



STUDENT HANDBOOK

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"Empowering students to succeed"
www.goldencougarbands.org

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Parents and Students:

Welcome, to what promises to be an exciting and very rewarding experience as we take this upcoming journey together as a band program here at Pulaski County High School! I hope you are ready to jump into building upon a tradition of excellence that has been established.

I am honored to be your director of bands and I am looking forward to making great memories and continuing to develop a successful band program that the district, school, parents, students, and community are all proud to call their own!

Please remember that by signing the mutual consent agreement form at the end of this handbook, you indicate that you have read over and understand its contents. Students will be held accountable for their actions in line with the rules and regulations of this band program.

For those returning members, you know what it takes to achieve success as a member of the Golden Cougar Band program. We expect you to continue our high achievement and improvement through **PRIDE** and **COMMITMENT**.

Finally, I would like to encourage the parents/guardians of each student to become involved in the booster organization. The success of our band program will never be fully reached without the involvement of you. Even if you are unable to perform any manual labor, we can still find something for you to help us with. We can never have too many parent volunteers. The band will only get better with more support. The students need your support and must know that you are involved in one of their favorite activities!

Thank you for your time and attention. I am sure you will find this handbook to be very informative. Please refer to the website for any dates, times, or other information you may need at www.goldencougarbands.org. Let us develop a sense of family and tradition together!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew M. Shrewsbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and last name "Shrewsbury" clearly visible.

Matthew M. Shrewsbury
Fine Arts Department Chair
Director of Bands
Pulaski County High School



Dear Parents and or Guardians,

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff here at Pulaski County High School, I am pleased to welcome you to our wonderful school and band program. The program has developed a long-standing tradition of excellence in everything in which it has become involved with and we will do everything possible to continue to support the efforts of this program under it's new leadership.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Shrewsbury these past few years and have confidence that he will continue to lead this program in the right direction. He has very unique and effective ideas that we believe will help this program to continue to grow and develop national attention as one of the finest band programs in the country.

We hope that your time spent with our band program will be time well spent and you will take valuable memories and experiences away from this endeavor.

Thank you for being dedicated to the arts (*music*) and helping it to grow in the community and the world. I cannot think of anything else more vital to the growth and edification of a student that active involvement in the arts.

Best of luck this year and have a wonderful experience being involved in the arts (*music*) and our band program. We look forward to working with you and your child the upcoming year and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to ask. Again, best of luck and have a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Grim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Michael Grim
Principal
Pulaski County High School

A Statement of Policy

To assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of the band policy is herein set forth. These regulations are implemented because we believe that discipline is the cornerstone of a successful program. This handbook is a supplement to all policies set by Pulaski County Schools and by Pulaski County High School, and is in effect during all rehearsals, performances and travel.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. S/he must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. S/he must develop a high sense of purpose towards which s/he is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within our program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

Objectives

- To teach advanced music through instrumental performance
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for selected musical needs of the school and the community
- To participate in Performance Assessments to include VBODA and National Events
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corp
- To foster leadership skills within each student

