

**PCMB New Member Questions & Answers**  
**Updated June 7, 2010**

The Qs and As are divided into the following sections and were taken those asked by new members and answered by Barb Hawkins (April – June 7, 2010):

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#	Question	Answer
<b>Start-up Questions</b>		
1.	Who do I turn in the PCMB Participation Agreement to?	Either at the Scrip table on Thursday nights, at Booster meetings or they can be mailed to Erin Babcock at 47662 Pavillon Rd., Canton MI 48188.
2.	How do I sign up for the emails from PCMB?	<p>These fanouts will keep you informed of all that is going on in the marching band program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="http://www.pcmb.net">www.pcmb.net</a></li> <li>2. click on fanouts (bottom ribbon)</li> <li>3. click on sign up for fanouts</li> <li>4. enter required information</li> </ol> <p>If you are not receiving the fanouts, but have signed up for general PCMB fanouts, check your spam filter.</p>
3.	What is the Peer Mentoring Program?	<p>The program matches older members with incoming freshmen in one-on-one relationships to provide guidance for novice members. Through this special relationship, peer mentors provide advice and support and serve as role models for younger members who might need help adjusting to such a big place. Challenges facing those mentees include problems with schoolwork, time management, handling of social issues (such as teenage pressures to engage in unwise behavior), and other typical difficulties of adolescence.</p> <p>The average G.P.A. of our Peer Mentoring Team is a 3.85, and all have successfully completed freshman-level classes that many freshmen have trouble with such as Algebra,</p>

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		Spanish, English 9, and World History. In addition, these students have completed hours of training in peer mediation and tutoring.
4.	I heard there is a new parent / student meeting Thursday. We attended the meeting in March. Do my son or I need to attend Thursday as well?	No! If you attended the new member informational meeting in March, you do not need to attend another one.
5.	My daughter is an 8th grader and already signed up and paid for marching band. My son, who will be a senior and was in the varsity band as a freshman is now interested in marching band. Can he show up on Wednesday for the first rehearsal?	We would love to have your son show up on Wednesday for the first rehearsal. I have known many students who joined marching band their senior year and kicked themselves for not joining earlier. Your son is very welcome. If he decides to join, we will need a participation agreement signed for him also. You can get one off our website.
6.	I'm worried about the time element that marching band requires. My son is going to be taking hard classes and he's worried that he won't have enough time to study with all the rehearsal time.	This is a common question that we get from new member students and parents. Most of the students in the band are taking AP classes, Honors classes and Foreign Languages. As was mentioned at the informational meeting, the students are more organized and get better grades when they are in marching band, then when marching band is over. They know things have to be done and they do it. The students are normally home by 6:00 during the weekdays, which leaves time for studying after rehearsal and the evening meal. Saturdays are a long day. However, students thrive on these long days and don't mind catching up on Sundays. Many students attend some kind of religious service, participate in other events and still find time to get their homework done.
7.	When and where can I purchase uniforms for a new marching band member?	Please contact Michelle Zaluzec at mzal@comcast.net. She is in charge of the uniforms and will be able to answer any questions you have about uniforms.
8.	Is it possible for students in public high schools outside of the Plymouth Canton Salem Park area to participate in the marching band? We are house hunting now. My kids are in Canton H.S. now but are looking at other districts such as Northville etc	Unfortunately no, you need to be in the Plymouth-Canton School District to participate with PCMB. We hope you will stay in the PCCS district! But, good luck house hunting!

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<b>Payments</b>		
1.	To whom should the first payment of \$200 be sent? (And all other payments?)	<p>If you are JUST mailing a check, please mail to: Karen Richter at 670 Pheasant Woods, Canton MI 48188.</p> <p>If you are also mailing the Participation Agreement, you can send both to: Erin Babcock at 47662 Pavillon Rd., Canton MI 48188.</p>
2.	Can my daughter bring a payment check to a practice if I can't make it to the booster meeting in June?	We prefer not to have drum majors or directors worry about keeping track of band payments. You can make payments at the scrip table on Thursdays from 6-7 or you can mail your check to PCMB PO Box 701135 Plymouth MI 48170. Please make sure that you put your student's name on the memo line, so that payments are credited to the correct account.
3.	My husband was wondering if the participation payments (and other payments) could be charged to a credit card?	Yes, you can use a charge card. However, there is a fee involved for the set up and I believe there is a percentage on the amount charged. You can contact Karen Richter, our treasurer, at krichter@wowway.com for specific information.
<b>Scholarship and Financial Aid Application</b>		
1.	Where do I locate the scholarship form?	<p>The scholarship and financial aid application on the PCMB website. Go to <a href="http://www.pcmb.net">www.pcmb.net</a>, click on booster (top right hand corner of the ribbon) user id is pcmb, password is mbr99. Click on forms, scroll down until you find the application.</p> <p>This is the address to send those applications to;</p> <p>PCMB Scholarship/Financial Aid Canton Community Foundation 50430 Schoolhouse Road, Suite 200 Canton, MI 48187</p>

