

Providence Catholic High School

Band & Guard Program  
Student & Parent Handbook



2021-2022



## Band Program Mission Statement

The Providence Catholic Band Program exists to provide an extensive and comprehensive music education to every Providence Catholic Band student. Our marching band, concert band, pep-band and jazz band programs focus on educating the whole musician. Students are challenged musically each day with the expectation that they will be sufficiently prepared to enter music study at the collegiate level in every facet, from music hobbyist to professional musician. Our educational and competitive philosophies ensure that every band student will learn skills useful not only in the classroom, but for life as well.

This philosophy will include the following:

1. Opportunities to pursue interests and aptitudes in instrumental music and related musical experiences.
2. Appreciation and enjoyment of music as a worthwhile leisure time pursuit.
3. Musical experiences which afford worthwhile emotional outlets.
4. Performing opportunities for outward musical expression.
5. Musical activities which foster a spirit of cooperation, a feeling of responsibility, and respect for the rights and individuality of others.
6. Quality instruction which leads students to the highest technical ability of which they are capable.
7. Performing groups that are musically educational and aesthetically satisfactory for school and community.
8. A thorough foundation in music for students considering musical vocations and/or related fields.

## **A Statement of Policy on Practicing, Behavior & Attitude**

The Band students will behave, prepare, rehearse, and perform as professionals.

### **Objectives of the Band Program**

- To foster the values of Truth, Unity, and Love.
- To embrace our Celtic and Spiritual Culture.
- To learn music through actual performance.
- To foster the development of emotion and personality in each student.
- To develop performance skills of various wind and percussion instruments.
- To provide a full musical entertainment repertoire to the school and the community.
- To acquaint students with Music Theory/History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and healthy social experiences.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

# Providence Catholic High School Band & Guard Program

## Performer Contract (online now)

I, \_\_\_\_\_(student print name), accept membership in the Providence Catholic High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability. I am hereby committed to band/guard for the 2019-2020 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I, \_\_\_\_\_(parent or guardian print), have read and understand the policies set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Providence Catholic High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions and to ride on licensed and inspected school and other buses as needed. Furthermore, I understand that I must pay all financial obligations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Type of Instrument(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer

\_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_

Student e-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_

# Providence Catholic High School Instrument Rental Fee

\*Instrument fees and deposits are based on the bi-annual cost of instrument maintenance. If an instrument is properly maintained by the student, the maintenance is bi-annual. If it is not properly maintained, then maintenance must be done yearly.

\*In the event of damage beyond normal usage, the student and parent will be responsible for all the repairs financially.

\*Students will be responsible for proper care and maintenance of school owned instruments. Every student should obtain the following materials - maintenance log, oils, greases, cleaning swabs, towels (Marching Brass), gloves (Marching Brass), mouthpiece.

## Rental Deposits & Fees:

\$75 Per year, non-refundable

Instrument Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing of this contract and taking possession of a school owned instrument the student and parent agree to the above terms and fees.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Marching Band Uniform Top Fee

The custom uniform top for the 2019 Competitive show is \$109.50. Please include this fee with this document (along with the instrument rental fee if applicable), place them in an envelop with your students name on it, and place it in the gray lock box at the front of the music room. Please make checks payable to "PCHS BPO".

### TOTALS:

Instrument Rental Fee (if applicable): \$50

Uniform top fee (everyone): \$109.50

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **School Owned Instruments**

### What all students are responsible for whether or not they use a school owned instrument:

Students must have their own mouthpiece, reeds, and instrument cleaning supplies (cleaning supplies will be provided with school instruments and students will buy additional). Percussionists must have a stick bag and a base set of sticks/mallets for snare Drum, keyboards, and timpani.

### Check-out, Check-in Process:

When an instrument is checked out, a student will pay a one-time rental fee of \$75 to the B.P.O. The cost of this rental fee will aid in the cost of the routine maintenance of the instrument.

### Instrument Availability:

School owned instruments are available at the discretion of the director. All students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument. Directors and instructors can help guide students in this area.

## Contact Information

**Band Director**                      Mr. Lawrence Rogers              815.717.3152  
[lrogers@providencecatholic.org](mailto:lrogers@providencecatholic.org)

**Band Parent Organization Email:** [band@providencecatholic.org](mailto:band@providencecatholic.org) (these emails do NOT go to Mr. Rogers, please email him directly with the email address above.)