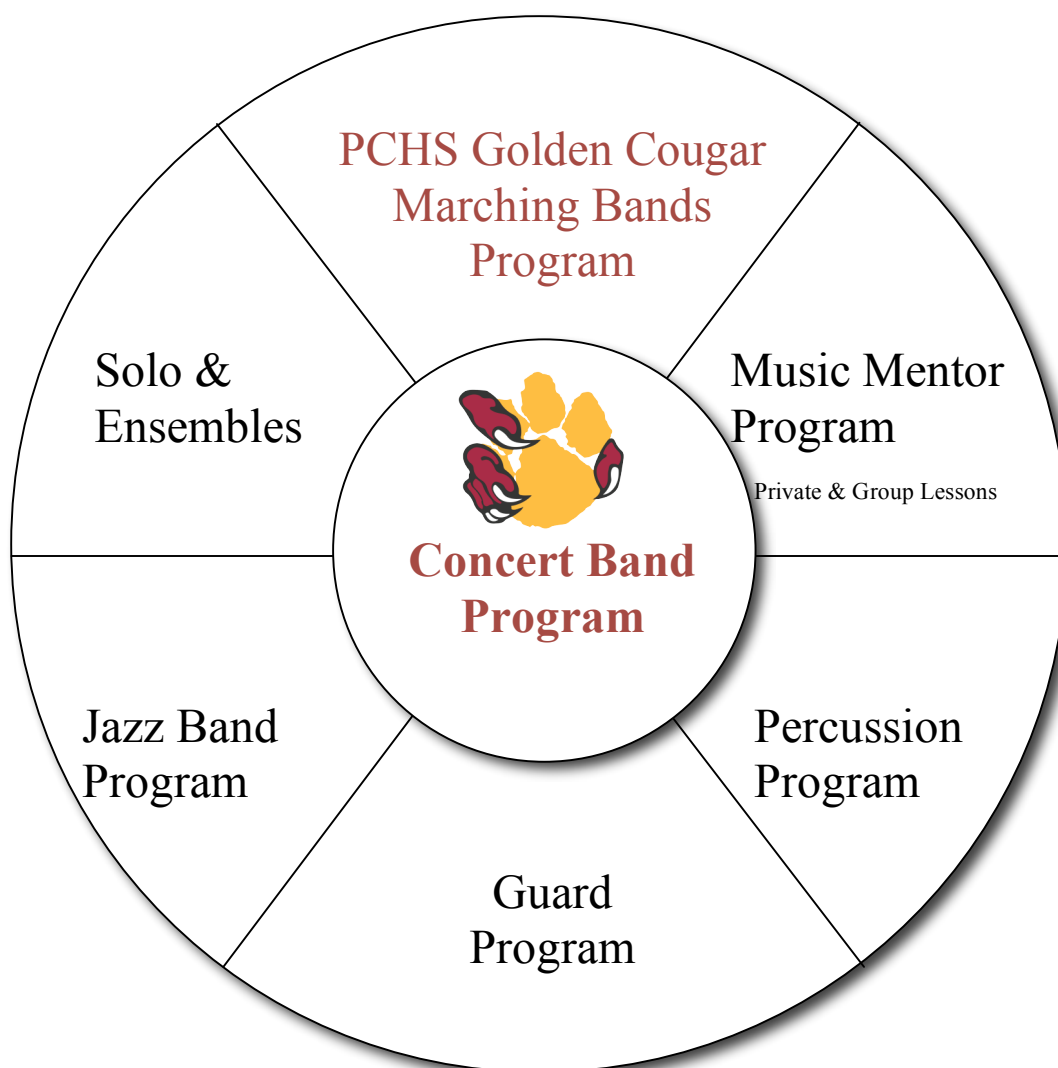
Student & Parent Responsibility

Being a member of a successful organization requires a great demand of the students, parents and staff personnel who are involved. Therefore it is essential that everyone follow through with their responsibilities. To meet these expectations, we must coordinate and balance our responsibility to ourselves, each other, our families, our school, community, and to the music.

- I agree to attend all rehearsals and performances on time.
- I agree to prepare and practice for rehearsals and performances and express willingness to accept responsibility and to follow through with such responsibilities.
- I agree to do my part in keeping the facilities clean and well kept. I will be responsible for my own instrument, equipment, etc. and will take an active part in clean-up activities.
- I agree to meet my student fair share obligation through fundraising or by paying “out-of-pocket” expenses.

These are expectations of all successful band programs. Failure to meet these criteria quickly will slow the success of all students involved in our program.

Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Band Program Structure



The Symphonic & Concert Bands makes up the Concert Band Program and is the foundation of the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Band program. The many co-curricular ensembles and music courses are offered to supplement the basic concert ensemble experience.

Curricular Offerings

SYMPHONIC & CONCERT BAND

The Symphonic & Concert Bands are classes exclusively for wind & percussion students to have successfully completed the middle school band program or have been approved by the director of bands. Students will be studying music and all of its elements through the performance of band literature at the highest level (VBODA Grades IV, V, & VI). Students will demonstrate a high level of proficiency on their instrument and will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of playing fundamentals including scales and rhythms. Symphonic & Concert Band students will perform an average of eight-ten major concerts per school year and the students will participate in local, district, state, and national concert festivals and contests. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL REHEARSALS (In-class and after-school) AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. Chair placement auditions will take place in late August and early January. The audition will consist of sight-reading, select major scales, and a prepared selection.

MARCHING BANDS

The Marching Bands offered are:

The Golden Cougar Football Band (GCFB) is made up of brass, woodwind, percussion, and guard students. This ensemble performs at all home and select away football games, pep rallies, parades, and other community events. This marching band meets after-school during the fall semester only. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. All after-school rehearsals and performance are extra-curricular.

The “*Pride of Pulaski County*” Competitive Marching Band (PPC) is made up of brass, woodwind, percussion, and guard students (by audition only). This ensemble performs at all home and select away football games, pep rallies, parades, as well as several band contests (between 5-6). This marching band meets after-school in the fall semester only. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. All after-school rehearsals and performance are extra-curricular. All PPC members are strongly encouraged to enroll in the 4th block band class for the fall semester if at all possible.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band is made up of band students who audition and are placed in to the after-school group. Practices are once a week, beginning in September. Practice schedules vary based on student schedules. The instrumentation needs for the Jazz band are (Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar, and Drum set/Auxiliary Percussion.) Students are highly encouraged to participate in this fun ensemble! This is also a good way for a flute, clarinet, bassoon, or oboe player to learn how to play another instrument.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The percussion ensemble is an extra-curricular ensemble that will meet during the spring semester and is comprised of percussion students. This ensemble will cover the fundamentals of percussion for the less experienced percussionists while highlighting advanced literature for the more experienced percussionists. The percussion ensemble will perform at school concerts, Solo & Ensemble Festival, and other community functions.

BEGINNING BAND

The Beginning Band is a class exclusively for students who have very little to no band experience or who desire to learn a secondary instrument. Students will develop a basic fundamental understanding of music theory, history, and techniques necessary for playing wind and/or percussion instruments.

BRASS & WOODWIND ENSEMBLES

These are otherwise known as Chamber Ensembles. These ensembles will be organized based on student willingness and dedication. These ensembles might perform at Solo & Ensemble Festivals within the district (during the fall & spring) and other community functions. These ensembles will be given the opportunity to rehearse together before and after-school and on occasion during class time on Thursdays, otherwise known as “Chamber Thursday’s.”

PEP BAND

The pep band is comprised of wind and percussion students. This ensemble will perform at select boys and girls home basketball games during the late fall and early spring. This group may also perform for various pep rallies, school functions and other community events during the year. There will be a few after-school rehearsals in preparation for upcoming performances and events.

WINTER WINDS

The winter winds ensemble is made up of students who desire to spin flag, play percussion or wind instrument while incorporating movement and dance choreography to music. This group holds an audition in November and rehearses once or twice a week, beginning in December. Practice schedules vary based on student schedules. This group will rehearse through April and will attend local, regional, and national contests and events.

Code of Conduct

Each member is here by choice and will be treated as an adult. In return s/he is expected to act as an adult at all times and to avoid those situations that would cause one to compromise himself/herself or the school. It is advisable for all band members to realize that they are members of one of the most visible organizations on campus and serve as liaisons of PCHS. Any conduct, which is not exemplary, or which reflects poorly on PCHS will result in dismissal from the organization. If this kind of behavior occurs while on an off-campus trip, the student(s) will be sent home at their own expense.

