

Penncrest High School Band

134 Barren Road Media, PA 19063 610-627-6325

CSnyder@rtmsd.org www.penncrestband.org

August 8, 2019

Dear Band Members and Parents,

On behalf of the Roaring Lions Staff, I am excited to welcome band members and parents alike to the 2019 marching season. Our staff and student leadership has been working to prepare for the upcoming season. Equipment is ordered, music, drill and guard work is written, and our game plan is in place. Please read this entire letter carefully as it describes how you can best prepare for a successful camp experience

What You Need to Know for Band Camp:

- **Location:** Band Camp will be held at Penncrest. Daily specifics will be on the band room board.
- **Paperwork:** Bring your completed medical form and the Co-Curricular Agreement to your uniform fitting, or to band on August 19. Retuning members do not need a new medform unless your medical situation has changed. Forms can be downloaded at www.penncrestband.org.
- **Pre-Band Camp Preparation:** If the first day of camp is the first time you get up before 8AM, you are going to have a rough morning. Start getting up early and being physically active if you are not already. Start now by drinking more water each day for proper hydration. If you are driving to camp, please do not park in the numbered spots that are reserved for Penncrest staff.
- **Early = On Time:** 7:50 is a good time to arrive to be on time at 8:00. Give yourself time to drop your cases in the band room and make it to the attendance block before the whistle blows. Put on your sunscreen before you leave the house, not at 8AM, so it has time to work into your skin.
- **Parent dropoff and pickup:** Parents can drop off and pick up their children in the bus lane outside of the band room. We do our very best to start and end our practice at the scheduled time, however due to the distance we need to walk to return, amount of equipment, and individual walking pace, your departure times may vary. Feel free to observe the end of the practice day, as we usually perform a run of the show before announcements.
- **Lunch:** Penncrest Band does not provide lunch, so please pack something. Healthy choices that will refuel you are: energy and granola bars, fruit, nuts, sandwiches with lean meat or peanut butter, and pretzels in addition to your drink. Don't bring something that needs refrigeration.
- **What to Wear:** Comfortable athletic clothing and comfortable athletic shoes. RTM dress code is in effect during camps; please follow all guidelines. Wear sunglasses and a hat or visor to protect you from the sun. Above all else, wear SUNSCREEN and apply it before you leave the house. Check forecasts as sometimes temperatures are cool in the morning, and we will march in the rain.
- **What to Bring:** Your instrument or equipment, lyre and flip folder containing all your music. Download, print and put your drill in a binder along with your coordinates. Two dot markers that are unique to you. A gallon water jug filled with ice and water or a sports drink. Everyone is to have water! Medical supplies such as inhalers, epi-pens, and allergy meds. You may keep these in your pocket or in a "fanny pack." Sunscreen so you can reapply. Don't wear lotions that attract bees. You will get a name tag for day one – wear it until you are told not to.
- **If You Are Playing a Fall Sport:** Let your coach know you're in band, and let me know the sport you play NO LATER THAN two weeks before your camp begins. Athletes will split their time between sports and band each day, except for Monday 8/19 when rookies will be required to be in band the entire day. During the second week there will be a few conflicts during the evening practices, which we will work out individually. Talk to other band members that will be playing the same sport to work out schedules and carpooling. See page two of the calendar for more information on working out conflicts. We have all done it – the key is flexibility.
- **Download your drill, coordinates and music:** You will be notified when drill is finalized and available. At that time, go to the Marching Band group in Schoology and print it out, along with your music, and have everything in a binder with protective sleeves. Your section leaders will help you make your binder. Decorate the outside so your binder is unique to you!
- **Bring your best attitude!** This IS NOT boot camp. This IS going to be the most fun you have ever had working hard. Take it one step at a time and be the best version of yourself.

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Camp Schedule

(Full schedule is on the Google calendar at www.penncrestband.org)

Uniform Fittings

8/8	5-8 PM	Senior and junior winds and percussion
8/13	5-8 PM	Sophomore and freshmen winds and percussion
8/21	5 PM	Color guard

Week One

8/19	8AM – 5 PM	All band members will report to the practice field at 8AM. Make sure you have your drill in your drill binder and two dot markers. Rookie athletes are requested to spend the first day with no sports split. If you missed your uniform fitting, we will take you over lunch or after 5PM.
8/20-23	8AM – 5PM	Regular camp schedule. Sports splits begin. Thursday is Section Spirit Day!

Week Two

8/26	7:30 AM	Report to band room in uniform (no shako, gauntlets or gloves). Hair can be worn down as we will not wear our shakos. Performance for RTM staff, pictures thereafter. Bring completed order form. You may go home after your pictures.
	3 – 7 PM	Evening Camp.
8/27	3 – 7 PM	Evening Camp. Freshmen will be excused early on their orientation day.
8/28	3-7 PM	Evening Camp
	7 PM	Parent Preview Performance in the stadium. All are invited to see our 1 st show!
	8 PM	First Parent Meeting. Information, chaperone and committee signups
8/29	3-5:30 PM	Camp in informal uniform as we prepare for the football game.
	7:00	First game vs Strath Haven

CONFLICTS WITH BAND AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

All band activities are mandatory for every band member. Band members are to arrange their personal schedules so as not to conflict with camp. It is expected that senior portraits, medical appointments, jobs and other conflicts be scheduled so as not to interfere. Unexcused absences from activities will result in no credit towards a band member's grade and shows a lack of commitment which can result in a reduced role with the band, up to and including dismissal from the group. Band members who are unable to attend band camp in its entirety are not guaranteed a spot in the show. Inclusion in the halftime show will be determined by the amount of time missed, as well as how quickly the show can be learned by the band member.

If your school sport and band practice schedule conflict, you will split your time in a way that is agreed upon by both your coach and your band director. You will not miss a game or performance for a practice. Email me and I will help you come up with a split schedule that works.

The key to avoiding and working out conflicts is COMMUNICATION. Band members are expected to handle this responsibility and honor their commitments to all organizations of which they are a member. Giving as much advance notice as possible is a courtesy that you will offer to your activity directors. Do it as early as possible, and ask for excusals as seldom as possible. Requests for excusal must be submitted at least one week in advance to be considered, and must include the specific reason for the request. Strive for a "win-win" where you are able to honor your commitment and make your contribution to both groups.

Questions? Email me at csnyder@rtmsd.org. GET EXCITED about the upcoming season!