## **Band Staff:**

### **Department Chair**

Dr. John Harper, Principal, Providence Catholic High School

### **Director of Bands**

Mr. Lawrence Rogers - Director of Bands - Percussion Director - Jazz Band Director  
[lrogers@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:lrogers@providencethecatholic.org)

### **Instructional Staff**

Mr. Lawrence Ball - Color Guard  
Ms. Katherine Pavlak - Color Guard  
Ms. Sinclair Roechner - Woodwinds  
Mr. Jimmy Mountford - Woodwinds  
Mr. John Kelly - Brass/Visual  
Ms. Katy Kuzel - Front Ensemble  
Mr. Matt Boguslawski - Battery Percussion

### **Hierarchy of the Band Staff:**

- The Directors
  - The directors are in charge of every aspect of the band's performance and rehearsals. This includes the administration of the program, as well as the band's musical and visual direction.
- Instructional Staff
  - These instructors serve in various capacities including rehearsing all aspects of the band, policy enforcement, administrative duties, etc. These are excellent people who put out a tremendous effort on your behalf.
- Drum Major/Captains
  - The Drum Major and Captains serve as teacher, demonstrator, conductor, motivator, and living example of the ideal band member. This prestigious position is reached through an audition process held during the spring semester.
- Student Leaders
  - This group consists of select students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities. The student staff will be responsible for leading sectionals, teaching drill, maintaining order within their section, and setting a good example to all performers.



## **Duties of the Band Member**

- Be early to all rehearsals and performances.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps up to the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); only good solid material.
- Practice at least 30 minutes per day, five days per week. Students playing larger instruments, who find transportation inconvenient or impossible, should make up home practice regularly at school.
- At the end of rehearsal put all instruments and equipment in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

## **Cell Phones**

All cell phones must be turned off and left in a bag unless we are using it for a lesson and an instructor has given permission to use it.

## **Performance Day Information**

### **Bus Guidelines:**

- No standing on the bus.
- No more than 2 students per bus seat.
- Students must obey the bus drivers at all times in all situations.
- No boom boxes or loud speakers-personal stereos with headphones only.
- The Band Director or chaperones may assign seats if deemed necessary. Students may not move from designated seats if assigned.
- Students are not to switch buses.
- The buses will be kept clean, and cleaned before all students exit.

### **Concert Etiquette for Students & Parents:**

- All normal band behavioral expectations will be enforced.
- Students on stage will not wave to members of the audience.
- Students will be expected to stay until the end of concert and watch all groups perform.
- Students will be required to conform to dress code for full concert credits.
- Cell phones are not permitted in the performance area.

## PCHS Band Grading Policy

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grading Percentages:**

Performances/Tests:	40%
Rehearsal and Sectionals/Participation:	30%
SmartMusic/Homework Assignments/Quizzes:	30%

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grading Percentages:**

Performances/Tests:	40%
Rehearsal and Sectionals/Participation:	30%
SmartMusic/Homework Assignments/Quizzes:	30%
Indoor Band Auditions (200 pts):	(Goes towards Performance Grade)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Semester:**

1st Quarter Grade	45%
2nd Quarter Grade	45%
Semester Final	10%

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grading Percentages:**

Performances/Tests:	40%
Rehearsal and Sectionals/Participation:	30%
SmartMusic/Homework Assignments/Quizzes:	30%

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Grading Percentages:**

Performances/Tests:	40%
Rehearsal and Sectionals/Participation:	30%
SmartMusic/Homework Assignments/Quizzes:	30%

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:**

1st Quarter Grade	45%
2nd Quarter Grade	45%
Semester Final	10%

### **Graded Performances/Rehearsals:**

All performances (and rehearsals) are mandatory. Competitions, parades, concerts, football and basketball games constitute a performance. Full performance credit will be earned upon successful completion. Failing of playing tests and rehearsal absences can affect a student's ability to earn full performance credit. An unexcused performance absence will result in a review of the student's participation in band and could lead to failure of the course for that semester or dismissal from the ensemble/class.

### **Graded Attendance & Participation at Rehearsals & Sectionals:**

Students must attend and participate in all sectionals and rehearsals. Make-ups will be permitted for excused absences only. Participation includes: following class rules, being prepared with music, and a positive attitude.

Students must have all materials required for their instruments for full class credit. This may include: reeds, sticks, mallets, oil, mouthpiece, and neck strap. Additionally, students must have a pencil and their music in a folder at all times. Concert band folders will be checked out with original music in them. Failure to return all materials may result

in a charge on a student's account. For marching band, students must have flip folders, lyres and drill coordinate sheets.