The conduct of any student will be a factor in their grading only as stated above for wind ensemble and beginning band.

Medical Information

Students are required to have a medical release and history forms properly filled out and signed by the parents and/or guardians before s/he will be allowed to participate in band activities. If the student is not covered under some type of hospitalization insurance policy, the parents will be required to attach a letter stating that the school, band program, booster organization, faculty and/or staff will not be held responsible for charges incurred due to medical emergency and the parent will be legally responsible for all charges incurred while securing medical treatment.

Expectations

SHOW RESPECT

Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect the facilities, equipment and uniforms

BE PREPARED

Band members are responsible for doing their best, working on their individual skills, and practicing. All equipment must be brought to rehearsals as requested.

BE ON TIME

*Students should arrive at the band room 15 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to be ready to start on time. If you count on someone else to get a ride to practice, tell them the time you have to **BE THERE** is 15 minutes before the rehearsal begins. With this concept, you will be prepared physically and mentally to begin the rehearsal and not flying in at the last minute or late. You also will have a cushion of safety if there is extra traffic or you are running a couple minutes behind.*

“Win from Within!”

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones as of late have become a nuisance in the music rehearsal atmosphere. Student cell phones will be confiscated if:

- If a cell phone is found on a music stand during rehearsal.
- If the cell phone rings during rehearsal.
- If a student is using a cell phone during rehearsal.
- If a student is using a cell phone during a PCHS football game.

Permissible times to use cell phones:

- At the end of school, before rehearsal begins.
- At the end of school, before the report time for a football game.
- During rehearsal breaks (Exception: Not at Marching Band rehearsals)
- While traveling (football games, contests, concert festival trips, etc.)
- At the conclusion of any rehearsal or performance (after dismissal)

Attendance Policy

Each PCHS Band member needs to understand that the success of these ensembles depends upon each member's attendance! We cannot have members missing or being tardy and expect to be successful. For each ensemble there are certain requirements. *Note that an unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that grade, disciplinary action, and merit point deductions.*

ABSENCE PROCEDURE FOR A REHEARSAL:

Attendance is required for each rehearsal and every performance. *For necessary absences leniency will be granted on an individual basis.* The procedure for being excused from a **rehearsal** is as follows:

1. Contact the band office at (540) 643-0391 to leave a message.
2. Bring a note describing the reason for absence and signed by your parent/guardians prior to the absence or after the absence for a merit point deduction.

If at all possible, please inform the director at least 48 hours before a scheduled rehearsal if you know you must miss.

ABSENCE PROCEDURE FOR A PERFORMANCE:

The procedure for being excused from a **performance** is as follows:

1. Submit a request to miss a performance to the director for consideration at least two (2) weeks in advance of the performance (also signed by parents/guardians.)
2. In case of illness, follow the same procedure for missing a rehearsal.

NOTE: Failure to give proper notice will be considered unexcused and will result in the possibility of being held out of upcoming performances.

TARDINESS:

CST “*Cougar Standard Time*”

*“To be early is to be on time... To be one time is to be late...
and to be late is to be left!”*

- Dr. Benjamin Caton

Tardiness should be avoided at all costs. Each band member is expected to arrive at every rehearsal and performance with music, instrument/equipment (in working condition), pencil, drill, coordinate sheets, and any other special items that might be called upon for the event. The attendance requirement list exists to provide ample time for performance preparation. Rehearsals will begin on time! After school detention or tutoring are not excused reasons to miss rehearsal or to be tardy to a rehearsal. If there are excessive tardies, or if a rehearsal or performance is missed in its entirety for an unexcused reason, the member may not be allowed to attend the next performance(s) at the discretion of the director. If this occurs a second time, the member may be permanently dismissed from the ensemble. Excessive excused absences will not be tolerated.

Attendance in Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Beginning Band classes will follow school rules. Attendance is a part of grading.

EXAMPLES OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Work
- Going out of town
- Church events (schedule is open to accommodate people on Wednesday and Sunday nights)
- Non-emergency doctor or dentists appointments. These should be scheduled around band events
- Shopping or hair appointments
- Claiming someone “made you late”
- Other school and after-school related activities (unless arrangements have already been made between the director and coach/sponsor)

EXAMPLES OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Extreme illness
- Sudden emergencies
- Death in the family

*Unforeseen events may arise; the director will deal these with on an individual basis.

EVERYONE IN THE ORGANIZATION IS DEPENDING ON YOU TO BE THERE IN REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

In an effort to establish high performance standards of the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands, the PCHS Symphonic & Concert Bands will have an after-school rehearsal once a week, starting in September. Considering that these rehearsals are an extension of the classroom, attendance will be mandatory. Please see the attendance policy above. In preparation for the VBODA Concert Assessment, Symphonic & Concert Band students will also need to attend sectional rehearsals during the months of February and March. These dates have been listed on the comprehensive band calendar.

Please Note: Parents should make arrangements to have their child picked up within 15-20 minutes of the dismissal time of rehearsals.

Philosophy of Practice

Students should practice a minimum of 30 minutes 3 times per week on their music. This means every student must take his or her instrument home on a regular basis if they do not have another instrument at home. *Some students will be given special consideration due to bus regulations and as the need arises.* There is no way you can master all the skills needed to play the music we perform in any ensemble by only playing it during class time. If you make a commitment to be part of this band program, you make a commitment to practice at home and carry your own load.

Grading System

Students are disciplined and rewarded based on their behavior/attendance with the Merit Point system. Although we will still use a merit system, most of the discipline/attendance issues will be reflected in the student's grade. See below for details:

MERIT SYSTEM: Merits will be rewarded to students who display outstanding behavior, attendance, attitude, etc. The director is the only ones who may issue merit points. Students must earn the required number of merit points through attendance and behavior to letter in marching band at the end of the year.

