

ROSE TREE MEDIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PENNCREST HIGH SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK

The purpose of this Handbook is to describe the activities and expectations of the Band program at Penncrest High School. Keep your Handbook in a safe place for reference.

Both band members and their parents will need to familiarize themselves with its contents. If you have any questions, please call me at 610-627-6325 or email CSnyder@rtmsd.org . You can also get information at www.penncrestband.com. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Craig Snyder
Director of Bands





Mission Statement

The mission of the Penncrest Band Program is to teach comprehensive musicianship through performance.

Mission Defined

Comprehensive musicianship means the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the creative, technical and expressive qualities of music as revealed through the application of musical skills.

Outcomes of the Band Program

Musical skills can be classified into three groups of outcomes: Activity, Music Making, and Aesthetic.

ACTIVITY OUTCOMES are attitudes and behaviors that promote, or are promoted by participation in instrumental music. These skills are most easily transferable to activities outside of music.

- Individual Responsibilities
- Ensemble Responsibilities
- Lifetime Involvement

MUSIC MAKING OUTCOMES are skills that promote successful performance on an instrument in individual and group situations. These skills are most directly related to the student's quality of musicianship in solo and ensemble playing.

- Tone Production
- Technique Development
- Intonation
- Music Reading Skills
- Repertoire Exploration

AESTHETIC OUTCOMES are skills and knowledge that foster an appreciation and understanding of music as art. This is achieved through the study of the elements and basic principals of music as revealed in the literature performed. These skills are cognitive and remain with the individual beyond participation in the band program.

- Musical Elements
- Historical Perspective
- Creative Activities
- Evaluative Skills

What You Can Expect From Your Participation with the Penncrest Bands

- **Hard Fun.** We enjoy the process of creating a top-notch performance.
- **Musical Literacy.** You will leave the program with understandings and appreciations of music that will last a lifetime.
- **Quality Instruction.** Your director and you staff are well trained and experienced in their fields. Just say the word if you need assistance in any area and we will be glad to help you.
- **You Will Make a Contribution.** In life, you can be a contributor or a consumer. Music is a gift, and a performance is not a performance until you give it to someone. Through band, we contribute to our school, community, and society. As a musician, what you can give is unique and important. Never forget.
- **You Will Be Organized.** Band members are on time, accountable, and reliable. This is simply because band doesn't work any other way.
- **You Will Make Lifelong Friends.** Your lasting memories of band will be more about who you made music with, rather than the music you made.
- **You Will Learn More Than Music.** Don't be surprised to see yourself gaining in confidence, listening skills, self-discipline, compassion, self-esteem, self-discipline, work ethic, concentration, leadership, patience, and teamwork. Past band members mention these things and more when asked the most important things they learned in band.
- **A Challenge.** Music has a way of finding the level you think you are at, and then pushing you past what you think you can do. Work within our system, trust your instructors, and you will be amazed at what you (and your band) can achieve!

What the Penncrest Band Program Expects from You

- **A Quality Effort.** This entails being on time (early), being prepared with needed instruments, equipment, uniform, and music (all in excellent condition), and being prepared to make your unique contribution to the band (that means practicing).
- **Communication.** If you can't make something, let us know in advance. If you have an emergency, call. If you have a question, raise your hand. If you need help, let someone know. You owe this to the organization that is depending on you.
- **A Quality Attitude.** Band is what you make it. You will enjoy your experience much more if *you choose to do so*. It's not anyone's job to make you happy, to make you a good player, or to entertain you. It's all up to you – Attitude is Everything!

Performing Ensembles at Penncrest High School

Penncrest Roaring Lions Marching Band



Membership in the Roaring Lions Marching Band is mandatory for all concert band and wind ensemble members, and on a tryout basis for non-members (guard only). The marching band performs at various activities throughout the year, including all football games, parades and other community events, and pep rallies. The marching band season begins two weeks before school starts with band camp, a mandatory activity. Members are expected to coordinate schedules so there are no conflicts with band camp.

Indoor Drumline and Winter Guard

These are competitive activities which take place from January through May. Practices are two nights each week, with performances on the weekends at various schools. Auditions are held in December, and are open to any Penncrest student.

