

# ***Plymouth Canton Marching Band***



## ***P-CEP BANDS***



***New Member information 2018***

## **Welcome to Marching Band and P-CEP Bands 2018**

We are very excited to welcome you to the Plymouth Canton Marching Band! We hope you find this information helpful, and as a guide as you and your student prepare for the upcoming school year. This information is also available on our website, [pcmb.net](http://pcmb.net), which serves as a useful tool for new members and parents.

The acclaimed Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is an extracurricular activity that is part of the band program at P-CEP. The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band has won more than 500 awards in its storied history. The Marching Band has earned the State Championship from the MCBA- Michigan Competing Bands Association 27 times and was the 2016 State Champion. The P-CEP Marching Band has also marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City in 2011 and in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena California in 2016. Additionally, the band has been named Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Champions three times.

There are no auditions to join the ensemble for winds and percussion, though there are auditions for certain roles within the band such as color guard. This is one of the few activities where the seniors and the freshman play together, and where the students don't spend their time on the bench. There are times where individuals have a period of inactivity as called for by the show design, but every student performs in every performance.

## Marching Band Information

Competitive marching in the MCBA (Michigan Competing Band Association) and BOA (Bands of America) circuits is not like marching a football halftime show. These shows are more akin to theater where the shows have a theme that is played out on the field. The show will often include props, tarps to set the stage, choreography, as well as the brass, woodwind and percussion you see in most marching bands. Marching shows can also include lights, electric instrumentation and special effects.

## Marching Sections

There are four major sections to the band - the Winds, Percussion, Color Guard and Field Commanders. The sections are delineated mostly because the training is different for each area. Ultimately, all sections come together to form one cohesive marching ensemble.

### Winds

Winds include both brass, such as trumpet, french horn, tuba or baritone, and woodwinds, such as flute, clarinet and saxophone. Some instruments are unique to the marching field. The iconic example is the sousaphone, which is a marching tuba. There are others, such as french horn players performing on mellophones and baritones playing on marching baritones which have forward facing bells to project better to the stands. Students will occasionally play a different instrument in marching band than in curriculum bands, such as a oboe player in Wind Ensemble playing sousaphone on the marching field.



### Percussion

Percussion is divided into two groups – battery and front ensemble. The battery includes the snare drums, bass drums, and tenor drums (typically 4 to 5 drums mounted together, referred to as “quads” and “quints” respectively). These are the percussionists that march on the field. There are also a number of musicians playing in the “pit” or front ensemble, which is named for the sunken area in front of the stage in most theaters where the orchestra plays. The pit is where the larger instruments are played, such as tympani, large bass drums, marimbas (similar to xylophones) and a myriad of smaller accessories such as a triangle or ratchet. This is also where the electric instruments (such as piano) and microphones for soloists are typically placed.



### Color Guard

The Color Guard adds movement and color to the show. They engage in many activities during any given show including dancing, spinning flags, spinning rifles or sabers, or moving props. The guard wears costumes that support the theme of the show, and can at times change costumes during the show. The guard provides the extra flashes of color and movement to accentuate the performance.



### Field Commanders

The Field Commanders, which include the Drum Majors, are the student leaders who conduct during the show and provide leadership during rehearsal. These students are marchers who have shown exceptional leadership qualities and help to keep band playing together as one cohesive group.



## **Curriculum Ensembles**

(Ensemble Classes offered during the school day)

*Though not required, students are **highly** encouraged to participate in curriculum ensembles. Sometimes it's hard to fit band into the schedule during the day, so students should talk with directors and their counselors.*

**Concert Band**

**Symphony Band**

**Chamber Winds**

**Wind Ensemble**



These classes are taught by our directors: Mr. Thomann and Mr. Wells. Percussion students will also receive individual and class instruction at points during the week from our percussion director, Mr. Sparling.

Students are placed in the bands according to their individual skill set, not by grade. While most Freshman are placed in Concert Band, we have had students make Symphony Band and Chamber Winds during their freshman year. Anything is possible with a great attitude, desire, and a strong work ethic.

Each student has to enroll in one Fine and Performing Arts Credit to meet the graduation requirements to earn a High School Diploma.

Here are the steps to sign up for band in High School to earn that credit.

1. Select/write "General Band" on your schedule
2. HS Directors will listen to students play their instrument in the spring.
3. They will then place you in one of the bands offered at P-CEP.

## **Private Lessons**

In addition to these ensembles, students are encouraged to participate in private lessons on their own instrument. Once your student is chooses to enroll in one of the curriculum ensembles, in the fall they can choose to participate in private instrumental music lesson reimbursement program.

The Plymouth Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is sponsoring a private instrumental music lesson reimbursement program. Private lessons will help the student to acquire the necessary skills for full enjoyment of music through their instrument. Each individual instrument has its own characteristic problems and each student approaches these problems differently. Private lessons will help the student to eliminate these problems and allow them to progress at their own speed and level. Please note that this is not a money making project nor is it a requirement for participation in the instrumental program at Plymouth Canton Community Schools.

The PCMB Private Instrumental Music Lesson reimbursement program is a reward program that offers a discount to students taking private lesson instruction on the primary instrument that the student plays in one of the curricular bands. The amount of the reimbursement awarded to students may change from semester to semester pending enrollment in this program, funds available, and the private lesson instructor (Approved by the P-CEP Band Directors).

**Check out our Private lesson reimbursement page on our website for more information at:**

**<https://www.pcmb.net/lessons/649-private-lesson-reimbursement-program>**

## Additional P-CEP Bands Extra-Curricular Programs

### Winter Guard

The Winter Guard program takes the Color Guard off the football field and into the gymnasium. The guard performs many of the same type of movements they do in marching band, but they perform to recorded music rather than accenting a live musical performance. Judges critique the show and give the guard a score and a ranking amongst other guards in their own class.



### Winter Percussion

The Winter Percussion program takes the Percussion off the football field and into the gymnasium. Just like the Marching Band, the battery consists of snare drums, tenor drums, and bass drums. The Front Ensemble consists of marimbas, vibraphones, xylophones, bells, synthesizers, auxiliary percussion, drum set, timpani, and even guitars. Judges critique the show and give the percussion a score and a ranking amongst other ensembles in their own class.



### Jazz Band

The jazz program at the park offers students an in-depth education in all things jazz. Students will gain knowledge in ensemble playing, improvisation, jazz history and listening skills. As a member of the ensembles each student will work with professional working musicians from the Detroit area as well as have the opportunity to travel and perform with World renowned jazz musicians and educators.



There are three ensembles that make up the program and all are skill based. Placement in the ensembles is by audition only and all ensembles rehearse after school.

# Calendar and Website

<https://www.pcmb.net>

The calendar is a very useful tool and is something you and your student will want to check often. P-CEP Bands Main Calendar - The P-CEP Bands calendar includes all All performances, fundraisers and general events. These events show up in red on the calendar. All performances, fundraisers and general events are listed in the main calendar. The other colors are rehearsal schedules only. The legend and filtering options are available below the calendar.

**Main Calendar** **MB Rehearsal** **Jazz Rehearsal** **WG Rehearsal** **Jr. Guard Reh** **WP Rehearsal** **JV Drumline Reh** **Other** **Holidays**

## Legend

**MB = Marching Band**

**W = Woodwinds**

**B = Brass**

**W/B = Woodwinds and Brass**

**P = Percussion**

**BAT = Battery**

**FE = Front Ensemble**

**G = Color Guard**

**All = Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion,**

**and Color Guard**

**WG = Winter Guard**

**JrG = Junior Guard**

**WP = Winter Percussion**

**JVD = JV Drumline**



## Fanouts

Fanouts are our primary means of disseminating important information. We send out email messages for notices of schedule updates, volunteer needs, itineraries, and other information that our membership needs. Families may sign up for fanouts under Boosters>Fanout>Subscription on pcmb.net

We also have a list for our alumni. We occasionally send out updates relevant to those who used to be a student or booster of the PCMB organization.

Check your spam folder if you are not receiving these messages.

## Fundraising Opportunities

### Scrip

Scrip is a gift card purchasing program that raises funds for both the booster organization as a whole and for the individual student's account to cover program fees. The enrollment code can be found by going to [pcmb.net](http://pcmb.net) and under Boosters>Fundraising>Scrip. You can also contact our Scrip Coordinator, [Tammy Sivic](mailto:tssivic@aol.com) at [tssivic@aol.com](mailto:tssivic@aol.com) to receive the code via e-mail.

### Individual Fundraisers

Throughout the year, the boosters will organize fundraisers that students may complete individually. In the past, these have included fundraisers such as cookie dough sales, flower sales, and similar. Students participating in these fundraisers may earn money towards their individual account, which can be applied towards activities associated with the P-CEP Band Program.

### Events

Over the course of the year, the boosters host several large scale events that serve as a general fundraiser for the P-CEP Band program. These events include GLI (Marching Band competition), 2 Craft Shows, a Winter Guard Show, and others. These events allow the boosters to raise funds for all P-CEP Band activities without the stress of running several smaller scale fundraisers throughout the year.

### Uniforms

The summer uniform will consist of a black dry-fit, anti-snag polo shirt, a pair of khaki colored shorts (bought by the parent/guardian), black socks and black sneakers (provided by the parent/guardian). The summer uniform is worn at parades and possibly the first few football games. The polos may be found at the Canton Embroidery website: <https://www.cantonembroidery.com/>

The marching competition uniform is a pair of black bibs, a gray jacket, and a shako hat with plume, provided by the school. Pre-scheduled days will be announced for fitting of the uniforms. At the uniform fitting, marching students will also try on gloves, black drillmaster marching shoes, and a dry-fit undershirt with PCMB logo, which will be bought through the marching band program and added to the student's individual account to be paid by the parent/guardian. The student will purchase (on their own) a pair of compression shorts/pants and black socks to go under their uniform bibs.



\*Note: The color guard uniforms vary based on the show theme. More details will be released at a later date regarding these.

**A week in the life...**

**Winds**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Sectionals 2:45-6	Full MB 5:30-9		Full MB 2:30-5:00  Football Game	Full MB Rehearsal	

**Guard**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sectionals 5:00-8:00		Full MB 5:30-9		Full MB 2:30-5:00  Football Game	Full MB Rehearsal  Competition	

**Percussion**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Sectionals 6:00-9:00	Full MB 5:30-9		Full MB 2:30-5:00  Football Game	Full MB Rehearsal  Competition	

Note \*Percussion sectionals are different per instrument. Full schedule will be released soon!



# Common Questions

## **How much does it cost to participate in marching band? What is included? Are there any other costs?**

The fees are set after the board meets to set the budget. The budget is dependent on the show design, the number of contests in which we compete, where those competitions take place, as well as a number of other factors. Those fees are spelled out in participation agreement once released, typically sometime in the spring.

Most expenses are covered with the participation fee. These include:

- Transportation to all competitions (local and out of state)
- Food during travel
- Housing
- Competition uniforms (a.k.a. Competition Grays)
- Professional instruction / Staff
- Use of school owned instruments

Some expenses are extra because the student will own the item and might use it for more than one season:

- Gloves
- Summer uniforms
- Shoes
- Jacket
- Member t-shirts

There may be a few added expenses such as a lunch break during bus travel or souvenirs. You will be notified before departure of any anticipated expenses.

## **Do you have to be in concert program during the day to join Marching Band (or Color Guard, Winter Guard, Winter Percussion, etc...)?**

Your student is strongly encouraged to join the curricular (during the school day) band programs, but it is not a requirement. We understand that with the STEM Academies, increasing graduation requirements and other educational opportunities at the P-CEP, it is not always possible to fit music programs in a student's school schedule.

## **The marching band spends a lot of time in rehearsal. Won't my student's grades suffer?**

This is a common concern among new parents. The reality is the student's' grades are usually higher during the marching season than they are after. The kids learn to manage their time, and the older students help look after the younger ones. The average grade point average of band students is consistently higher than the P-CEP as a whole.

In addition, as an extracurricular activity the marching band falls under the athletic eligibility rules. The band directors monitor students grades to ensure they are permitted to continue to participate and will intervene if there is a problem, though the need to rarely arises.

## **My eighth grader wants to join band, but they are already involved in other activities in the spring that prevent him/her from attending rehearsals or other events at the high school. Does that mean they can't join?**

We firmly believe students should experience and enjoy their final months of middle school. Continue to participate in your activities and join us at the end of those seasons. Contact our New Member Representative or one of our directors (listed on the contacts page) to let them know your situation and they'll hold a spot open for your student. Communication is the key!

## **I see that rehearsals for marching band has already started - is it too late to join?**

It depends on how far we are into the season, but the answer is usually that we can still work the student into the program. This is a fairly common question in September right after school begins. We can certainly invite your student to join us at that time.

### **How do I join the marching band?**

Officially, once the marching band budget has been approved, the boosters will release a participation agreement that includes the fee schedule and rules for participating. Your student may not participate in any performance or travel with the band unless the agreement and other necessary paperwork has been signed and turned in.

Unofficially, come to rehearsal! Let our directors know of your student's desire to learn more about the program and they will greet them and invite them to participate.

### **We didn't know about the summer practices before we scheduled our vacation - do we need to cancel our plans?**

Certainly not - enjoy your family time! All we ask is that if your student is in town that s/he attend rehearsals. We cover a lot of ground at each practice and we don't want your student to fall too far behind. We also don't want anyone to get hurt because they didn't know where they were supposed to be and get run into by another marcher. The attendance policy will be released at the start of spring rehearsals, and this may help answer a lot of questions!

### **My student wants to participate in the instrumental program during the school day. Do they need to join marching band too?**

No, the marching band is strictly extracurricular. You do not need to join one to be in the other, though it is encouraged!

### **I see there is a performance on the day of my student's homecoming dance. Can s/he skip the performance to go to homecoming?**

No, every marcher needs to be at every performance. The directors will clear the schedule the day of one of the homecoming dances every year to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate. All the band students will attend the same homecoming regardless of which is their home school.

### **When are the competitions?**

Competitions take place on Saturday afternoons or evenings. The dates are posted on the calendar when they are scheduled. There are no competitions or rehearsals on Sundays.

### **My student has a new manicure and nice jewelry. Why does it have to be removed before the marching band performance? Is purple hair ok? What about at rehearsals?**

The uniform is more than the physical components like the jacket and pants. The goal of the uniform is to present the band visually as a single cohesive unit. Painted nails, rings, or anything else that can draw attention to an individual marcher breaks that visual element. To ensure that consistent appearance, students must remove all nail polish and jewelry. The only exception to this rule is the band necklace students receive at band camp.

This requirement for uniformity also applies to hair - for both boys and girls. Hair should be a natural color and should not be visible when wearing the shakos (the marching hat). Long hair, for both boys and girls, must be pinned up to keep it from showing under the rim.

The kids are welcome to have jewelry and painted nails during rehearsals, including band camp.

## P-CEP Bands Information - Summary

- Sign up for fan outs at our website at [www.pcmb.net](http://www.pcmb.net)
- Come to booster meetings for up to date information (they are on the calendar)
- Check our calendar regularly at [www.pcmb.net/calendar](http://www.pcmb.net/calendar)
- Sign up for scrip so you can start putting money in your child's account. You can email Tammy Sivic at [tssivic@aol.com](mailto:tssivic@aol.com) to sign up and if you have any questions about scrip.

Email our New Member Rep Sarah Rutman if you have any questions!

[pcmbnewmember.rep@gmail.com](mailto:pcmbnewmember.rep@gmail.com)

### P-CEP Bands Contacts sheet

- Director of Bands Jon Thomann - [george.thomann@pccsk12.com](mailto:george.thomann@pccsk12.com)
- Associate Director of Bands Michael Wells - [michael.wells@pccsk12.com](mailto:michael.wells@pccsk12.com)
  
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- New Member Representative - Sarah Rutman [pcmbnewmember.rep@gmail.com](mailto:pcmbnewmember.rep@gmail.com) (any questions, I'm here to help)
- Alumni Representative - Patti Barszcz [pattiq63@wowway.com](mailto:pattiq63@wowway.com)
- Chaperones - Sarah Rutman [skrtez3@gmail.com](mailto:skrtez3@gmail.com)
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- Equipment Crew -
- Fanouts/Newsletters - Sunnye Garza [delawaregarzas5@gmail.com](mailto:delawaregarzas5@gmail.com)
- Food Crew - Julie Adlhoch [jdadlhoch@yahoo.com](mailto:jdadlhoch@yahoo.com) (If your child has food allergies or special dietary concerns)
- Scrip - Tammy Sivic [tssivic@aol.com](mailto:tssivic@aol.com) (questions about scrip)
- Web and Fanout Support - Chris Hepp [chepp@comcast.net](mailto:chepp@comcast.net)