GRADING POLICY: *Since Wind Ensemble and Beginning Band classes are performing ensembles that requires student participation for success, ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY; and it will play an important role in the grading policy. See below for details:*

Evaluation for any performance-based class will be determined by an average of this criterion:

1. Weekly Effort, Conduct, and Participation Grades
2. Preparation for Class (having necessary materials, etc.)
3. Attendance and Tardy Grade for Rehearsals
4. Written Evaluations (including semester exams)
5. Level of Musicianship and Improvement
6. Playing evaluations (music pass-offs and other music performance evaluations)
7. Care of Equipment
8. Performance Attendance & Attendance at District/County Festivals

Attendance Grading Policy:

- Grading policy for in-class rehearsals will be the same as PCHS' policy on Attendance.
- Absence from After-school rehearsals (without school or parent approval): Unexcused Absence: Student will be deducted merit points for each unexcused absence and will be further away from lettering.
- Absence from Performance (without approval by director(s)): Unexcused Absence: Student's 9 weeks' grade will be lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence.
- Students who miss rehearsals or performances may also be excluded from performing in the next upcoming performance or removed from the ensemble at the discretion of the director(s).

Each 9 Weeks' Grade will be determined by the following:

Practice and Effort: Students will be evaluated on their practicing. There will be no written recorded given by the director to the students concerning practice, so evaluation will be strictly aural. The director will be able to tell if the students are giving enough time towards practice because improvement will either occur or not occur. Students should practice an average of 30 minutes, 3 times per week.

Rehearsal/Performance Preparation: Students are expected to have all materials. A lack of required materials during any class will result in a deduction of points by the director.

Grade Level Mastery: the director will give students a grade at the end of the 9 weeks based on their mastery of the Grade Level objectives. This grade will be based upon their level of achievement on Scales, Technique, Tone Quality, Pitch, Musical Expression, Rhythmic Accuracy, and everything else outlined by these standards. An evaluation to test these skills may be administered at the director's discretion.

Playing and Written Tests: These assignments will be assessed through announced tests. They will be performed during the class and will be graded by the director. Playing assignments will be announced in advance so students will have ample time to prepare at home.

Instrument Rental Policy

The Golden Cougar Band program makes available to all students certain school-owned instruments and equipment. If a piece of equipment is available and the student has received permission, they may be issued that instrument and/or equipment for a **\$40** instrument rental fee for the school year (all percussionists, guard and instrumentalists using school-owned instruments are required to pay this fee). The student to whom an instrument or piece of equipment is issued is responsible for all repair costs! Please be respectful of this equipment so that we may keep our school-owned inventory in great shape. All checks should be made payable to: Pulaski County High School.

Required Camps

Band Camp: Band Camp is held at the end of July and beginning of August. Band camp is required of all students participating in the marching bands. Approximately six weeks worth of normal rehearsal time is crammed into the two weeks of camp, so attendance is a must. A non-refundable deposit must be paid in May of the previous school year, and the non-refundable balance is due by the beginning of July.

Winter Symphonic Camp: Winter Symphonic Camp is a weekend of intensive training with a staff of outstanding teachers and clinicians. It will be held at Pulaski County High School after the winter break. This camp is required of all wind and percussion students. The exact dates are determined and announced at the end of the previous school year so that family arrangements can be made well in advance for all students to attend. A **\$25** fee for this camp is required for all Symphonic & Concert Band students.

"We believe in having 100% of our students, performing 100% of their responsibilities, 100% of the time!"

Performance Opportunities

Private Lessons

Private lessons should be considered for all students. They are the best way to improve performance skills as the one-on-one approach allows students to benefit from individual instruction. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80% of the students in the band studied privately. Please visit the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands website <http://www.goldencougarbands.org> to access our list of private lesson faculty.

VBODA All-District and All-VA Bands

Students audition for these bands in December. Audition material consists of performance of scales, and percussion rudiments and sight-reading. Students who earn a position in All-District Band will attend the clinic in February; those who earn a top seat in All-District Band will have the opportunity to audition for the All-VA Band in March. Student financial obligations include registration fees and the cost of the trip if they earn a seat in one of these bands. STUDENTS WHO SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT MUST PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE. Please sign up and pay the required fee by the announced deadline.

Concert Band Clinics and Music Camps

Band clinic and music camps offered by USC, Virginia Tech, Christopher Newport University, etc. provide students the opportunity to meet music faculty and students from various colleges while working with them and some of the nation's top clinicians to sharpen their musical skills. Students are also able to audition for scholarship opportunities during these clinics. Students who attend these clinics must be nominated by their director and are usually all-district or all-state band members. A fee may be required to attend these events.

Travel Policies

The Pulaski County High School Bands will travel to and from all events as a group via school or charter bus. Each band member will be assigned a specific bus to be used for the entire season. Band members will be given itineraries the week of each trip (game, contests, or festival) with departure and arrival times. Since we keep uniforms at the school, each band member is required to ride the bus to and from each event. Parents should make arrangements to have their child picked up within 30 minutes of the arrival time from a trip.

TRIPS

When distance prohibits one-day trips, adequate housing for each band member will be arranged by the band office and provided by the booster organization (through fundraising or payment of individual trip costs by the parents/guardians.) Detailed information will be provided when trips are being planned.