Concert Band

Concert band is scheduled for one period each day and is open to enrollment upon approval of the director. All freshmen band members are members of the Concert Band. This band performs in fall, winter, and spring concerts.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is a select instrumentation group that meets one period each day. Enrollment is by audition only. Auditions occur in the spring. The Wind Ensemble performs in fall, winter, and spring concerts. It is recommended that prospective Wind Ensemble members study with a private teacher and play on a professional instrument.



Jazz Ensembles

Auditions for the Jazz Band and Jazz Orchestra take place at the end of marching season. Both ensembles rehearse and perform outside of the school day. The Jazz Orchestra is open to all instrumentation and playing levels, while the Jazz Band uses traditional big band instrumentation and is selective based on ability.

Small Ensembles and Chamber Ensembles

These ensembles are student run and open to any Roaring Lions band member. Enrollment is based on select instrumentation and will be determined by the student leader and the director. Ensembles create their own performance schedules and will often have unique performance opportunities in our community.

Attendance and Participation Policy

All performances, practices and activities are mandatory for all band members. In the event of a performance conflict that cannot be worked out, a written request to be excused is to be submitted one week prior to the event. This request will include the student's name, date in conflict, *specific reason* and parent signature. Late or incomplete requests will not be approved. Notification of approval or denial will be given to the student before the event. In emergency situations where a note is impossible, call the band office as soon as possible to let us know what happened, and bring in a written note afterwards. Unexcused absence from a performance 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 ensemble. Excused absences qualify for a makeup exam opportunity (see *Grading*). For Penncrest sponsored conflicts, refer to the co-curricular agreement:

1. If a co-curricular (activity sponsored by Penncrest) conflict is between a performance and a practice, the student will attend the performance.
2. If the conflict is between a performance and another performance, the student will choose which performance he or she will attend. The student will make this decision without penalty.
3. If the conflict is between a practice and another practice, the student will choose which practice to attend without being penalized. Activity directors should be sensitive to one-time practices (such as a single rehearsal before a concert).

Other acceptable requests are for the following: weddings, funerals, religious obligations, college visits that cannot be rescheduled, SAT tests, and illness or injury which prohibits student involvement. In all cases requests must specify the reason in order to be considered. If you have an emergency, call the band office!

It is expected that the band member and the family will make every effort to avoid or solve conflicts before requesting to be absent. It is further expected that every member understands their role and importance to the group and would not submit frivolous or vague requests that would have to be turned down. Flexibility is key for all parties involved, and we should always seek a "win-win" solution to any conflict.

Penncrest Band Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

The Penncrest Band will not tolerate its members to use, be in possession of, or be under the influence of any drug, alcohol or tobacco product while participating in a band activity. Band members who violate this policy may face suspension, loss of position and privilege, and disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the director and the administration of Penncrest High School.

"Even when not in uniform, you are still a Penncrest Band member."

Band Camp

Band Camp is normally held at Penncrest High School during the two weeks prior to the start of the school year. You will receive a schedule each summer with more details. It is expected that families arrange their vacations so as not to interfere with band camp or any other band activity. Band members who miss one week or more of band camp are not guaranteed a spot in the show, but may rather serve as alternates. Students who have not ordered their equipment by July 1, or enroll in band after that date, also may be designated as alternates. Those band members who are involved with other Penncrest sponsored activities such as athletics and cheerleading will need to work out a schedule *ahead of time* with all activity leaders that will allow even and meaningful participation in both activities. See “Attendance Policy” above.

Football Games and Other Marching Performances

- Know the schedule and be on time (early).
- Do not arrive at the beginning of practice. Be ready to practice at the beginning of practice. We will practice before each game.
- Know what the uniform is for each performance. Come dressed, unless otherwise directed. We will inspect your uniform.
- Be prepared for your performance. You are expected to be able to play your part correctly. Seek the help you need in order to do this.
- Have your field show music and school songs memorized.
- In the case of inclement weather, practice will be held indoors. Practices are never canceled because of weather! When possible, the web site will be updated, or a global phone message will be sent if there is a cancellation.
- Band members are responsible for all the band equipment: their own and others. Make a special effort to help the battery and pit percussion during marching band season.
- During football performances, the band may earn the privilege of a break during the third quarter. In order to keep this privilege, the entire band must return to their seats in order to perform at the end of the third quarter. Failure to do so may result in individuals, or the band, forfeiting this privilege.
- NO visitors in the stands, not even parents.
- When other schools march at our field, make them feel like the greatest band in the world.
- Always be ready to play. Short notice is given during football games. Be alert and remember that you are a performer, not a spectator.
- Do not eat or drink anything in the stands.
- Stay with a group of Penncrest band members when not performing.