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		Forms are due by July 1, 2010
2.	Our daughter will be a sophomore in the fall, but it will be her first year of Marching Band, is she eligible for this assistance?	My belief is that it is available to everyone, but geared towards freshman as they are new to the Park and the marching band. I'm confident that your daughter would not be turned away, if she needed help.
3.	Please send me the name and email address of whomever heads up Financial Aid.	Karen Richter is our treasurer. You can contact her at krichter@wowway.com. The adress for Canton Community Foundation-the people who you need to send your financial aid/scholarship application to is on the website; look under boosters, forms and related info that is next to the application. See pass word and user id mentioned below.
<b>Physicals</b>		
1.	<p>I remember that we need to have physical forms on file for marching band and need to get one for my daughter. What dates do they need to be done by and will they cover the fall if we get them done soon?</p> <p>I also noticed that the medical release form covers the 2009-2010 school year. Will we need this one for the summer and another for the fall since that will be 2010-2011 school year?</p>	The physical form needs to be dated after April 15, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year. The physical form needs to be turned in by August 1. Even though the date says 2009-2010 school year, it's the form to use. I'm not sure why we date things, when the form has been the same for years!
2.	At the meeting I attended for Marching Band we were told that the students needed to have a current physical on file. I just printed out the form and it says that the physical has to be completed after April 15 of the previous school year. My student had a physical on January 18, 2010 and my insurance will not cover another one until January 18, 2011. I am taking her to the doctor for something else	Unfortunately, this is the district policy, not the bands. Perhaps your doctor will complete it and since he/she is seeing her they will date it more recently. I certainly understand the insurance issue-most companies will not cover another physical for a year. I'm going to email our band nurse and see if she has a suggestion other than the one I gave you. I'll let you know if I get a better suggestion.

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	<p>Thursday and I was going to have them complete it but the date will be January 18, 2010. Is this going to be a problem? Thank you for your help.</p>	
<b>Practices</b>		
1.	<p>What should the kids bring with them for full day rehearsals?</p>	<p>For all future marching band rehearsals, starting now, but especially starting with the June mini-camp your student should bring the following items: (Please note the new item that's been added in bold print)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water jug-water 1 gallon water jugs will be needed for all future rehearsals</li> <li>• 3-ring binder with plastic page protectors</li> <li>• pencil</li> <li>• black towel to fit the size of your instrument</li> <li>• sunscreen</li> <li>• hat or sunglasses are optional</li> <li>• rain poncho - if your child will wear one</li> <li>• dress in layers</li> <li>• instrument</li> <li>• if the school is providing one of the larger instruments for you (sousaphone, baritone, mellophone, etc) bring your mouthpiece</li> <li>• wear tennis shoes and socks!</li> <li>• bring a lunch or make plans to bring your student lunch or take them home/out for lunch (it's important to report back promptly after lunch)</li> <li>• <b>3x5 index cards in a spiral book</b>-these are used for keeping track of their drill - this is new for those who received this list earlier. Students will usually put this on a long shoe string or string of some kind and wear it for rehearsals that involve marching the drill.</li> </ul> <p>Your student should be at practice at <b>LEAST</b> 15 minutes early as they need to be ready to go at 9:00 a.m. the week of June mini camp.</p>
2.	<p>Our son, heard he missed a possible (sectional??) practice on Friday or Saturday. We found nothing on our calendar - or the PCMB website. Are there any practices - "sectional" or otherwise - that do not appear on the website calendar?</p>	<p>Sectionals are called by the section leader. It is their responsibility to notify their section of any sectionals that are being held. If your son didn't know about it, then it's not his problem-it's the section leaders. Sectionals are normally not on the PCMB website, as each section leader holds sectionals at times that will accommodate the majority of their section. Sectionals, right now, are on an "as needed" basis. I know that the first sectional was to discuss "goals." Sectionals may increase in frequency as the summer and</p>

