

PARSIPPANY HIGH SCHOOL



MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

2020-2021

Band Director – Mr. Gregory Dalakian

Band Room Phone Number:

(973) 712-4713

PHS Bands Website: PHSbands.com

PRIDE

HONOR

SPIRIT

EXCELLENCE

Students and parents must read this handbook carefully so that you will be familiar with the rules, regulations, and procedures of the Parsippany High School Marching Band.

The Marching Band is one of Parsippany High School's largest and most honored organizations. We are a vital part of the school community and our members are a part of one of the community's most respected groups. We are very proud to be called Members of the **PHS Marching Band**.

Being a Member of this organization will be one of the most rewarding experiences of high school. It takes hard work to achieve our goals: a great deal of pride, determination, and self-discipline are necessary to be the best we can possibly be.

*“We are what we repeatedly do,
Excellency then is not an act but a habit.”*

Aristotle

“Success does not consist in never making mistakes, but in never making the same one a second time.”

George Bernard Shaw

“Every great achievement was once impossible.”

Unknown

Attendance

1. Each Member is expected to attend all Rehearsals and Performances. This will usually include 2-3 full rehearsals per week and 1-2 sectionals per week. The performance schedule varies each weekend. Please refer to the Band Calendar found on www.PHSbands.com.
2. Section Leaders and Guard Captains may call additional sectionals/rehearsals as needed.
3. If you are in school on a particular day you are expected to attend any rehearsals or performances scheduled for that day.
4. Please plan your other activities, visits, etc. around your Marching Band schedule. **DO NOT schedule doctor appointments, trips to visit Aunt Wilma and Uncle Fred, work, etc., during rehearsal or performance times.** Remember, you have made a commitment and you have obligations and responsibilities to the **team**.
5. The *only* acceptable excuses for missing scheduled rehearsals or performances are:
 - a. Death in the Family
 - b. Religious Holiday
 - c. Field trips that conflict with a rehearsal or performance.

Family emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

6. If for some reason you cannot attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance you *must* inform your Section Leader or Guard Captain *and* the Drum Majors. You *must also* furnish to the Band Director as soon in advance as possible a written explanation signed by one of your parents/guardians of why this absence must occur during a scheduled rehearsal/performance time (email is okay). Notes must be sent to Mr. Dalakian:

- **At least one week prior to a rehearsal date**
- **At least two weeks prior to a performance date**

You will be responsible for any work that you miss during your absence.

7. If there is any kind of emergency that prevents you from following these guidelines please call the Band Room at (973) 712-4713 and leave a message or email Mr. Dalakian immediately.

8. Any Member who misses one of the scheduled rehearsals or performances with an unexcused absence may be asked to attend but not participate in the next performance. Additional unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the group.

9. Understand that performing and rehearsing with the PHSMB is an extension of the school day and your behavior in both should always be *exemplary*. Also understand that your schoolwork comes first and should you need help, you will tell the staff and take the necessary steps to take care of the situation.

HONORS CREDIT

Students enrolled in HONORS CONCERT BAND or HONORS WIND ENSEMBLE who are non-compliant with the attendance policies outlined in this Handbook will forfeit Honors Credit.

Performances

1. For all performances, make sure that your equipment gets put on the equipment truck. Don't just assume that someone will put it on the truck for you. **You are responsible for all of your own equipment.** All equipment *except* small instruments such as flutes and clarinets should go on the truck.

2. Drum Majors will direct all Members to the proper buses.

3. You must remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.

4. Buses will *always* remain clean.

5. When you step off the bus you must be in *full* uniform ready to go.

6. At football games:

a. We have a job to perform; therefore, we will sit in the proper sections and cheer for our team!

b. Members will be allowed to visit the refreshment stand during a part of the third quarter. The full band (including Color Guard) must be back in the stands seated and ready to perform by the time the Drum Majors have indicated to you. If any Member misuses this free time or returns tardy, that Member may have his/her privilege revoked for the next game.

c. Please do not bring any food or drink back to the stands.

d. While sitting in the stands, you must **NOT** allow non-marching band members to sit with us. Remember, we have a job to do.

Uniforms

You will be issued a Marching Band or Color Guard uniform to use for the school year. This uniform is the property of the School. You will need to purchase Marching Band or Color Guard shoes, gloves, and a marching band show t-shirt and performance shirt to go with your uniform, which will be worn under your uniform and during our school pep-rally performances. You will be able to order shoes during Band Camp. Marching Band members will also need black socks. Color Guard members may need to provide additional items as requested by the staff.

1. Each member of the PHSMB must exhibit extreme care to his/her uniform.
2. Uniforms will *always* be hung on the original hard plastic hangers and in a school-provided garment bag when not being worn.
3. **Shoes will *always* be clean and polished.**
4. After each performance, it is recommended that your uniform be aired-out.
5. If you wish you may have your uniform dry-cleaned. Uniforms *may not* be washed by hand *except* for certain parts of Color Guard uniforms.
6. Your uniform *must* go home immediately after each performance. Any Member leaving a uniform or any uniform parts at the school may have to pay storage fees to retrieve their uniform or uniform parts.
7. Uniforms will be worn in full or not at all, unless otherwise instructed by the Director.
8. Prior to each performance, the Staff may conduct an inspection of the Members in full uniform with full equipment. Any Member whose uniform or equipment does not meet the uniformity or cleanliness standards determined by the Staff will not participate in the performance.
9. *Not allowed while in uniform:*
 - Gum Chewing
 - Running
 - Shouting (unless called for in performance or in the line of duty)
 - Swearing
 - Smoking
 - Spitting
 - Public Displays of Affection
 - Cell phones & Texting (only allowed on the bus)
 - Any other inappropriate public behavior

Your Equipment = Your Responsibility!!!