Watch the drum majors!

Marching Rehearsal Survival Guide

Before a Rehearsal

- **Take care of your personal needs.** Eat, drink, put on sunscreen, and go to the bathroom. This is not to say we won't let you use the bathroom, but we won't make a habit of letting you leave rehearsal.
- **Know the schedule.** Practice begins and ends when the schedule says it does. Plan to be there early and leave shortly after it ends.
- **Resolve conflicts.** Do not tell an instructor that you can't make tonight's practice. That is to be done at least a week in advance, in writing. Do the same for your coach, your parents, and your boss at work.
- **Prepare.** Know your music and drill. Bring everything you'll need: uniform, dot book, water, lyre, flip folder, and music. Memorize show music and school songs.
- **Dress appropriately.** Know the forecast and prepare. Wear comfortable athletic shoes with socks. Never wear flip flops. Bring a hat and shades if it is sunny.

During a Rehearsal

- **Be where you are supposed to be, BEFORE you are supposed to be there.**
- **Listen.** Music must exist against a backdrop of silence. You will be given time to socialize. We learn with our mouths closed and our ears open.
- **Give your enthusiasm and your effort.** Do your part to make it a great rehearsal; one which is productive and fun. Make the band better today!
- **Execute to the best of your ability.** You will perform the way you practice. Get your toes up higher each time. Run it back as fast as you can. Play your best.
- **Self-evaluate.** Don't wait for someone else to tell you. You can fix it, too. Be demanding of yourself and strive to do it better next time.
- **Do what you're told.** The staff and student leaders are working hard to create a superior performance. What we're telling you to do is solely towards that goal. Whether or not you agree is not relevant. Insubordination will not be tolerated. If you have a problem with someone in command, we would appreciate if you do the mature thing: suck it up for now and deal with it after rehearsal is over.
- **Do what everyone else is doing.** This is a group activity. If we are all singing, sing. If we are counting, count. Look around; there are role models everywhere.

After a Rehearsal

- **Announcements.** Every rehearsal ends with important info being dispensed. Listen carefully. The sooner you let the staff finish announcements, the sooner we can all go home.
- **Clean up.** It is EVERY band member's responsibility to make sure the practice field and the band room is clear of equipment and trash. Help others. Don't be the person overheard saying, "That's not mine," or "I didn't do it." That equates to saying "I'm not a member of this band."
- **Prepare for the next rehearsal based on what you learned in this one.**

Marching Basics

Each of the following commands requires precision technique to execute. These techniques will be taught in rehearsal. It is your responsibility know each technique, and to perfect them in your individual practicing. The following are the basic techniques, commands, and group responses of the Penncrest Band.

Command	Verbal	Whistle	Response
Stationary commands:			
Attention	“Band, ten-hut!”	long, short, short	“Yo!”
To the ready	“To the ready”	short	
Parade rest	“Parade-HEST!”		
At ease	“At ease”		
Horns up	“Band horns up”		“and up”
Horns down	“Band horns down”		“and down”
Turns:			
Left Face	“Left HACE”		“1,2.”
Right Face	“Right HACE”		“1,2.”
About Face	“About HACE”		“1,2.”
Moving:			
Mark time	“Mark time Harch”	3 short	“and”
Forward march	“Forward Harch”	long, short	“push and”
Backwards march	“Backwards Harch”		“push and”
Left turn	“Left turn harch”		“turn”
Right turn	“Right turn harch”		“turn”
To the rear	“totheRear...Harch”		“turn”
Left slide	“left slide Harch”		“turn”
Right slide	“Right slide Harch”		“turn”
Halt	“Band...Halt”	3 short	“Penn-Crest!”

Some Terminology

Dot: Your individual place on the field.

