

Pickens County Middle School Band Handbook 2010 – 2011

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 2010– 2011 year is as follows:

- 1st period – 7th Grade Honor Band
- 2nd period – 7th Grade Concert Band
- 3rd period – 6th Grade Beginning Band
- 4th period – 6th Grade Beginning Band
- 6th period – 8th Grade Honor Band
- 7th period – 8th Grade Concert 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. HQ *Reel-Feel* 12" Double-sided practice pad

6th Grade Band generally has two performances outside of the school day per year. These two performances are one in December and the Spring Concert. All other rehearsals and additional practices are scheduled during the school day.

CONCERT BAND

This band will perform in all scheduled concerts, and will participate in the GMEA District 9 Large Group Performance Evaluation.

Additional Rehearsals: The Concert Band will follow a before-school rehearsal schedule in order to combine the 7th and 8th grade classes in preparation for performances. *You will receive a calendar containing the scheduled rehearsal dates* which will be posted on the band website.

HONOR BAND

This band will perform at all concerts and will participate in the G.M.E.A. District 9 Large Group Performance Evaluation.

Additional Rehearsals: The Honor Band will follow a before-school rehearsal schedule in order to combine the 7th and 8th grade classes in preparation for performances. *You will receive a calendar containing the scheduled rehearsal dates* which will be posted on the band website.

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 will result in a "Zero" in the gradebook and could result in dismissal from the Honor Band!

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 Honor Band, 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. "Pass-off's" are the majority of the 6th grade band grade. Concert and Honor Band Students will be required to keep a continuous practice record documenting individual practice time. Each member will be required to ***document 50 minutes of practice time per week.*** This time must be recorded on a practice record form and signed by a parent.

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

Honor Band Grading Requirements Honor Band members A student may count *private lessons* and *after-school or before-school band rehearsal* as practice time.

School-Owned Instruments

Students who will use **school-owned instruments** (French horns, tubas, euphoniums, piccolos, oboes, bassoons, mallets percussion, timpani, etc.) will be required to submit a **one-time maintenance fee of \$30.00** for the *entire school year*. This will mean that the band will cover any repair costs due to normal wear and tear. Checks should be written to "PCMS Band."

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 \$25.00. These shirts can be worn for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, so order a little big.

All-District and All-State Band audition forms and the application fee (\$18) are due to Mr. Boyle in early September 2009 (date TBA). The District level auditions are held in December 4th 2010 (time and location TBA). If a student passes the District audition, they would continue to the State level audition to be held on January 8th, 2011 at Perry Middle School in Perry, GA. The 2011 Georgia All-State Band will be held in Savannah, Georgia March 3-5, 2011 at the Savanna Civic Center.

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 PCMS Band.

District 9 Honor and Clinic Bands will be held February 5-6, 2010 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 3rd week of March. (Specific times and Locations TBA). This information will be sent home. 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. 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 Green band Box next to Mr. Boyle's office.***

This is going to be ANOTHER fantastic year!

Musically yours,

Kevin Boyle
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www.pcmsband.org