



**Pickens County Middle School
Band
Handbook
2008-09**

*Continuing a Tradition
of
Excellence*

Pickens County Middle School Band Handbook

2008 – 2009

www.PCMSBand.org

WELCOME!

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you or your parents may have concerning the band program and classes at PCMS. The band program includes some of the most talented and dedicated middle school musicians around, and I am excited about the upcoming year. Please review the information carefully. Then, please sign the acknowledgement form that indicates both the student and a parent have read, understand, and agree to the conditions outlined in this handbook.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 706-253-1830.

If you are a returning 7th or 8th Grade member...WELCOME BACK!!

If you are a 6th Grade member OR new to our program...WE WELCOME YOU TO PCMS!!

GOALS & EXPECTATIONS

The Pickens County Middle School Band program seeks to offer each student who is interested and eager to learn an enjoyable learning experience centered on individualized musicianship and ensemble performance.

A working understanding of basic tone production, rhythmic comprehension, fingerings, music vocabulary, dynamics, articulations, scales and key signatures, and rehearsal and performance of middle school literature reflect the PCMS Band goals of achievement.

Each member of the Pickens County Middle School Band program is expected to reflect positive behavior skills during ALL classes, rehearsals, and performances. Band membership at PCMS is a PRIVILEGE (not a right), and should be treated as such. Classroom behavior and expectations include:

- 1) **Be on time** for all classes, rehearsals, and performances! Class begins when the director steps up on the podium. You are late if you are not prepared!!
- 2) **No gum, food, or drink** allowed in the band room.
- 3) **No playing out of turn.**
- 4) **No talking when anyone is on the podium.** This is when rehearsal and instruction occurs. Always show respect for the podium and for whoever is instructing from it by being very quiet and attentive.

5) **Never handle another persons' instrument. Only percussionists are to touch the percussion equipment.** This will result in after school detention.

Consequences: Musicians who choose **not** to follow the behavioral expectations will be dealt with by the director. Infractions will be referred to the assistant principal and could include exemption from trips, performances, and dismissal from the band program!

CLASS SCHEDULE

Each band class at PCMS meets every day, Monday through Friday, for approximately 35 minutes. The schedule for the 2008– 2009 year is as follows:

- 1st period – 8th Grade Concert Band
- 2nd period – 8th Grade Honor Band
- 3rd period – 7th Grade Honor Band
- 4th period – 7th Grade Concert Band
- 6th period – 6th Grade Band
- 7th period – 6th Grade Band

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES/CLASSES & REQUIRED MATERIALS

6th GRADE BAND (both classes):

The members of this group will be required to purchase:

All students need the necessary oils, equipment, reeds, etc. for class and are responsible for these items.

Percussionists need:

1. *Innovative Percussion* Intermediate Pack (stick and mallet bag)
2. *Reel-Feel* 12" Double-sided practice pad

The **6th Grade Band** will perform in all scheduled concerts.

CONCERT BAND

This band will perform in all scheduled concerts, and will participate in the G.M.E.A. District 9 Band Festival. The Concert Band received a *Superior Rating* at last year's District 9 Band Festival.

Additional Rehearsals: The Concert Band will follow an after-school rehearsal schedule in order to combine the 7th and 8th grade classes in preparation for performances. The rehearsals will be on Tuesday afternoons from 3:15– 4:30 about four weeks prior to a scheduled performance. *You will receive a calendar containing the scheduled rehearsal dates* which will be posted on the band web site.

HONOR BAND

This band will perform at all concerts and will participate in the G.M.E.A. District 9 Band Festival. The Honor Band received a *Superior Rating* at last year's District Band Festival!

Additional Rehearsals: The Symphonic Band will rehearse Thursday mornings from 7:15-8:20 a.m. as well as sectionals as listed on the rehearsal calendar. A detailed schedule of rehearsals will come home with your child the third week of school and will also be posted on the web site.

Members of the Honor Band are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances! School-related conflicts practices, etc. should be worked out by the students. Each Honor Band Member will be expected to attend all rehearsals AND THEN continue to the other activity. Members may attend scheduled *school-related games* when they conflict with the practice schedule. Students cannot miss performances, rehearsals, etc. for activities *not directly related to PCMS!* If this is a problem, you should consider moving to Concert Band! Please try to schedule all necessary appointments on other days during the week, as to not conflict with band rehearsals that have to be scheduled out of the school day.

An unexcused absence from any Honor Band rehearsal or performance could result in dismissal from the Honor Band!

TRIPS

Honor Band: The Honor Band has been invited to perform at the University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival in Athens this December. This is the one of the most prestigious events for which any band can perform. In addition the 7th grade Honor Band has been invited to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association annual conference in Savannah on January 29 &30. More information on this event will be sent home as details are finalized.

THIS Makes every scheduled rehearsal, sectional, and performance listed on the rehearsal calendar mandatory for each member of the Honor Band! Details about the trip (dates, cost, etc.) will be forthcoming and posted on the web site.

“MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING”

To remain in “Good Standing” students *must* be dedicated to the band program. Students must be at all rehearsals when not excused prior to the scheduled rehearsal. Non-School related sports are not excused!

PRIVATE LESSONS

We encourage ALL serious musicians to seek out private lessons on his/her instrument. This helps the musician with a more in - depth study of the mechanics, and helps them prepare for those important auditions. See me for help in securing a private lessons teacher!

CLASSROOM GRADING

All Concert Band and 6th Grade Band Class Grading Requirements

All students are graded primarily on their classroom participation, i.e., having needed materials, behavior and willingness to achieve. Playing tests, chair tests, and chair challenges are also included in the overall grade. In addition, all 6th grade and Concert Band members will be required to document **2 hours of practice time per week** or **a total of 18 hours of practice time for each 9 week grading period**. This time must be recorded on a practice report form and signed by a parent. The practice report will count as 25% of the students' total grade for those 9 weeks and is due 3 days before the end of the grading period.

A student has to work harder to fail band than to pass band!!

Honor Band Grading Requirements

All Honor Band members will be required to keep a continuous practice record documenting individual practice time. Each member will be required to **document 2 hours of practice time week** or **a total of 18 hours per each 9-week grading period**. This time must be recorded on a practice report form and signed by a parent. The practice schedule will count as 25 % of the student's final 9 week average.

Please note that the practice schedule grade will be reflected **only** in the 9 weeks average, not at every progress report. Practice record forms will be supplied in class or can be downloaded from the band web site. The completed and signed reports will be due 3 days before the end of the 9-week grading period.

- A student may count **private lessons** and **after-school or before-school band rehearsal** as practice time.
- In addition, every band member that **passes the District level Georgia All-State audition, and continues to the state level audition**, will receive **9 hours** of practice time credit towards his or her practice record for that 9 week grading period.
- Any student that **successfully makes the All-State Band** (passing both auditions) will receive the **FULL 36 hours credit for the final 9 weeks of school**.

Try out for All-State Band!!!

Practice report forms can be obtained in the band room, or you may get a copy by downloading a printable form or an electronic Excel file from the band web site.

PRACTICE & INSTRUMENTS

All students are expected to practice **outside** of class time as outlined above in the grading requirements sections. This is necessary in order to maintain progress in total musicianship. Each student will be assigned an instrument storage spot for his/her instrument. **Instruments must be kept in the assigned areas!**

Students who will use **school-owned instruments** (French horns, tubas, euphoniums, and other school-owned instruments) will be required to submit a **one-time maintenance fee of \$50.00** for the entire school year. This will mean that the band will cover any repair costs due to normal wear and tear. Please see the "Band Instrument Maintenance Form" on the web site or obtain one from band room. Checks should be written to "PCMS Band."

Percussionists will be asked for a **\$25.00 fee** for the year for coverage of all percussion equipment.

Damage due to negligence will still be the responsibility of the student!

UNIFORMS

All Band members will wear black slacks, black socks, and black shoes, and the **BAND SHIRT** for all concerts. The **BAND SHIRT** can be ordered using the attached form (or find the form on the web site) for \$30.00. These shirts can be worn for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, so order a little big.
**** We will be using our green band golf shirt for formal concerts and white spirit wear T shirt for games and casual performances**

District All-State audition forms and the application fee (\$18) are due to Mrs. Land in early September 2008 (date TBA). The District level auditions are on Saturday, December 6, 2008, at (location TBD). If a student passes the District audition, they would continue to the state level audition to be held on January 10, 2009, at Perry Middle School in Perry, GA. 2008 All-State for Band will be held in Savannah, Georgia March 6-8, 2009.

District Solo/Ensemble forms will be distributed when they become available in the Spring. Solo/Ensemble time and dates TBA!

Please make all checks payable to Pickens County *Middle School Band*.

District 9 Honor and Clinic Bands will be held February 6-7, 2009 at the Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa, Ga.

District Honor Band seats are determined by the DISTRICT level All-State auditions.

DISTRICT 9 BAND FESTIVAL

All PCMS bands will be participating in District Band Festival the week of March 2-6 2009, at Reinhardt College (times TBA). Please mark your calendars accordingly. **Please check all of your scheduled events for those days, as it is important that all members participate!**

This is the most important performance of the year for each group!

IN CLOSING...

I hope that this has been helpful. A rehearsal schedule for Concert and Honor Bands will be available shortly and will be posted on the web site. Please return signed maintenance forms, handbook acknowledgement sheet and shirt order forms as soon as possible.

All money and fees should be in check form (payable to PCMS Band), sealed in an envelope, labeled with student name and contents, and deposited in the wooden drop box next to Mrs. Land's office.

This is going to be ANOTHER fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Mary Land & Kevin Boyle
706 253-1830 ext.353
www.pcmsband.org