

## Frequently Asked Questions about Band

What is the band website address?

<http://phbands.com>

Who should I contact if I have a general question?

You may contact your Band Booster President (listed in the Handbook and on the website) or Mrs. Peters ([apeters@hcps.us](mailto:apeters@hcps.us)).

Can a student be in band and other activities?

**Yes.** Participation in high school band DOES NOT eliminate other activities. With proper planning, students can be involved in numerous classes and clubs during their high school careers.

Can a student take band and athletics?

**Yes.** We have students in every sport offered at PHHS. If a student wants to do sports and band, we can usually make it work. If you think that there is a possible conflict, feel free to visit with the band director.

Does every student have to be in the marching band?

**No.** Not all band students participate in the marching band. Normally, marching band is 12-14 weeks out of the 38 week school year.

Does the band have a handbook for students and parents?

**Yes.** The handbook will be distributed to each student or sent to the home via mail. Portions of our handbook will be available online.

How much money does it cost to be in the band?

There are fees associated with Marching Band, and for concert attire. Fees will be posted in our handbook, and on the website. Please note that students are responsible for their band shoes.

How will the new high school schedule affect my student?

Marching Band meets during after school hours usually 3:30 until 5pm. Our practice times will be posted on our calendar and on the website.

Are students required to attend all events?

**Yes.** Students are required to attend all events on the band calendar that pertain to the full band. If there is a conflict with other activities arrangements need to be made with Mrs. Peters.

Does the band meet early before school starts?

**No.** The only exception to this rule is during spring trips, where we generally load up the buses early, to avoid some traffic and congestion at the school.

When are drum major and Colorguard tryouts?

Our colorguard and drum major tryouts are in the spring. See Mrs. Peters each year for dates and times.

Does the band travel?

**Yes.** The PHHS Band program is very strong and has such a great reputation that there are many opportunities for special performances and trips. Over the past 10 years, the Marching Patriots have performed in several nationally recognized parades and events. The band has also performed in the inauguration Parade for Governor Tim Kaine.

In 2006, the marching band participated in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and spent 2 days touring New York City. All students will have the opportunity travel on at least one of these **BIG** trips while they are part of the PHHS Band. But even if it's not a "big" trip, each year we offer a spring trip to a fun destination, with musical events involved. Check out the band website for more information.

Is the student responsible for the cost of the Spring Trip?

**Yes.** Spring trips are considered extra events, outside of the normal band activities, and are therefore optional. Mrs. Peters and the Band Boosters are very good at getting the best possible deals and group rates to make the cost for each student relatively affordable. If you have a student (or students) that would like to go on a Spring Trip, but it may not be affordable, please talk to or email Mrs. Peters and/or the Band Booster President. Fundraiser assets can be and have been used to help those who cannot afford all trip costs.

What are the fundraisers for?

Most of our fundraiser collections are used to help individual students raise money towards their trip account, if needed. Students receive a percentage of the profits from each item sold. Other fundraisers may be held to benefit the band program, uniform funds, etc. Contact a Booster board member for more information, and check the Band Boosters portion of the webpage.

May parents and friends sit with the band during football games?

**No.** We do keep an area near the band in the stands, however the band sits in a roped off area together so they can play during the game.

What is a Uniform Contract?

This contract is signed by the marcher and their parents. It details the proper use, storage and handling of the band and color guard uniforms.

Who can join the Band Boosters?

Anyone with an interest in supporting the PHHS band program can join the Boosters.

How can a parent volunteer to help?

There are many areas that need volunteers, more details to come at Booster meetings.

If my child is not in the Marching Band program, but takes a band class, how can we be involved?

Parent volunteers are needed as chaperones to Festival, typesetting concert programs, to hostess events, etc. You may still become a booster. We encourage it.