Below is a list of trips the *MARCHING BAND PROGRAM* may take (One-Day):

- Football games
- Contests (One-Day & Multi-Day)
- Parades

Below is a list of trips the *CONCERT BAND PROGRAM* may take

- All-District, All-State, Solo & Ensemble Festival, Honor Band Trips (One-Day & Multi-Day)
- VBODA Concert Assessment
- Spring Trip, i.e. Florida, New York, Atlanta, Hawaii, etc. (typically 3-7 days long)

BAND TRIP RULES

- The basic band rules address all situations and will eliminate any problems. A few policies and reminders are needed in regards to band trips.
- Do not **EVER** be late!
- *All school policies are in effect* at all band functions including trips. Any problems will be referred to the administration as outlined in the policy. Director will enforce these policies at all band functions. No alcohol, controlled substances including tobacco are to be taken, bought or consumed. Public display of affection (PDA) is not acceptable.
- *The chaperones are in charge* and are to be treated with courtesy and respect. They are volunteering their time to help you and the band. Any problems will be reported to the director. Follow *all* of their instructions. If you do not understand—*ask*. If you have a problem with a request, see the director(s) at the appropriate time. In the meantime, follow *all* of their instructions.
- *All* prescription and non-prescription medications must be handled by the nurse/doctor per the school's medical policy as stated on that form.
- Do not bring unnecessary, expensive valuables on the trip. The band is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- All bus rules apply including no profanity, singing, chanting, horseplay or screaming. Any listening devices such as CD or MP3 players *must* be used with headphones on.
- Wait to board the bus until told when and how. Be quiet and helpful during roll calls.

- Be considerate of others and use charter bus restrooms as little as possible.
- If there are any concerns including medical ones, contact the chaperone as soon as possible. Each bus will have a first aid kit and the chaperones can contact the nurse or director if necessary.
- Only Pulaski County Public Schools students, personnel, faculty, staff, and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
- *Buses and rooms will be assigned* and no changes are to be made without the permission of the director. Clean up your bus area.
- When using a hotel or dorm, no boys in girls rooms and no girls in boys rooms unless you are given specific permission. *No exceptions.*
- Do not leave your room unlocked.
- Each student is responsible for his / her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.
- Know your chaperone and where their room is.
- You are responsible for the condition of your room and any possible damage.
- Take no souvenirs from your room or restaurants.
- You *must* be in your room and have lights out at the assigned times—you will need your rest. Don't be foolish and stay up all night! Use the phones only for serious calls and no long distance calls.
- All students must travel to and from performances on the bus.
- Please lower volume level considerably when entering towns and/or stadiums. This is for your safety; it is also courteous to the drivers and shows you have class.
- There will be no hanging out of or talking out of the bus windows.
- Males and Females will not be allowed to sit together from sunset to sunrise.
- If you are not on the bus at the appointed departure time you will be left.
- **Remember that you are always representing the band, school, and community.**

FOOTBALL GAME RULES

- No food or drink in the stands unless distributed by the chaperones.
- All students must remain in full uniform and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
- No conversations with friends outside of the band during the game.
- No non-band members in the stands during the game.
- Only people of authority (director, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
- No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a drum major(s) or director(s).
- **No cell phones during the game.**
- Never play your instrument unless instructed to do so by the director or drum major(s). When the band does play, everyone is expected to play his or her proper part.
- You may remove your hats and gloves only when instructed to do so by the director(s) or drum major(s).
- The band will be given a break during the third quarter at the directors' discretion. Band members must be back ready to play with 2 minutes left on the game clock for the third quarter.
- Any damage to the uniform due to food or drinks split on the uniform is the responsibility of the student and must be taken care of prior to the next performance. **EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO EAT DINNER PRIOR TO REPORT TIME.**

- Anyone who returns late from third quarter break will lose his or her break time at future games. Anyone leaving without permission will be subject to further disciplinary actions.
- **Only water is allowed in the stands. No food, other drinks, gum, etc. is allowed in the stands.** This is to keep uniforms and equipment clean. If you break this rule you are responsible for any extra cleaning and disciplinary actions may be taken.
- At away games, travel in groups of at least three.
- No profanity or obscene gestures will be tolerated! You are a representative of the band, school, and community.
- Be aware of what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions.
- If you have to go to the restroom, another student or chaperone must accompany you.
- Report time for all games will be announced on Monday prior to the upcoming game.
- For home games, students will be dismissed following announcements in the band room at the conclusion of the evening.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at ATTENTION. When you class **IT SHOWS** – when you don't, **IT SHOUTS!**

BAND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pulaski County High School Band Boosters have established a band scholarship account, which will be funded through donations, fundraising and transfer of balances from other accounts at the end of fiscal year. These band scholarships will be awarded seniors in the band program who have a desire to continue study in music after graduation at a college or university. These band scholarships will vary in number and amount each year and voted upon by the booster scholarship committee. The student(s) who have been selected will be awarded the scholarship(s) at the awards banquet in May.

Awards

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD

This award is presented to the senior who has demonstrated the most outstanding musical abilities. Typically this award is only presented to one person per school, per year, but two can be given in the event of a tie. This award is recognized nationwide.

PATRICK S. GILMORE AWARD

This award is presented to the senior or junior who demonstrated the most outstanding leadership abilities. Typically this award is presented to one person per school, per year, but two can be given in the event of a tie. This award is recognized nationwide.

NATIONAL SCHOOL MARCHING AWARD

This award will be presented to recognize one member who demonstrated outstanding contributions on the field. It is the contributions and dedication of this student leader whose example inspires others.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COLOR GUARD AWARD

This award will be present to recognize one member who demonstrated outstanding contributions on the field. It is the contributions and dedications of this student leader whose example inspires others.

QUINCY JONES AWARD

This award is presented to a student who shares boundless energy and musical versatility.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG AWARD

This award is presented to the most outstanding jazz musician as voted by the members of the jazz ensemble.

HERMAN AWARD

This award is presented to a student who has shown great improvement and desire to improve as a member of the jazz ensemble.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD

This award is voted on by the director and presented to the band member that has provided the most assistance and help to the staff/director throughout the year.

CLASS AWARDS

These awards will be presented to one member from every class 9-12th grade for an outstanding contribution to the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Band program. The winners shall be selected by a vote of all students enrolled in the marching and concert band programs.