Interval: Designated distance from individual to individual. Also called spacing, it is measured in steps. Each step is 22 ½ inches, or your standard 8:5.

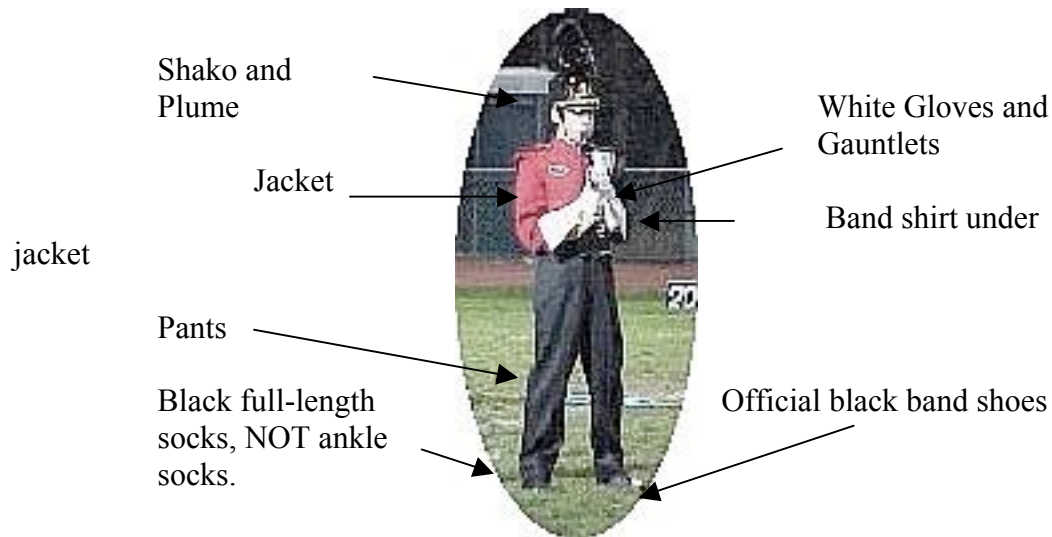
Step Size: The distance of each marched step, measured in ratio form. 8:5 means 8 equal steps to travel 5 yards. Step size is increased or decreased according to need in the show.

Form: The picture we are making on the field in this particular set.

Dress: Adjustments made left to right in order to be in the form.

Cover: Adjustments made front to back in order to be in the form.

Your Marching Band Uniform



Wearing the Shako



- Brim of the Shako is “two fingers” above the bridge of the nose. Adjust the cord on the inside to get this.
- Chin strap is on and tightened at all times.
- Hair is to be worn **off the collar** and up under the shako. Take care of this before you arrive for your performance.
- Plumes will be kept in the band room. You are not to touch your plume.

Guard uniform consists of gold top, black jazz pants, guard gloves, dance shoes, and black full sleeve performance top. Guard jackets are worn in colder weather. Additions and alterations to the guard uniform may occur throughout the season.

If we are “stripping down” in the stands or on the bus, treat your uniform with respect. It is to be folded a certain way, and set down a certain way. Your shako is not a bucket for your gloves and gauntlets!

You will not smoke or smell of smoke in your uniform.

Wear your uniform completely and correctly any time you are out in public.

NO jewelry, watches, choker collars or sunglasses. Small stud earrings are exceptions.

Informal uniform: Red band shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes.



Uniform Care



Our Uniform: A wool/Dacron polyester blend that must be dry cleaned.

- After a performance, hang items separately to air out and dry.
- **NEVER** store your uniform, clean or dirty, zipped up in the garment bag. Garment bag is for uniform transport only.
- Consider taking the uniform to the cleaners after marching season, or if it gets particularly smelly. You can spray with Fabreez and air if odors become offensive.
- Shakos can be wiped out with a disinfecting towel. They get quite sweaty.
- Brush off dried dirt. Use a “clean damp” sponge to clean small areas that are dirty.
- Watch drinking sodas, eating oily/greasy foods, and **NEVER USE MUSTARD** – these will stain the fabric.
- If stains occur, the uniform (tunic or pants) **MUST be dry-cleaned immediately** – point the stain out to the cleaner for best results. You are not reimbursed for dry cleaning, but if the stain sets you will be charged the full value of that part of the uniform.