### **Tests & Written Assignments:**

Assignments will always be assigned through "Teams". Parents are supposed to access their students classes on Teams in order to check assignments that may be due. Grades are posted to the PlusPortals.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit assignments are never a guaranteed option during the school year. Students should always plan on turning in all assignments on time, attending rehearsals and all performances. When extra credit is offered, it is a bonus to the students, and should not be the expectation.

Extra credit points will be limited, if offered at all, and will not exceed a full homework assignment, or half a performance.

Generally, two types of extra credit may be offered throughout the school year.

1-SmartMusic homework extra credit assignment

2-Performance program extra credit (students can attend live concerts during the dates of the quarter or semester and bring in a program for proof of attendance).

### **Honors Credit:**

After their freshmen year, students are eligible to receive honors credit for band class if they meet the performance requirements as determined by the Band Director. Students will be asked to perform an assignment to determine if they are qualified to move to the Honors Course.

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester Project:** All honors students will complete the ILMEA All District Audition for Band (District 1); students will receive a score through SmartMusic on their prepared selections. That score will be then averaged out of 100 for the students' performance project grade in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Project:** All honors students will participate in the IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest. Students may pick out either a solo or an ensemble to perform at Contest. Students are encouraged to perform more than one piece at contest (IE-perform a Solo, and also participate in an Ensemble). Students receive scores from the Contest judges, and those scores will be averaged out of 100 for the students' performance project grade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. If a student performs multiple times at IHSA, the highest score will be calculated.

### **SmartMusic Homework Assignments**

Students will play between 5-10 homework assignments in SmartMusic, aside from other course work assigned. SmartMusic Assignments are critical to the success of the group. Each student is provided a SmartMusic subscription through the band at PCHS.

Assignments are expected to be played on time or early when the assignment is due in SmartMusic, this is usually on every Friday of the quarter. **Students will have up to one week to make the assignment up if they have decided to play it late.** After one week after an assignment's due date, the assignment will be automatically removed from SmartMusic. The last assignment of the quarter, will be due earlier than one week after the due date to allow for grading to be completed. Once an assignment is over one week (or in the case of the last assignment, 5 days) late, it becomes ineligible to be played and the final grade for that SmartMusic assignment becomes a zero. Students are expected to be responsible and play the assignments on time, which will ensure that if there are any technical errors in the program, they can be addressed.

## **RULES GOVERNING ABSENCES AT PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS**

\*Attendance at the "Full Band Camp" in the summer is mandatory for all students in band and guard. Failure to be able to attend the entirety of "Full Band Camp" may result in the school making a schedule change for that student from "Band" to another class or study hall.

### **Policy regarding *all* absences including PCHS Athletics and other school sponsored extra-curricular conflicts at PCHS:**

When a member is aware of an upcoming absence from a performance or a scheduled after-school rehearsal, a parent or guardian of that student must send a detailed email to the director at least two weeks prior to the absence, or bring a written statement from his/her parent or legal guardian at least two weeks prior to the absence, explaining the need for the absence. This does not mean the absence will be considered excused; it just keeps the line of communications open.

In some cases, we will try to work out the best possible solution to the conflict, while minimizing the amount of rehearsal/performance time missed. In case of an absolute emergency, a written excuse from the student's parents or guardians should be tendered upon the student's next rehearsal.

If your child is absent from school on the day of an event, an email note is still required to be sent to the band director.

### **The reasons for requiring a written statement from home are:**

1. To keep the home-school line of communications open.
2. Parents know when their child has missed a graded event.
3. Directors have lasting records of absences and excuses directly from home, which are kept on file for the year. An excused absence through phone contact with the school office or a letter written concerning an absence during the regular school

day will not be accepted for an absence from an evening band activity. A separate note will be necessary for that event.)

\*Failure to submit a written excuse for an absence will cause that absence to be considered unexcused until the excuse from home has been received.

### **Types of Excused Absences**

- Serious illness, may require a doctors note.
- The passing/ death in the immediate family.
- Student is home sick from school on the day of the rehearsal/performance, email should still be sent to the director.
- A serious emergency may arise that could be termed excused and will be handled individually by the directors.

-An extreme extenuating circumstance (such as COVID-19 diagnosis, or contact with an infected individual etc). All other absences will be considered unexcused.