OUTSTANDING AWARDS

These awards will be presented to the section of the Marching Band and Concert Band programs that is considered to be the most outstanding. The winners shall be selected by a vote of all students enrolled in the marching and concert band programs.

- **Most Outstanding Section: *Marching Band***
- **Most Outstanding Section: *Concert Band***

MOST OUTSTANDING GUARD MEMBER

This award is presented to the individual guard member that best demonstrates the skills required in their individual participation from the beginning of the marching season. The winner, or winners, shall be selected by a vote of all students enrolled in the marching and concert band programs.

MOST OUTSTANDING PERCUSSION MEMBER

This award is presented to the individual Percussion member that best demonstrates the skills required in their individual participation from the beginning of the marching season. The winner, or winners, shall be selected by a vote of all students enrolled in the marching and concert band programs.

MOST IMPROVED AWARDS

This award is presented to the band member or members that have shown the greatest improvement in their individual playing since the beginning of the school year. The winner, or winners, shall be selected by a vote of all students enrolled in the marching and concert band programs.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

This award is presented to the member(s) who have made a significant contribution to the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Band program during the current school year. This award can be given for a musical contribution, a leadership contribution, or any contribution that the director sees fit to recognize.

Uniform Policy

Band uniforms (both concert attire and marching uniforms) represent a very large expenditure of the band program funds. We have established uniform policies to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need for these uniforms to last us many years.

You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence **WILL BE BILLED TO YOU**.

CONCERT BAND PROGRAM ATTIRE

The Symphonic & Concert Bands will always perform in traditional attire for all performances, unless modified by the director. All band members must follow the guidelines below as you plan your performance wardrobe.

SYMPHONIC & CONCERT BAND

Ladies: Will be required wear a black concert dress provided by the band boosters for the year. We will have fitting sessions for dresses during the month of September to ensure that they are altered and delivered in time for the first performance. Students not participating in marching band must pay a \$15 fee for dry cleaning of the concert dress. In addition you will be required to have closed toe black dress shoes, black hose and pearls (also available for purchase from the boosters.)

Gentlemen: Will be required to wear a black tuxedo provided by the boosters for the year. Students not participating in marching band must pay a \$15 fee for dry cleaning of the tuxedo. You will be required to have a turndown collar white tuxedo dress shirt, black bowtie, black socks, and black patent leather dress shoes, studs and cuff-links (also available for purchase from the boosters.)

CONCERT ATTIRE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Concert dresses and tuxes will be issued to students prior to the first concert. The students will keep these items at home until after the final concert. While the garment is in the student's possession it must be treated with great care.

- Hang the garments immediately after each use.
- Do not press the garments. Any wrinkles will usually disappear if the garments are hung properly immediately after each use. Pressing the garment with an iron that is too hot will damage the fabric. Ladies dresses are made from polyester, which can melt. Excessive pressing of either the tuxes or dresses will make the fabric shiny and will limit our ability to alter the garments for future students.
- Instructions for alterations will be provided when the dress/tuxedo is issued.

After the final concert in the spring, each student is required to have his or her garment professionally dry cleaned. The garment should then be returned to the band room in the dry cleaner bag with a receipt attached along with hanger(s) and garment bag issued at the beginning of the year.

MARCHING BAND PROGRAM UNIFORM

The GCFB and PPC will perform in summer uniform and traditional uniforms for various events. All band members must follow the guidelines below as you plan your performance wardrobe.

Summer Uniform: Show shirt, hat, blue jeans or band shorts, black belt, white gloves (wind players), black socks, and black marching shoes.

Traditional Uniform: Uniform jacket, black bibber pants, black compression shirt, cavalier style hat and plume. The student is responsible for the purchase of black calf length socks, black marching band shoes, and white gloves (most items available for purchase from the boosters.)

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM ETTIQUETTE

1. *You must wear your entire uniform to perform.* Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be addressed. This will include the shirt underneath the jacket, uniform shorts, under pants, black socks, cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations – possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items – in order to perform.
2. All band members must *remain in full uniform* (with the exception of hats) unless otherwise instructed by director or drum major. This includes while in transit to events.
3. No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to males and females.
4. Hair that is long must be worn up inside of the hat. This applies to both males and females.
5. After each use, the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with creases aligned according to the instructions, which will be provided.

MARCHING UNIFORM CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Hanging: It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.** Once you have hung your uniform correctly, please place it on the appropriate spot on the racks. As you do so, make sure that it maintains its shape.

Cleaning: When cleaning is required, the uniforms will be collected and taken as a group to the dry cleaners to maintain their consistent appearance. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair, please contact the appropriate uniform committee member.

Student Leadership Team

Each year the director selects section leaders, captains, drum majors, and other officers to provide student leadership for the band program. Student leadership is a valuable asset, which can make or break a program. Always remember that respect is not demanded, rather it is earned. Being in a leadership position does not give one the right to degrade another member of the band program. With or without any actual rehearsal duties, the student leadership position is a large responsibility. This must be understood before making a commitment to assume any offer of the positions listed above.

Drum Major(s)

The director chooses the drum major(s) after an application, audition process and interview.

The drum major(s) acts as the field leader(s) of the marching band. In addition, the drum major(s) will have these primary responsibilities:

- Help maintain a sense of discipline during rehearsal
- Lead stretching exercises at the beginning of rehearsals
- Help instruct basic marching fundamentals
- Act as the liaison between the director and the band on the field
- Conduct the entire field show from memory with knowledge of musical phrasing
- Perform duties for the director (i.e. making copies, lining field, etc.)

Captain(s)

The section leaders at large choose the captain(s) through a vote. The primary responsibility of a captain is to be a role model and inspiration to the rest of the band. The captain(s) will also have responsibilities including:

- Report Attendance
- Help maintain the band's discipline and rehearsal etiquette
- Setup marching blocks and sometimes lead marching fundamentals
- Run/organize student led meetings
- Perform duties for the director (i.e. making copies, lining field, etc.)