NEVER WASH OR ATTEMPT TO HAND CLEAN THE UNIFORM EXCEPT:

- **White collar lining:** Should be checked periodically. Hand or machine wash.
- **White gloves:** These dirty easily. Hand or machine wash – use Oxyclean or a prewash. Please hang to dry – using the dryer may cause them to shrink
- **Gauntlets:** Are vinyl with cloth bindings.
 - a. The vinyl portion of the gauntlet may be cleaned with window cleaner.
 - b. The white cloth edge binding is prone to grime. Soak in a solution of hot water and ¼ scoop of dissolved Oxyclean for about 15-30 minutes. Shout or other prewash can be used (PLEASE READ PRODUCT LABEL). Take care not to submerge the colored bindings. – Rinse well, line dry.

ALTERATIONS

Make no permanent changes to your band uniform. Minor alterations, such as tacking up hems, may be done with matching thread. Under no circumstance use ANY type of adhesive, including duct tape, on your band uniform.

- **For the guard uniform:** Guard pants and vests are synthetic fabrics and must be dry cleaned. – **Do not place near heat or steam – this will deform and weaken the fabric.**

Our uniform is designed to last ten years or more if properly cared for. Please remember that you can be charged for any damage done through neglect or deliberate actions.

Concert Uniform: White tuxedo shirt, bow tie, black pants, black belt (gentlemen), black shoes, black socks. Shirt is tucked in. Ladies may wear black dress shoes without socks.



Whatever you wear underneath your tux shirt is to be white and free of any writing or imagery that may be seen through your shirt.

Wash and iron your tux shirt. Keep an eye on the collars as they yellow quickly.

Travel



Our travel privileges are important educational opportunities as well as rewards for your hard work. In order for us to continue to enjoy our trips, we must always act responsibly, professionally, and courteously wherever we go. Say please and thank you to your bus drivers and chaperones!

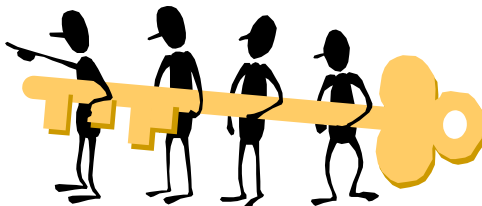
1. Represent yourselves, your band and your school with pride and class at all times. Band members are expected to act like ladies and gentlemen.
2. Remain in your seat. Keep all objects and body parts inside the bus.
3. Do not play your instrument on the bus. This includes drum sticks.
4. Purses, backpacks, or any items that are not part of your instrument or uniform are not to be taken on the bus or into the stands.
5. You are expected to travel with the group. Requests to be transported to or from an event by parents must be submitted one week prior. The note must release the school, the band and the director from responsibility in case of an accident. You must check in with the director upon arrival or before departure.
6. Stay with the group at all times. Look out for one another.
7. Drinks will not be permitted on the bus.
8. The school discipline code is in effect at all times.
9. If we need to change, be prepared to do so in less-than-private conditions.
10. Any medications must be reported to the designated chaperone. You must check in with that chaperone when you take your medications. All medications must be listed on the student medical form that you turned in.

Band Rules to Live By



The excellent reputation of our organization has been built over many years through the efforts of every past band member. This reputation allows the current manifestation of our band to enjoy the trust and admiration of our school and our community. It is necessary for every current member to continue this legacy of pride, class, responsibility and excellence so that present and future members may have the same experience.

- Early is on time, on time is late!
- If everyone in band were like you, what would band be like?
- You are a Penncrest band member 24/7/365. In band and away from band. In what you do and what you say. People will always see you as a band member.
- Be prepared – musically, physically, and emotionally.
- Learn to Listen – Listen to Learn.
- The band room and its equipment should look the way you want to sound.
- We are here to work on music, not on whether or not we should talk, chew gum, goof off, or mishandle equipment. Let's work on a higher level.
- Do what it takes to get the job done.
- If you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right.
- Lead by example. You don't need a title to be a leader.
- Superior bands are superior every day, not just at the festival.
- Communicate. If you have a concern, take it to the person that can do something about it – especially if that person is the director! Anything less is called complaining, and hurts the band.
- Be a Contributor, not a consumer.
- Be positive. Make sure band is a better place because you are in it.
- Do what's Best for the Band.
- Represent the group with pride and class at all times.