### **Absence from a Performance**

- In the event that a student misses a performance due to illness on a non-school day, a doctor's note must be provided.
- Students may participate in evening performances if they were absent for school, provided that that absence was excused and cleared by the main office. If a student is absent from school and it is not excused, they will not be permitted to perform and will receive a zero for the event.

### **Assessment:**

-When a student misses a Concert Performance for an excusable reason (outlined above), the student will be expected to complete an alternate assignment that will be given by the director of that ensemble. This will serve as that student's Concert Participation Credit. A typical alternate assignment may be a 3-4 page paper typed about a piece or composer of the directors choosing.

Band is not a required subject; therefore, when a student elects to accept all the advantages of band, he/she is also accepting the obligations and responsibility of bringing about the success of the organization. An unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal will result in a failing grade for that particular activities performance/participation.

Students are also expected to be present for the entirety of the band's performances at concerts and contests. Leaving before the end of an event is poor concert etiquette. If a student leaves a concert performance prior to the conclusion of the concert, the maximum grade the student can receive for that concert grade will be a 50%.

- Unexcused absences from band cannot be made up for a grade. However, the student is welcome and encouraged to complete any and all extra credit offered at the end of the quarter to make up for missed grades.

## **Athletics & Band**

In an effort to extend the students an opportunity to participate in both band and athletics, Mr. Rogers works with PCHS athletic coaches towards making schedules align. Outside athletic organizations/events not affiliated with PCHS are not eligible to be excused. Band is an academic class and all functions are graded. In order for this to be successful the following must occur:

### **Mr. Rogers**

- Will communicate with both the coach and parent.
- Will seek out coaches after tryouts to learn who from band is participating.
- Will try to preemptively work out any major conflicts such as games while the band had a performance.
- Will work with the parent by providing specific time and event information so that the parents can communicate.

### **Parents**

- Must maintain constant communication between the coaches and Mr. Rogers.
- Must monitor academic status and playing sports and band can be a challenge in terms of balancing time.
- Must be willing to transport a student between the athletic function and band in the event that an overlap does not allow for the student to take provided transportation.

### **Students**

- Must maintain good academic standing or this will affect the student's ability to play sports.
- Must make-up any work missed on their own.
- Must maintain strong lines of communication between the coaches and Mr. Rogers.

### **Attendance as it relates to PCHS athletics (please see section above):**

- All missed band events must still be communicated at least 2 weeks prior to the date to be excused. This includes games or meets that the students may not know if they will participate until the day before. The band director should be made aware of any possible absence, even if it is not known yet whether that student will participate in the athletic event.
- When Band rehearsals and Athletic practices conflict, students are expected to attend band because it is a curricular class (graded), and band rehearsals occur less frequently than sports practices. The director can make the coaches aware of the conflict if needed.
- Band students participating in games (not practices) are excused from band rehearsals where they overlap. Students should come late to band or leave early when such an overlap occurs.
- Band students having athletic practices on days when the band is scheduled for a performance should arrange to miss that practice when they overlap.

- Band students having game conflicts with band performances should have their parents contact Mr. Rogers immediately so a compromise can be reached.
- Unexcused absences from band cannot be made up for a grade.

### **Concert/Honors Band**

The Concert and Honors Band is designed for experienced instrumental students who have mastered fundamental techniques and have proven themselves to be advanced in musical abilities and maturity. Concert Band members are challenged with the finest and most demanding band literature of varying styles commensurate with the ability level of the group. Students are required to perform at all scheduled concerts, are members of the marching band, and must attend rotating sectionals. Opportunities and materials are available for participation in solo and ensemble work. Auditions are given for placement within the band.

### **Cadet Band**

The Cadet Band is a performance group which emphasizes fundamentals basic to correct instrumental technique. Students will be required to perform in all concerts, will be part of the marching band, and must also attend rotating sectionals. All Freshmen and Beginners at the high school level participate and will be included as a part of this group. Opportunities and materials are available for participation in solo and small ensemble work. Auditions are given for placement within the band.

### **Basketball Pep Band**

The band may be divided into two performing groups based on how many students are in the program. Each group will be expected to perform at selected home boy's basketball games as well as selected girl's basketball games. If a student unable to attend an assigned game, he/she is required notify the Director, find a student from the other pep band to substitute with them, and perform at a scheduled game for person he/she substituted with. Pep Band performances are graded.