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		season progresses.
3.	How is it determined if your child plays in battery or pit for percussion. I was noticing some practices only include certain groups, so I wondered how and when that is determined.	Your child will audition to be in the battery or drum line. These are the drums that march on the field. Usually, they are upperclassmen but not always. For now, send your child when it says pit. The pit is the front line percussion
4.	My son will miss the morning of the band camp in June, and I have the absentee form ready to fill out. Can you tell me what time lunch is, so I can plan when to drop him off for the afternoon? Thanks.	Lunch for the week of June mini-camp, according to the calendar on pcmb.net, is from 12:30-1:30.
5.	How can we find out who would like to car pool from the middle school to the high school?	Send an email to Barb Hawkins and she will send to the new students.
<b>Absences</b>		
1.	My child will need to miss a practice, how do I inform the director?	<p>Anytime a student is going to miss a practice, an excused absence form should be completed. This will guarantee that the directors are aware that your student will miss and the reason that they are missing. The director's request that they receive the excused absence form 2 weeks in advance.</p> <p>Once August begins and our official season, absences may not always be excused. These practices are very important and when even one student is missing it really interrupts the whole bands learning curve as new music and drill are being learned on a daily basis.</p>
2.	I could not find the excused absence form on the website.	Go to <a href="http://www.pcmb.net">www.pcmb.net</a> . Go to boosters-top upper right hand corner on the ribbon and click on forms. User id is pcmb, passwords is mbr99. Scroll down for Request for Excused Absence form.
3.	We have a vacation planned for the week of June 21st.....the band camp week. It was booked	Your student can hand it to the band directors. If they aren't walking around, you can probably find them in their office. If all else fails, ask a student leader where a director is or

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	before we had committed to marching band. I have got the form requesting his excused absence. It states that I have to hand it into the director in person.....I never see him....I only see the student leaders. What should I do?	give the form to the drum major, follow up with an email to the director. The directors will be at the booster meeting tonight!
4.	My son is an 8th grader and is signed up for the PCMB. He's ready to start this week, but he's also on the track team at West. I have scheduled out all the days he can attend marching band practice this spring, but he'll miss a few. Do I need to fill out an absentee form for each day he'll miss, or can I include all missed days on one form? Also, should I just send this with him at the 1st practice, or can I mail it in?	Let's save some trees...put all the dates on one form. If I hear differently from the directors, I'll let you know. You can send the form in with your son on the first day of rehearsal
5.	My son is in the 8th grade and has signed up for PCMB. I noticed that the June band camp conflicts with something he's signed up for the same week, but only in the morning. Is it o.k. to miss the morning of band camp but show up in the afternoon?	On our website-www.pcmb.net under boosters, click on forms. User id is pcmb password is mbr99. Print the excused absence form. I'm fairly certain that Mr. Armbruster and Mr. Frazier would NOT have a problem with your son missing in the morning since he has a conflict. However, please let them know about the conflict by completing the excused absence form.
<b>Parades</b>		
1.	Who marches in the Memorial Day Parade?? Everyone - even the newest band members???	<p>Everyone in the band and color guard can march in the Memorial Day Parade-even the newest members-as long as they have been coming to practices and feel comfortable marching and playing at the same time! In fact, if they've been coming to practices and will be in town, we WANT them to march. They will wear the summer uniform-black shorts and white PCMB polo shirt.</p> <p>The members who do NOT participate in the local parades are the percussion members who play in the pit. For the</p>

