on the line.

Petoskey Band Members are students of Petoskey High School and are subject to the same policies and procedures found in the PHS Student Handbook.

Any items or issues not addressed within this Band Handbook are addressed in the Petoskey High School Student Handbook, which can be found on the school's website at www.petoskeyschools.org

Disciplinary action will be subject to administrator discretion.

1. Clear adherence to rehearsal and performance times is a MUST. Tardiness and absences will be dealt with by the attendance policy.
2. On away trips: Students are responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment. There is also a need to properly mark your equipment and personal items. We are not responsible for any lost or stolen equipment on away trips.
 - a. All buses are to be left in the same condition they were found.
 - b. Chaperons are to be listened to and followed.
 - c. No obscene language or behavior will be tolerated.
 - d. Displays of affection are to be limited to holding hands.

Dismissal may result for any of the following reasons:

1. Aggressive behavior distracting the group consistently from the combined effort.
2. Passive behavior in which the student willfully does not contribute to the well being of the group. This includes, but is not limited to, consistent apathy, refusal to participate, and/or continued disruption of the learning environment.
3. Any questionable behavior, which is not in the best interests of the Band- alcohol, smoking, drugs, etc.

Any time the actions of a Band student are not in keeping with the procedures and regulations herein set down, or if for any reason he/she is being considered for removal from band or to another group, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be consulted in a conference with the director(s) before any direct action will be taken.

Special Rehearsals

The following special rehearsals will be held:

- A. Sectional rehearsals in the weeks leading up to band camp
- B. Band camp check-in, Practice and Parent Meeting
- C. Band Camp- Every attempt is made to avoid conflicts with sports camps, etc. This is a required camp for participation in marching band in the fall.
- D. Night rehearsals in the month of August following band camp.
- E. One morning sectional (1 hour) per week and one night rehearsal (from 6:30-9:00 pm) a week during the months of September and October.
- F. Section leaders, flag captains and/or band director(s) may schedule a sectional rehearsal to work out special playing and/or marching problems, in addition to regularly scheduled sectionals.

Uniform

The band uniforms were purchased by the community and are not the property of any individual. Each uniform when new is worth approximately \$350.00 and is expected to last, with normal use, 15 years. The wearer of this uniform is a member of a select group and should wear and handle this article of clothing with care and pride. It is with this in mind that the following rules were conceived:

1. The uniform chairperson will issue uniform numbers at an announced time.
2. Complete uniform and accessories are to be properly worn and in clean, pressed condition for performances.
3. All members are required to stay in full uniform while in the public eye. While on the bus you may take off your jacket, loosen your tie, etc. While off the bus, you must stay in full uniform.
 - A. The concert uniform must include the following:
 1. Gentlemen - A white tuxedo shirt, black dress pants, tall black socks, solid black shoes (tennis shoes are not appropriate), bowtie, cummerbund, and coat (except percussionists).
 2. Ladies - A black concert dress, tall black socks or tights, solid black shoes (tennis shoes are not appropriate).
 - B. The marching uniform must include a hat, plume, black gloves, **TALL** black socks, gauntlets, black marching shoes, coat, and black pair of bibs. Any hair extending beyond your ears should be put up inside of your hat. When you will be seen by anyone other than a member of our immediate group, the uniform must be complete and properly worn.
 - C. While in uniform, jewelry shall be limited to small studs in the place of any/all piercings (earrings, nose rings, etc.). In concert uniform, a small necklace may be worn, but should not cover any portion of the uniform. Jewelry should be silver or gold in color and not pull attention away from the concert or marching uniform.
4. When the uniform is not being worn it must be properly placed and clamped on **the hanger that was issued with the uniform** so that the creases are even. The coat should be hung with the coat zipped, so that it will hold its shape. The hat must be stored in the box provided. It then should be returned to the uniform volunteers to be checked.

Football Games

1. The Band section is for **current high school band members only**.
2. During games, no one will be allowed to leave the seating section for refreshments. No food or drink (except the provided water) will be allowed in the stands.
3. The Marching Band will sit as a unit until dismissed to the band room at the end of the game. The band must be ready to play at any time.
4. You may be excused from the stands ONLY with the band director's approval.

Marching Band Contests

Students are expected to ride the bus with their classmates to all contests. Parents who plan to drive their students home from a contest must notify The Directors via email **no later than the Wednesday before the contest**. They must also check out with a director before departing the contest.

Contact

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