### **Colorguard (Fall Guard and Winter Guard)**

The Color Guard is a vital part of the Marching Band and provide visual enhancement to the music performed. During the season the Guard will have an additional rehearsal each week separate from the band's rehearsals. Only students that are not currently enrolled in 'band' may audition for Color Guard. For example, a student is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade band at the middle schools and plays the clarinet, that student is not eligible to 'opt-out' of playing their wind instrument to join the fall guard. Wind players are an integral part of the band and need to stay on their wind or percussion instruments in order to bring about the success of the program. However, those interested in guard that play a band instrument will have every opportunity to audition for the indoor winter guard, which is an extra-curricular ensemble. Anyone interested must be able to attend after-school or evening rehearsals. Any student grandfathered in to the current system that plays an

instrument, but performs on guard in the fall will be graded on their performance medium for the first three homework assignments, then they will transition to play their instrument for the remaining three assignments during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and performances are mandatory. If a guard member accrues multiple absences from rehearsal or performances, they will be dismissed from the ensemble in accordance with the guard attendance policy. Please refer to the Guard attendance policy included in the Guard Participation Contract. All uniform, equipment, and participation fees will still apply.

The instructors may elect to host auditions for either the Fall Guard or Winter guard season. Selection to the ensemble will be based on ability level and ability to pick up on new concepts quickly.

### **Indoor Band Spelldown System**

**Spelldown:** An evaluated critique of prepared material, involving the entire section within a specific band, resulting in seating placement by ability level within that band.

A spelldown may be exercised by the director to enable an entire section to alter its chair placement at any time.

### **Indoor Band Challenge System**

**Challenges:** A competition between two or more members who play the same instrument for seating placement within the section, usually ungraded.

1. One can only challenge the person immediately seated ahead.
2. The challenge is only official after it is confirmed with the band director who is to hear the challenge.
3. The person challenging must tell the person being challenged before registering the challenge with the director.
4. A minimum of three school days will be allowed for preparation. The director will schedule, with the student's input, the time and date for the challenge.
5. The challenge must be "played off" on the agreed upon date. There may be some variations due to illness or scheduling problems.
6. Both parties do not have to be present at the time the challenge takes place.
7. A challengee may decline the right to defend his/her chair; however, he/she must forfeit the position.
8. If the challenger wins, the challengee has the option to challenge back immediately. If that option is declined, the challenger may continue to challenge ahead, and the challengee may be challenged by the person seated behind.
9. Should the person being challenged win, the challenger must wait a week (five school days) before re-challenging. This allows the next person in line an opportunity to challenge.



10. There will be no challenges heard within ten school days (two weeks) of a major performance.
11. Sight-reading will be included if the score is within 10 errors.

### **Music Dept. Trip:**

The purpose of every trip is to promote unity, teamwork as well as independence, musical growth, and education. While these trips are fun for students, they also require a great deal of work, energy and concentration. The trips are intended to be a learning experience for the student and band as an ensemble. While on the trip, students are constantly under the direct supervision of the band director and chaperones. Students are not allowed to leave the group for any reason. Parents are not required, nor should they feel obligated to travel with the band.

### **COVID-19:**

During times of COVID-19 or other similar pandemic disasters, Providence Catholic will make large group travel decisions based on keeping our students, staff, and chaperones as safe and healthy as possible. At the recommendation of the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and Providence Catholic Administration and its music directors, Providence Catholic is requiring all travelers to be fully vaccinated prior to any large group travel that involves but not limited to crossing State lines, returning from States with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission rates, and/or airline travel. The directors and administration will set the timeline for when a traveler must be fully vaccinated or have received their final dose, as well as provide proof of vaccination and other pertinent medical documentation.

Trips may either be delayed or cancelled altogether if a significant risk to health is posed and the school or diocese determines that travelers should stay home. Providence Catholic, the Diocese of Joliet, and its staff are not liable for any monies paid for group travel that is lost due to a trip cancellation. Trip insurance is always recommended to protect your investment.

## Tips & Other Handy Things to Know

### Communication:

- Check the Band website frequently! Changes to the calendar are posted on this page. In most cases, you will be able to get all the information you need there. (The PCHS Band web address is [www.providencethecatholicbands.org](http://www.providencethecatholicbands.org).)
- Be sure to include your e-mail address in your Portal account. Should the Band Director need to contact parents, he will be able to e-mail all parents easily and quickly through the Portal. (For more information, click on "Manage Account" on your Portal page.)
- Parents, try to attend as many BPO meetings as you can. You will meet fellow parents, and gain much insight and information about the school and band program which your student may have not told you.
- Use our "Remind App"! Simply text the phrase "@pchsband1" if you are a parent, or the phrase "@pchsband2" if you are a parent to the number "81010. Follow the prompt and you will receive messages from the director!