Teamwork Is The Key!

What Parents Can Do



Band parents are our greatest advocates! Without the help and support of the parents, there would be no band program. From encouraging their children to practice, to supplying them with instruments and supplies, to assisting in fundraising and other activities, the band parents are a crucial piece to the puzzle. Better yet, there is no signup and no initiation fee: if you have a kid in the band, *you are a band parent!*

Band Parent Meetings

We normally hold a Fall, Winter, and Spring meeting each year that all parents are encouraged to attend. During these meetings, we volunteer for committees and projects, discuss upcoming activities, share the good news about the program, and receive important dates and other information. Additional meetings are held by our committees as needed. We hope every parent finds an activity or a committee to which they can contribute.

As a Parent:

1. Support your young musician with a quality instrument and supplies.
2. Make sure repairs are dealt with in a timely manner.
3. Enroll your child in private lessons if you can afford the time and money.
4. Encourage and enforce a regular practice schedule.
5. Acknowledge and reward their efforts. Be their biggest fan!
6. Make it possible for your child to attend professional concerts and buy band-related recordings.
7. Consider upgrading and adding to instruments and equipment if you have the means. Please call if you need advice on purchasing a new instrument.
8. COMMUNICATE with the director often.
9. Keep the lines of communication open between parent, band member and director. If you have a concern, bring it to the attention of the director.
10. DON'T PARK IN THE BUS LANES! (Thank you!)

As an Advocate:

1. Attend performances, and bring as many people with you as you can.
2. Encourage others to support the program in any way you can think of.
3. Spread the good news: in line at the grocery store, at the PTG meeting, at the soccer game. If someone has the wrong impression of the program, fix them!
4. Let administrators know how important the program is, and that you appreciate their support.
5. Get involved in projects such as fundraising. Offer your special talents!
6. Support the mission, goals and objectives of the program.

Specific Roles Filled by Band Parents

- **Treasurer** – Handles the accounting for the program, manages the checking account, collects deposits, creates account statements. Is involved in any aspect of the program where money is coming into or going out of our account.
- **Public Relations Coordinator** – Responsible for making sure photos are taken of the band, and press releases are issued to appropriate news venues any time we do something newsworthy.
- **Videographer** – Supplies performance videos of the band by the following Monday in order for the band to review “game film.” May also be involved in DVD project.
- **Equipment Order Coordinator** – Receives our equipment orders in the late spring, orders supplies, and prepares orders for distribution in band camp.
- **Uniform Coordinator** – Oversees the distribution, collection, sizing, maintenance and inventory of marching and guard uniforms.
- **Find Raiser Coordinators** – Manage our various fundraisers. Create forms, contacts suppliers, creates schedules, receive and process orders.
- **Craft Show** – there are a number of jobs associated with this. The **Coordinator** books crafters for our fall fundraiser. Contacts crafters in summer, sends out information, receives registrations, maintains database. Our **Kitchen Supervisor** collects food donations, sets pricing, and supervises the Bass Clef Café during the Craft Show. The **Raffle Coordinator** procures raffle items from crafters and local businesses. Sells tickets for raffle. Supervises raffle during the Craft Show. The **Setup Supervisor** creates the floor plan for the show and assigns vendor spots, and works with a team of parents in the morning to reserve spots in the building. Our **Cleanup Supervisor** works with a team at the end of the show to make sure the building looks like we were never there. Finally the **Parking Lot Supervisor** coordinates arrivals, parking, and departures of crafters.
- **Indoor Drumline Show** – The above roles are also needed for our winter fundraiser, in addition to various other tasks that will be discussed at our preparatory meeting.
- **Chaperones** – Supervise students and assist with equipment during travel.
- **Medical Chaperone** – Carries the med forms for the band and deals with medical issues.
- **Trailer Chaperone** – Tows our trailer which holds the golf cart for the band.
- **Uniform Chaperone** – Handles uniform issues during our practice and performance.

Fundraising

It is our purpose to fundraise only as much as is needed to enhance the educational content of the program. Fundraising pays for equipment and activities that are not covered under the curricular spending of Penncrest High School. Finally, we believe in fundraising outside of the group as opposed to ourselves; otherwise it would be easier just to write the check.

Grading

The grading formula varies greatly from one marking period to the next. This is due to the differences in the amount of performances, and the amount of research or other written requirements. Performances are defined by our school district as “co-curricular” activities, and therefore factor into the grades of students even though they occur outside of the school day. This is supported by the philosophy that learning takes place outside of the classroom as well as in it, and that we understand that only through performing can we assess our learning (see Mission Statement). This places significance on the members’ efforts to attend all band activities, and submit requests for absences when the need arises.



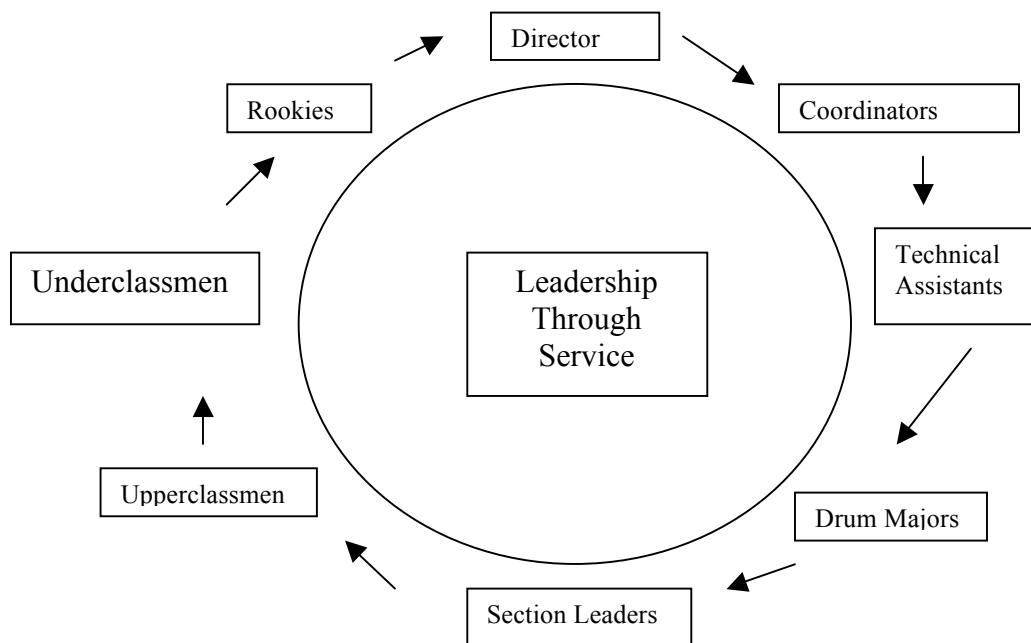
Band members are evaluated on the following criteria:

- 40% Performances – concerts, parades, football games
- 30% Individual Skills – playing exams
- 20% Ensemble Skills – participation in band
- 10% Critical Listening – concert reviews, self/group eval’s

If you miss a performance or playing test, you have one week from the time you return to band in order to make up the grade with a performance exam. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the makeup. If you do not make up the grade, it will be recorded as no credit.

The Chain of Command is NOT a Chain

Like all successful organizations, our band has a structure of authority and responsibility. However, the level of service rises with the level of authority. True leaders realize they are in the service of those whom they lead.



Penncrest Band Concert Review Guidelines

Why We Attend Concerts:

To a musician, experiencing live music is more than entertaining: it is inspirational and educational. Hearing excellent individuals and ensembles in performance allows us to create in our minds our ideal sound, and in turn makes it possible for us to realize this ideal. More simply put, you've got to get it before you can give it!

Band members will be required to submit concert reviews at announced times during the second and fourth marking periods. Concerts that have occurred since you last submitted a review are eligible for the next review.

Format for Concert Reviews:

1. One page maximum, typed or NEATLY WRITTEN. Include your name, the date of the concert, the name of the performer(s) or group, and the.
2. The concert must be a live instrumental performance, and have relevance to our field of study. If the performance is not symphonic, theatrical, marching, or jazz in nature, you must clear it with Mr. Snyder beforehand. If reviewing musical theater, the review must focus on the pit orchestra. Solo performances must be of your instrument.
3. The concert must be of high school, college, community, or professional level.
4. Your reviews are due one week before the ends of the second and third marking periods. Include the program or your ticket stub with the review.
5. Concerts are advertised on the band room bulletin board, as well as in the local newspapers. Most performing venues and organizations also have websites.

Some Topics to Address in Your Review:

- Give a general summary of the performance: what was played, who played it, your overall impression, audience reaction.
- Critique the performance using the standards we use in band: tone, intonation, blend, balance, interpretation, style, professionalism, energy, emotion.
- Critique the performance using your personal standards: did you like it? Why or why not? Would you recommend this program to a friend?
- As a musician, what about the performance inspired you? What can you apply to your own playing? If you were not inspired, why not?
- As a member of an ensemble, what qualities can you draw from this performance and apply to your own ensemble(s)? What did you learn?
- How did the concert make you FEEL? Was this feeling shared by the audience in general?
- Note anything memorable, different, amusing or interesting about the evening.

You are not limited to the above topics, nor do you need to answer all of them. They are guidelines to help you communicate what happened and how it affected you.

Level One Option

The purpose of the Level I option is to reward interested students for doing work above and beyond the normal requirements of Level II band. All projects must be pre-approved and completed under the guidance of the band director. Concert Band members may take the course for level I or II status, except freshmen who will enroll as Level II band members. Wind Ensemble is a Level I course.

Pre-requirement for Level I status: 4 consecutive A's as a level II student.

Requirement for Marking Period 1: Obtain the current year's PMEA District 12 solo piece and show it to the director.

Requirement for Marking Period 2: Learn the PMEA District 12 solo piece and perform for director. Qualified musicians will audition for District 12 Band in December.

Options for Marking Periods 3 and 4 (you will submit a proposal):

Solo Performance: Recitals, church performances, or other public performances which are not associated with your ensembles at Penncrest.

Ensemble Performance: Participate in an ensemble that performs in public and has regularly scheduled practices. Notify director of date, time and location of performances. You may join an established ensemble (DCYO) or form your own (Penncrest Brass Quintet).

Creative Project: Choose a published piece of music and arrange it for band, jazz band or small ensemble OR compose an original piece for one of those ensembles.

Research Project: Choose from one of the following:

- Research the history of your instrument or a significant artist whose principal instrument is (was) the same as yours.
- Interview transcript with a contemporary composer, conductor or musician.
- Analyze a current piece of band literature.

All research must be presented orally to your band without the use of notes. Visual/audio aids, especially recordings, are encouraged.

Conducting: Choose a piece to study, rehearse and conduct in class.

Special Project: Student designed project as approved by the director.

Coda

As Director of Bands, I have the extreme pleasure and good fortune of working with the best and brightest that Rose Tree Media has to offer. My public school experiences with music had much to do with shaping me as an individual, and I hope to offer such positive experiences to my own students. Music has much to teach us, and much of that knowledge is transferable to other (if not all) aspects of life. As we explore our defined Mission, it is my hope that through it we aid in the development of productive, morally responsible members of our society. As we do so, I will make every effort to communicate and relate my goals and visions to my students and their families in the most straightforward and fairest way that I can. I hope all of you pledge to do the same.



Craig Snyder
Director of Bands
Penncrest High School
610-627-6325
csnyder@rtmsd.org



**Penncrest Band
Verification of Receipt of Band Handbook**

I have received the Band Handbook including the following policies and notifications:

- Mission Statement*
What You Can Expect From Your Participation with the Penncrest Bands
What the Penncrest Band Program Expects from You
Attendance and Participation Policy
Penncrest Band Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy
Band Camp
Football Games and Other Marching Performances
Marching Rehearsal Survival Guide
Marching Basics
Your Marching Band Uniform
Uniform Care
Travel
Band Rules to Live By
What Parents Can Do
Band Parent Meetings
Specific Roles Filled by Band Parents
Fundraising
Grading
Penncrest Band Concert Review Guidelines
Level One Option

Please sign this form indicating your receipt of the Handbook. Band members are responsible to know, understand, and abide by its contents. Return this page to the Director. I hope you find this handbook helpful and informative.

Print Student Name

Signature

Print Parent Name

Signature