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		battery or drum line (the marching drummers), Sean, their instructor, will let them know who is marching.
2.	Could you give a few tips about the parades?	<p>The students will wear their summer uniform-black shorts and white polo PCMB shirt-for winds and drum line. Color guard will wear their uniforms. Shoes should be white (or close to white). No jewelry-watches, earrings, necklaces, bracelets etc. No hats are worn.</p> <p>Memorial Day Parade: After a short parade, the students stand for quite a while during speeches-part of them will be in the sun. The most important part about the Memorial Day Parade is for the students to eat a decent breakfast. Every year we have students who pass out due to heat, standing with locked knees/legs, lack of sleep, not eating etc. We do have a water brigade that has water for them throughout the parade and the speeches. Please, please, please make sure your child eats breakfast. Older students will be reminding new students to keep their knees unlocked.</p>
3.	What if you're not marching in these parades - do you still need to purchase the PCMB summer uniform?	Yes. The summer uniforms are used for any concerts during the summer or anytime that the kids would perform in public...such as show and tells (short performances after a mini-camp to show parents/family/friends what was learned during the week). The marching band members, including pit, are required to purchase a summer uniform.
4.	Color Guard is still in try outs. We don't even know if she is in yet. Do they wear the summer uniform?	Color guard does not wear what the winds (brass and woodwinds) and percussion wear. They have their own summer uniform. They will take care of the fitting and ordering of those.
5.	My son is a new member and in the pit. I was just wondering if he continues to be in the pit for next year, will he have the opportunity to march in the Thanksgiving parade for 2011?	For the Macy's parade in 2011, there will be a marching spot for everyone-pit included.
6.	What do the kids wear for protection if it rains during the parade?	They will wear their regular summer uniforms. If you have a daughter, I suggest they wear a white tank top or something underneath their white polo shirts. They normally do not wear raincoats or other rain gear during performances.

#	Question	Answer
<b>Website</b>		
1.	Can you tell me the password to get into marching band site?	The user id is mbr99 and the password is pcmb (lowercase sensitive).
<b>Fund Raising (Scrip, Kroger, etc.)</b>		
1.	Is the band selling trash bags again this year for a fundraiser?	We sell trash bags twice a year. The next time should be late summer/early fall. The information will come in a PCMB fanout.
2.	Once I've registered on the Kroger Community Rewards Program, who do I send my Kroger numbers to so that they can post my reward amounts to my account?	Please send the Kroger Plus numbers to Lisa Swales at swales.lisa@yahoo.com.
3.	Where can I find a listing of SCRIP vendors?	Until a hyperlink is added to our fundraising portion of <a href="http://www.pcmb.net">www.pcmb.net</a> . You can go to <a href="http://www.glscrip.com">www.glscrip.com</a> for a current list of vendors that you can order scrip from.
4.	How do we pay for scrip cards? Check, cash, credit card?	They prefer either check (Made payable to PCMB with your student's name in the memo line) or credit card. There will be a nominal fee for using the credit card, as we are charged by the bank.
<b>Football Games</b>		
1.	Looking at the PCMB calendar, there are no football games listed in the fall that I could see. Has the schedule not been determined yet?	There are no football games on the PCMB calendar yet. However, once the football season starts the band will most likely play every game. I'm guessing it will be like last year- they will divide the band in half; A band and B band and alternate Friday nights. However, I believe that Homecoming games and Park vs. Park games the whole band will play. I'm not sure why the football games aren't on the calendar yet, but I'm sure they will be soon.
<b>Nationals</b>		
1.	The e-mail says that Nationals is 3 day event. However, the ticket dates show only 2 days. Is this 2 or 3 days? For finals, what level of seating do most PCMB parents purchase (i.e. economy, value, center, and premium)? Finally, what hotel are most PCMB members staying at?	<p>Preliminaries are Thursday and Friday. Semi-Finals are Saturday day and Finals are Saturday evening. I normally only purchase tickets for finals ahead of time and buy general admission tickets at the door for prelims and semi's. I don't know why there aren't Thursday prelim tickets on the fan-out. Perhaps we aren't planning on performing on Thursday and therefore it wasn't necessary to put them on the fanout.</p> <p>Most PCMB people buy tickets around the 50 yard line. Some people prefer sitting up high, some down low. I</p>

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		<p>usually sit high for semis and sit low for Nationals. Last year I bought \$51.00 seats and sold them, when we didn't make finals. The year before, I think I bought \$35.00 seats. Since this is my son's senior year and our last year in the band-I'll probably spring for the Finals Premium (\$51.00) seats again.</p> <p>PCMB people stay at a variety of hotels. Some like to stay downtown with the hotels that have been listed. Some like to stay out of town a ways and stay in less expensive hotels. There is no one hotel that everybody stays at. Some people prefer Hyatt, some really like Crown Plaza. If you have some friends in the band, get reservations at the same place.</p> <p>I'll be honest with you-I generally wait a little while before I do anything. However, by the end of the summer, I will have my hotel reservations and my Finals tickets purchased.</p>