### Rehearsals:

- Students should arrive for rehearsals at least 15-30 minutes early. This allows plenty of time for set-up and warm-up so that the director can begin rehearsal at the stated call time. The extra time is not for socializing; it should be used to prepare for rehearsal.
- Many parents fear that the time commitment for band is too great and that grades will suffer. While it can seem overwhelming at first, the schedule is very manageable. It will require planning and discipline on your child's part. Keep in mind that Band is an academic class, where students earn a grade. It is not an extra-curricular activity! All rehearsals and at-home practicing should be considered part of the homework for the class.

## Fall (Marching Band Season)

### Sectional Rehearsals TBA by Section

Each instrument group (section) will have its own rehearsal. The sectionals are led by the section leader, instructors, and supervised by the band director. Rehearsals last approximately one to two hours and are crucial to the success of the band as a whole. Attendance is required and as such, included in the student's grade. The guard also hosts a sectional once per week that shall last no less than 2 hours.

### Wednesday & Thursday Night Rehearsals - 6:00 - 8:30 PM

These all-band/guard rehearsals are required for students. During football season, the band will practice their field show in the stadium. Students should be sure to dress for the weather.

**Saturday Rehearsals - Times vary due to other activities at the school, but usually for 4 hours in the afternoons, please check the band calendar on the website.**

### Football Game Days

#### ➤ Students

The Marching Band and Color Guard perform at all home varsity football games, including playoff games. *(Check online for dates and times)*

On these days, the band and guard rehearse after school. They are dismissed allowing plenty of time for dinner break. Students are expected to bring or have their parents bring dinner. The concession stand will be open. Students are to be back in the band room by 6:00 PM in full marching uniform. *(Please refer to the Uniform Policy in this handbook for information about marching uniform.)*

Varsity game time is 7:30 PM. The band performs the national anthem, pre-game show, and a half-time show. Students are usually dismissed for a break in shifts during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the game.

After the game, the band then heads back to the band room to hang up uniforms properly and put away equipment. The director dismisses them between 10:00 and 10:30 PM from the band room.

#### ➤ Parents

As you know, the BPO runs the concession stand for all home football games, including any playoff games. Please check the schedule for your assigned days.

## **Late Fall & Winter (Concert Band Season)**

Once football season is over, the band begins rehearsing its concert pieces for performances and competition. There will be Wednesday afternoon rehearsals scheduled a few weeks prior to the concert to prepare. These rehearsals are graded much like the marching season is. Sectional rehearsals also continue as usual.

### **Basketball Games**

- The band director assigns students to specific games. Each group is a pep band for the boys' and girls' varsity basketball home games. Games are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday nights.
- Attendance is mandatory for band students. Check the online calendar for dates assigned.

### **Concert Band Competitions**

We have traditionally participated in 3-4 competitions in the winter/spring.

## **Spring**

### **IHSA Solo & Ensemble Competition**

- Performance times are assigned by the site coordinator. Although this is not mandatory, it is highly recommended that students participate in the IHSA contest. It encourages musical growth, discipline and self-confidence.
- In early December, students will be assigned their music. At that time, they should begin practicing their competition piece. The Band Director will assist students with music selection as well as provide information for accompanists.
- Students who wish to receive extra/final exam credit may perform an additional solo or duet at the competition.
- Students generally schedule one or two rehearsals with their accompanist sometime during the three weeks prior to the performance.
- Students will need to bring the original music for the judge. Students should wear their "Sunday best" for their performance.
- Parents and friends usually observe the performance, but there are times when the musician prefers they wait outside the room.

### **Ensemble Night -**

- This will be a joint event with students from the choir.
- Students will have the chance to perform their small ensembles from the IHSA Solo and Ensemble competition for their parents and peers.
- Every student will perform in some capacity.
- Soloists who received a 1 or superior rating at IHSA will be asked to perform as well.
- Parents are encouraged to attend.
- Students will dress in their "Sunday best".

### **Jazz Band/Percussion Ensemble**

- Jazz and percussion both rehearse outside of school.

### **Spring Concert -**

- It is the culmination of the entire year's hard work – be sure to invite your family and friends.
- Following the concert is a light reception of baked goods and beverages. Many families enjoy a casual dinner out after the concert to celebrate their child's musical success.
- Students wear full concert uniforms for all performances. (*Please refer to the Uniform Policy in this guide for full details.*)