Section Leaders

The director chooses a section leader (or two, depending on the size of the section) for each instrument after an application and interview process. The section leader's primary responsibility is to keep up the morale and attitude of their individual section while also being an inspiration and role model of the rest of the band. In addition, the section leaders will also carry out these duties:

- Report attendance to the captain(s)
- Help their sections in memorization of music and drill
- Call members of their section if they are absent (not to interrogate them!)
- Make sure their section members are learning their music and passing off their music by the dates designated by the director
- Call sectionals and run sectionals
- Assist in rehearsing marching fundamentals
- Inspect instruments of their respective sections weekly
- Check equipment and uniforms of section before each performance, also to make sure that everything is loaded on the trailer(s) or buses
- Plan small group information social events
- Perform duties for the director (i.e. making copies, lining field, etc.)

Librarian

The librarian is an individual appointed by the director to help copy, collate, and distribute music, drill, coordinate sheets, etc. They are also responsible for keeping the music library in order.

At awards ceremonies, the representation of the Pulaski County High School "*Pride of Pulaski County*" Competitive Marching Band will consist of the following: Drum major(s) and Captain(s) unless it is a full retreat.

Chain of Command

The purpose of the Chain of Command is to avoid overloading one or two people with the job of solving minor problems or concerns. Most things can be taken care of within your own section, but those cases when that is not adequate, the procedure will be as follows:

1. Speak with your Section Leader first.
2. If you are not satisfied, speak with your captain.
3. If you are still not satisfied, speak with the drum major(s) or a staff member.
4. If you are still not satisfied, speak with the director of bands
5. If you are still not satisfied, then the director of bands will speak with the principal.

Music & Marching Pass-offs

Music and marching pass-offs are designed to insure that all students have correctly learned and/or memorized their music and marching requirements. All band members will be required to play musical selections and marching coordinates with two mistakes or less in order to successfully pass it off. All band members will be required to pass-off show music and drill and any other music or marching fundamentals or excerpts as assigned by the director.

Students who do not successfully pass-off music and marching assignments by deadlines may be held out of upcoming performances until successful completion of the pass-off at the discretion of the director.

Chair Placement Challenges

At the beginning of each 9 weeks, students enrolled in the concert band program are placed in an initial chair order based upon audition results from the previous semester. Following this initial placement, students have the opportunity to improve their chair placement through the challenge system. This system operates under the following guidelines:

- Students may only challenge up to one chair at a time
- Students must wait at least five (5) school days to re-challenge after losing a challenge
- Students may only challenge twice after losing a challenge
- Failure to appear at a challenge will result in the forfeiture of that challenge
- Challenges tainted by ill will or negative feelings will be canceled or forfeited at the discretion of the director
- All challenges must be concluded two weeks prior to any scheduled performance

To schedule a challenge, both the challenger and challengee must complete a challenge slip and submit to the director for scheduling of the challenge.

Band Boosters Purpose

WHO, WHERE, & WHEN

The “PCBB” Pulaski County Band Boosters is a parent organization that supports the band program. Any parent who has a child in the band program is eligible to be a member, and we encourage all parents to participate. The Band Boosters meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm in the band room. Please check the band calendar for exact dates. Band Booster memberships are available at every meeting and can be obtained by contacting the membership chairman and paying the \$10 membership fee.

PURPOSE

Band Boosters provide support for the band program at the high school. The boosters provide chaperones for trips, help when moving equipment, help with uniforms, fund raising for instruments and uniforms, organization of individual fund raising to help students pay for trips, video taping of performances, ushering at concerts, publicity, communications, and many other services that are essential to our band program’s success.

LEADERSHIP

The Band Boosters are run by an executive board. Nominations for board positions occur during the June general booster meeting. Positions include: President, Vice President, Director of Finance/Fundraising, Director of Membership/Volunteers, Director of Special Events, Director of Operations, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Publicity, and Director of Uniforms. The Director of Bands is also a member of the executive board. Please attend booster meetings for more information.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for band is a necessity. Some fundraising will help each student’s account, some will benefit both the band boosters and their account and some are just for the band boosters. Fundraising for a student’s account is optional. The boosters provide this opportunity for students and families that need help with band expenses. The band boosters help the band operate by providing tens of thousands of dollars to our program. Therefore all students and/or family members are expected to participate in all band booster fundraisers (football concessions, flea markets, family fun days, CBC, etc.).

Student Accounts

The band boosters hold individual accounts for every student involved in the band program. The boosters provide this as a service to help parents defray the costs of band activities. A student account representative is responsible for receiving, recording and charging students for different events. When dealing with this representative you will need to remember the following things:

1. All payments should be made by check or money order and should be made payable to the PC Band Boosters. (please put the student’s name on the check)
2. The canceled check will serve as your receipt. If you need another receipt please request one when you make your payment.

3. All payments should be made to the booster representative or placed in the mailbox in the band room. **Band directors and staff will not accept payments.**
4. Payments will be collected once a week. You can also mail payments to PC Band Boosters, P.O. Box 328, Dublin, VA 24084. Please make sure that you have your name, your student's name, and to what the money is being applied (i.e. marching band camp, spring trip, etc.).
5. **Band Fees must be paid for in full on or by July 1st.** If you are experiencing financial problems you must contact the Band Booster Officer in charge of student accounts and the director of bands prior to July 1st to make arrangements.

Communication Policy

For long-term planned activities, a comprehensive band calendar will be issued to all students participating in any PCHS Golden Cougar Band program ensemble. This calendar is contained within this student handbook. In addition, the calendar will also be posted on the bands website: www.goldencougarbands.org.