Every Member of the **PHS Marching Band** assumes responsibility for the equipment that they use throughout the season. This includes instruments, music, flip-folders, lyres, accessories, uniforms, guard equipment, etc. Careless handling of school property will not be tolerated. Repair or replacement costs due to neglect or accident are the responsibility of the student and parent or guardian.

Whether your equipment is owned by the School or by yourself, nobody is permitted to use, play, or try anyone else's equipment at any time.

Additionally, there are certain types of equipment and/or accessories that you may be required to purchase to keep your equipment in top shape. The list below is a suggestion for each instrument:

Flute/Piccolo: Instruments must be swabbed after each use, and must be swabbed and polished prior to each performance.

*Cleaning equipment requirement: Cleaning rod with cotton or silk handkerchief

Clarinet: Instruments must be swabbed after each use, and prior to each performance. Corks must be greased for ease of assembly and disassembly.

*Cleaning equipment requirement: Cotton cleaning swab, cork grease.

Alto/Tenor Sax: Instruments must be swabbed after each use, and prior to each performance.

*Cleaning equipment requirement: Cleaning swab or Pad Saver, mouthpiece brush, neck brush.

Trumpet/Mello/Baritone: All valves and slides must be kept lubricated. Tubing must be flushed with warm water once a week. Mouthpieces must be cleaned at least once a week. Instruments must be polished prior to each performance. Be sure to use the appropriate polish for your instrument's finish (silver or lacquer).

*Cleaning equipment requirement: Snake brush, mouthpiece brush, slide grease, valve oil

Sousaphone: Bits, neck and mouthpiece must be removed from the body of the sousaphone prior to putting it in the case. All valves and slides must be kept lubricated. Mouthpieces must be cleaned at least once a week. Instruments must be polished prior to each performance. Silver polish should be used with silver plated instruments.

*Cleaning equipment requirement: Snake brush, mouthpiece brush, slide grease, valve oil

***ALL WIND PLAYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THEIR OWN LYRES FOR STAND MUSIC. FLIP-FOLDERS WILL BE PROVIDED.**

Chain of Command

Understand the Chain of Command and use it. If you need anything from a safety pin to a new uniform see your Section Leader or Guard Captain first and they will take the necessary steps to help you.

Marching Band Director

Assistant Marching Band Director

Marching Band Staff

Drum Majors or Guard Captains

Section Leaders

Members

Varsity Awards

- 1st year Member: Chenille Split Color Varsity Letter & Certificate
- 2nd year Member: Sport Specific Pin & Certificate
- 3rd year Member: Sport Specific Pin & Certificate
- 4th year Member: PHS Bands Pin, Certificate & Plaque

Closing Thoughts

The Staff will *always* welcome any sincere suggestions that you have to offer. If you know of something that you think will be helpful, don't keep it a secret.

This year we would like to continue a policy. The policy is: Do not complain to anyone who cannot help you with your problem! Seek out someone who can make a difference. If someone does complain to you and you cannot help them, please refer them to someone who can!

An organization is only as good as the individual members are. This is true of the Marching Band at Parsippany High School. *Every* Member of the PHSMB is important to the group.

Remember, musical and rhythmic talent is partly due to hard work. You have chosen to work hard for the school music program. The investment that you are making is one that will pay off with huge dividends in the future. Perhaps you are not planning a career in the field of music but you are certainly seeking success in life, and the disciplined habits which are fundamental in creating excellence in the Marching Band will directly transfer to whatever profession you choose for yourself.

We are all familiar with the pressures that are a part of today's society. Get a job, get a car, get a better job, get a better car, etc. Certainly there are many benefits to entering the work force and learning the responsibilities that bring financial rewards. This is a valuable part of growing up and can greatly add to one's sense of maturity. However, if an after-school job restricted a person from being in the PHSMB, is it really worth it? You may work for 45 years of your life; yet you only have a select few years to participate in the band or guard, and you cannot reverse your decision at age 26.

Sometimes you may have heard fellow members say, "Band takes too much time. I want to have more time with my friends. I've been in Band several years anyway. I'm ready to do something else for a while." Beware of this "easy-out" trap, which may offer short-term gain with probable long-term pain! The years in the PHSMB are the best. This is what you have worked for since the first day you opened your instrument case, or first learned how to spin a flag. You can make valuable contributions to the group with your talents. As you become an upperclassman perhaps leadership opportunities such as Section Leader, Guard Captain, or Drum Major may interest you. It will be your opportunity to serve as a positive role model and share your gifts with your fellow Band members.

We all know that the PHSMB is not just another group at Parsippany High School. The sense of teamwork, commitment, self-discipline, and feelings of personal accomplishment take on a whole new meaning when you are in the Marching Band. It offers an investment in your most important asset: YOU!!! Invest wisely!

Remember, this organization has been known as the PRIDE OF PARSIPPANY HIGH SCHOOL in the Past. What are *YOU* going to do in the Present to ensure that we will continue to be known as the PRIDE OF PARSIPPANY HIGH SCHOOL in the Future?

Pride. Honor. Spirit. WHO ARE WE??? PHS!!!

PHS Marching Band Contract

THIS PAGE *MUST* BE SIGNED AND
RETURNED TO MR. DALAKIAN

NO LATER THAN

August 24th

We have read and understand the contents of the
PHS Marching Band Handbook and agree to
abide by all the rules and regulations stated.

Student Name (PRINTED) _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____