Announcements will be read each day before and after rehearsals/performances. It is the student's responsibility to keep him/herself aware of all information. Important announcements will also be posted on the website. It is the student's responsibility to read these announcements. If a student has any other minor questions, they should follow the chain of command to receive an answer.

Any announcements or new information will be made several times with many different methods. The students will be told in class or in rehearsal, e-mail blasts will be sent, phone text messages are sent by the director, website updates, and often letters will be sent home via the students.

Since calendars come out so early, it is the responsibility of each member and parent to make sure their schedule works around all of the rehearsal and performance dates. (We do realize that things come up on short notice.) **Remember that jobs are not an excuse!**

Concert Etiquette

Throughout the year, members of the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands will be presenting their concerts. We are very excited about the results of our rehearsals and look forward to the upcoming performances. We are sure you will also be proud of our accomplishments.

The musicians work hard at developing their musical skills. There is, however, another aspect of the students' education that always must be addressed: proper concert manners as an audience member. This applies to all of the school students, musical performers and non-performers. Therefore we will continue to teach and stress to all our students the importance of good concert etiquette. We ask your support in this matter by reviewing the following points with your child. We would also like to ask our audience members to be good examples to our students by following correct concert etiquette procedures.

1. **Be seated prior to the start of the program.** If entering or leaving the performance venue after the program has begun, do so only during applause or when the performers are changing position.

2. **Remain quiet during the musical performance.** Talking, whispering, and other noises made with your program, handbags, candy wrappers, etc. can distract others. When bringing young children to the concert, they should be under the constant supervision of those responsible for their presence.

3. **Remain seated until the intermission or the end of the program.** Drinks of water and restroom breaks, during the performance, should be done only if absolutely necessary or in an emergency.

4. **Applaud only at the end of each program selection.** There should be no applause between sections of a piece of music. You will know when to applaud by watching the director.

5. **Stay and enjoy the entire program.** All the performers have devoted a lot of time and effort in preparation for their concert; please don't leave just because your child has finished.

Dr. Tim's 10 Rules of Concert Etiquette: (Parents, please review the following)
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1. **Refrain from talking.** This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children.

2. **Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.** If the composer wanted to include crinkled paper noises to the music, he/ she would have written it into the parts.

3. **Turn off pagers, cell phones and watch alarms.** While many phones and pagers have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.

4. **Do not wave to your child during the concert.** After all, they do know who you already are and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert.

5. **Do not take flash photography.** You don't want your child to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, do you?

6. **Please do not walk down the center aisle with your video camera.** Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium. (Besides, the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)

7. **Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.** All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, the next time your child's song could be last!

8. **Applaud at appropriate times.** Some music has several sections, Remember; it's not over until all of the sections of music have been performed.

9. **Do not leave the auditorium during the music.** Wait for the break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly, PLEASE!

10. **Go to the concert expecting the best!** You just might be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!

Thanks for your help in making these special nights both enjoyable and truly memorable for our students and our audiences!

Band Songs, Chants & Traditions

Hoorah

Band Member: *"Can I get a HOORAH?"*

Band: **"HOORAH!!!"**

Band Member: *"I SAID, can I get a HOORAH?!?!"*

Band: **"HOORAH!!!"**

P-C-H-S

Band Member: *"Can I get a 'P'?" (hips)*

Band: **"P" (hips)**

Band Member: *"Can I get a 'C'?" (look)*

Band: **"C" (look)**

Band Member: *"Can I get an 'H'?" (H)*

Band: **"H" (H)**

Band Member: *"Can I get an 'S'?" (S)*

Band: **"S" (S)**

Stand Up & Cheer

*Stand Up & Cheer,
Pulaski County's Golden Cougars,
Shout their mighty name and spread
Aloud their glorious fame.
Ra-Ra-Ra!*

*Our team is fighting to be victorious
in the fray
We've got the team,
We've got the team,
Pulaski County All the way
Ra-Ra-Ra!*

Roller Coaster

Band Member leads the band in a rollercoaster ride of excitement in the stands.

Freshman Wedding

Each year the seniors at band camp unite a freshman from each middle school, in an elaborate ceremony, as a symbol of both middle schools coming together to be members of the PCHS Golden Cougar Bands.

Senior Dinner

One night in August, after band camp, the seniors are taken out to dinner to celebrate their last year with the band and all the hard work they have done.



Mutual Consent Agreement Form

2016-2017

Please sign and return this sheet by Monday, August 22nd.

I give my permission for (student name, please print) _____ to attend Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands activities for the dates listed in the *2016-2017 Comprehensive Band Calendar*. I have read and agree to the policies set forth by the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands Student Handbook 2016-2017 regarding attendance, awards, award letters, band camps, boosters, Code of Conduct, enrollment, fees and fair share through fundraising or payment, grading system, leadership, rules and regulations, student accounts, travel, and uniforms.

All Pulaski County Public Schools and Pulaski County High School Policies and Procedures will also be followed. I understand that this is a performance-based class and that any unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal. I understand that a passing grade must be met for the first semester in order to continue for the second semester, and at least a grade of C to continue the following year. I understand that attendance is a part of grading and that there are consequences for unexcused absences.

I understand that there will be some instances where photos or videos will be taken of my child. By signing this agreement, I am agreeing to the consent of my child's image being displayed in any form of media. I have a copy of the comprehensive band calendar and know that any calendar changes can and will be made and posted on the band programs website www.goldencougarbands.org.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I have read and agree to the policies set forth by the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands Student Handbook 2016-2017 regarding attendance, awards, award letters, band camps, boosters, Code of Conduct, enrollment, fees and fair share through fund-raising or payment, grading system, leadership, rules and regulations, student accounts, travel, and uniforms. All Pulaski County Public Schools and Pulaski County High School Policies and Procedures will also be followed. I understand that this is a performance-based class and that any unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal. I also have a copy of the comprehensive band calendar.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature