

Pinecrest Marching Band

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each band member to make the most of this great opportunity to become a better person and a better musician.

"We believe that music education is a catalyst, more unique than any other discipline, which contributes to the positive growth and development of young people. The musical ensemble is a micro-world in which people of different races, creeds, and abilities unite through hard work, mutual respect, dedication and individual commitment to achieve a common goal of excellence. We firmly believe that students should strive to improve their musical skills through regular practice. In the Pinecrest High School Band Program, we feel that the happiest students are the ones who are improving themselves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. They must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for their principles. They must develop a high sense of purpose. We intend to conduct the Pinecrest High School Bands in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves while providing a strong vision for the school and community."

WHAT IS THE MARCHING BAND OF TODAY?

The excitement of watching a marching band perform is something that many people have had the privilege to experience. Anyone can be in an audience to experience musical achievement. However, few people participate in the task of creating that ensemble. The growth that is seen in any performance is the result of many different facets to the development of the ensemble and more directly to the development of the individuals in that ensemble.

Generally, a marching band rehearses music to the point of memorization, learns how to march in a specific style with an instrument, coordinates with others to create drill patterns and maneuvers and learns to adapt quickly to changes that need to be made at a variety of speeds. Marching Band is indeed a sport that not only requires agility and support, but also comprehension for improvement as well as tenacity.

There are several areas where marching band benefits the high school student. It helps further develop the mastery of a band instrument or a piece of equipment. As the most visual performing ensemble, it allows the opportunity for multiple performances throughout the year. Students are exposed to a variety of genres of music from classical to rock. Playing in the marching band also develops the abstract concept of musical expressiveness. It develops pride within the school through the participation at football games and contests. In fact, the marching band reflects many of the positive attributes of the high school in general. Finally, marching band has many residual effects through the development of responsibility and leadership. By striving in a coordinated endeavor each student gains confidence, charisma and becomes a part of a musical family.

The marching ensemble of today bears little resemblance to its precursor of yesteryear. In essence the marching band of today is more challenged and highly competitive. With the rise of Drum Corps, Winter Percussion and Winter Guard, the marching ensemble has become a highly developed and instructional class construct. Dedication and expectations of performance are extremely high. Therefore rehearsal and practice make the difference in a successful marching ensemble.

When asked why one should join the marching band, many participants find it hard to put into words because the feeling one gets through performing, working with others, developing friendships and rushes of adrenalin are unimaginable. Because of all these benefits, Pinecrest has an outstanding music program. The marching band is in the forefront of that development.

THE TOTAL EFFORT

In order for the Pinecrest Band Program to be the best band program, we must forgo the luxury of making excuses or letting problems go unresolved. Playing problems are going to occur in every rehearsal. The manner in which they are corrected will ultimately determine the success we experience on the field. When things go wrong, devote your efforts to trying to REMEDY the situation rather than trying to place BLAME. Rehearsals will move smoothly and efficiently if we decide to work together toward the common goal.

Everything you do becomes a vital element in the success and character of our performances. Remember, any movement that is not consistent with the rest of the band will distract the audience. Your total concentration during rehearsals and performances will insure precision and style while playing, which benefits our organization. It is important that you will begin each performance as well prepared as humanly possible. Always add that final touch of mental alertness that can make your performance great. Do not sell yourself short or insult the band's integrity by doing anything less. Remember: A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BAND MEMBER

As members of this organization, we have many aspirations, activities and responsibilities. It is essential to any program to be sure the duties and rewards of the program are coordinated to be sure our goals are met.

- You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefit of a good playing instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into your performance is what you will get out of it.
- We must always do what is best for the welfare of the entire group. There can be no selfish acts. We must respect each other! If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult or degrade another band member. Since we are all in this together, we must work together as a team.

In order to be fully functional and the opportunity to attend special activities and compete each student is expected to do their 'Fair Share'. Fair Share is done in two parts. The first being our Big Cash Raffle. Each student will be assigned 25 raffle tickets that must be sold over the summer and turned in by August Band Camps. The second being participation in other fundraising opportunities throughout the school year. Records are kept for each student and records are kept of how much profit each student generates. The continued success of this program relies on this Fair Share system.

COMMUNICATION AND CHARMS

Communication is the key to the success of any student and/or band program. There are several ways in which we promote communication. We have a band website that has most information needed for parents and students alike. Please be mindful that as events evolve throughout the year, all information on the website should be considered tentative. The best way to directly communicate with Mr. Cottrell is through email at ecottrell@ncmcs.org. We also utilize an office assistant program called Charms. This is a technological resource that is used to inform families of band activities through email and newsletters as well an update on the student's band account.

Once your band student's school identification number had been entered into charms, you may access their account. **It is the responsibility of the family to keep their information current in order to receive information regarding band activities.** You will have to enter email information into charms and keep it regularly updated.

PERFORMANCE POLICIES

(Competitions, Games, Practices, Bus)

In general, all band activities are school related; therefore, school policies and guidelines will be enforced including:

- > No weapons of any kind
- > Use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products is prohibited
- > No profanity in language or clothing
- > No displays of inappropriate behavior that might be an embarrassment to the band or school

Infractions will be dealt with not only by Mr. Cottrell, but also through the school administration. Let us always keep in mind that we wish to maintain a professional image for the Pinecrest band program.

Rehearsal Expectations: Because of our limited time together, it is important that each member understands and executes proper procedure during a rehearsal. Rehearsal times will be communicated ahead of time. Start and End times given mean just that, you are to be ready to begin at start time given. Start time given does not include getting your instrument out and heading to where practice is being held. A good rule of thumb is to arrive 15 minutes early in order to be on time. Both leadership teams will be given an agenda for the rehearsal. Each student must be in their spot with all materials needed for a marching rehearsal. Students who fail to be ready on time will be talked to accordingly and has a possibility of having his/her grade lowered. When not being used, instruments are to be clustered by sections to avoid damage and loss. Students are not to play on another student's instrument. Students will be held financially responsible for any damage to school equipment. It is customary that students observe and follow instructions the first time they are given. Students are expected to work to improve during the rehearsal. All members must give active participation in order to achieve success of our program. The director will make every effort to end the rehearsal by the proper time. Students are then expected to leave the field and facilities in a clean and appropriate fashion. The student is to make sure to put all equipment away properly.

Football Game Expectations: Students are expected to report to the appropriate rehearsal site on time. This may mean that you may have to plan ahead in order to be prepared and to have materials brought with you to school on game days. Football Games are not optional and every student is expected to be in attendance to support our school.

At the completion of the game we will load up and line up and march back to the band room. Once in the band room all students will change out of uniform and help return equipment and facilities to their appropriate space and state. Parents who wish to pick their children up in a timely manner are encouraged to help the students and boosters with the unloading of equipment. We will have call down before dismissal to guarantee all aspects have been handled appropriately. Call Down is handled privately without booster or parent inclusion.

Competition and Parade Expectations: On Competition Days we will rehearse before we leave. The only exception is for students taking the SAT and those that are MUST communicate this ahead of time. Students must be focused as this is our “game-day” process. Please refer to the travel expectations below regarding bus expectations. When we arrive at the competition site students are expected to be SILENT until we disembark. Once we unload students will make two lines based on gender to go to the restroom/dressing rooms, remaining mindful of respecting others and representing our band and school. Students and booster volunteers will unload equipment and we will prepare for the performance process. The band will head off to the warm-up areas. During the warm-up process students are expected to focus and listen to instructions the first time they are given. At the completion of our performance we will head directly back to the bus and trailer. Booster Volunteers should meet us there immediately. We will deplume and take up gloves. Then we will load up our equipment. We may change out of uniform. Students will be expected to report to the stadium in order to watch other bands perform. While in the stadium the band will sit as a block. During the awards presentation the student leadership team will be in uniform on the field. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony all members will head towards and load the busses. A restroom stop is suggested as we may have a long drive back. Students need to be SILENT until we clear the competition site. Upon our return to Pinecrest students will assist in putting uniforms, instruments and ensure the busses are clean and then head to the band room for call down. Dismissal will come from the Director of the Band.

Travel Expectations: Transporting a large number of students is a monumental task. Safety is our number one priority. Attendance will be taken prior to leaving by the chaperone. This is vital as it is a quick way to make sure everyone is on the bus. Attendance begins at the front of the bus and works its way to the back. Students must speak confidently and loud enough for the chaperone in the front of the bus to hear. Students shall sit in the seat facing the front of the bus. When directed they may talk quietly. They can use electronic devices with HEADPHONES! At night flash photography should not occur as it is very distracting to the driver. Students bring their devices at their own risk. When on campus or the other venue we must be silent to help the driver get instructions and park. Before disembarking the bus we need to make sure to close all the windows and pick up trash. A group of students will be determined to clean the bus once the band has unloaded. This includes picking up trash and sweeping the bus.

DUTIES OF A MARCHING BAND MEMBER

In an effort to create the best band possible, we need dedicated musicians to participate in our band. To make the most of the opportunities the band offers, you must be a superior band student. As a superior band student you will:

1. Be on time to all classes, practices and performances.
2. Arrive at all practices and performances prepared with correct equipment and a positive attitude.
3. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
4. Maintain a strong academic standing in all other course work at school.
5. Be responsible for your actions. Accept the consequences of your choices.
6. Be personally clean. Be neat and dress appropriately.
7. Have a proper respect for those in authority.
8. Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and travel instructions.
9. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music and school life.
10. Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges of the band program.
11. Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your talent.
12. Read and play music with care.
13. Improve your knowledge of music and develop good listening habits.
14. Above all, be dependable and trustworthy.

ATTENDANCE

In order to maintain the highest standards of excellence achieved by the Pinecrest Marching Patriots, certain attendance regulations have been set and are strictly enforced.

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.

In order for an absence or tardy to be excused, the circumstances surrounding the incident must be discussed with Mr. Cottrell in person. Courtesy would dictate the necessity of reporting the expected absence in advance of the rehearsal to be missed. Doctor's appointments, Drivers Ed, labs and make-up work are not excusable. Plan accordingly and do the right thing.

All tardies or absences not only impact on the individual but also prohibit the band in general from functioning properly at rehearsal. Either an alternate will automatically be inserted in a slot where an absent member is missing or their spot will be removed from the drill. Communication with the Director of the Band is key,

It is Mr. Cottrell's position that advanced notice of potential conflicts can be agreeably worked out to the benefit of both the member and the band. Information that is after the fact does not have to be, and is most often not, considered in the same vain.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM GUIDELINES

UNIFORM (u-ni-form), adj. 1. having the same form, appearance, manner, etc.: not varying among themselves; conforming to a given standard; always alike. N 2. the official or distinctive clothes worn by the member of a particular group.

The Pinecrest High School Marching Band will have a tradition of precision and professionalism. As a result it is important for you to remain in uniform at all times. The official competition uniform will be worn at football games, competitions, and parades. Jewelry, watches, ball caps, etc. are not appropriate to be worn with the uniform. Long hair must be pinned up under the shako. When wearing the official uniform, if the weather is unseasonably warm, you may remove the band jacket with the permission of Mr. Cottrell. You must have an official Band T-shirt on under your jacket. When you remove your jacket, be sure to take care to keep it clean and neat. While in uniform please eat only foods that will not stain the uniform. Remember that you will be charged for unscheduled cleanings. After performances, you are responsible for storing your uniform properly so it will not get wrinkled or dirty. You will be instructed concerning where it may be stored. The uniforms are only cleaned at the end of the season, if your uniform needs additional cleaning, you will be charged for that cleaning. You will also be charged for any missing pieces.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

All band functions are held to the same expectations as a regular school day class. All band members will be held the highest expectations in regards to behavior. As representatives of Pinecrest High School we must exemplify the most positive characteristics of a Patriot. Students will respect requests of the professional leadership team and comply with reasonable requests of the student leadership team in an expedient fashion. Since our booster organization is here to support the students, the students in return will assist band boosters in every facet of the program without argument or delay. Any band member who violates this expectation will be disciplined accordingly which may include school related consequences and possible removal from the marching band.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students are expected to take excellent care of all equipment regardless of ownership. School Owned Instruments will be issued to specific members and they are held accountable for any damage or repair once issued to said student.

REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERSHIP

When a student is selected or elected as a leader in the band it is an achievement of ability and responsibility. Each leader provides a service either to the band or the professional staff. In the same regard, expectations for leaders are slightly higher than for the other members. In return they are given unique opportunities and privileges. True leaders are not bossy or argumentative, but rather lead by example. They show interest in weaker members of the group and find ways to meet others on mutual ground. They implement the objectives laid down by the Director of Bands and the professional staff in a way that is effective and positive. In basic terms, true leaders are excellent followers. If you have been selected as a leader you must comply with the following guidelines:

- > Support band director, professional staff and band program at all times
- > Be aware of and fulfill your specific job responsibilities
- > Attend as many Band Booster meetings as possible
- > Lead by example
- > **ACTIVELY** participate in all fundraisers
- > Fulfill all marcher requirements

REHEARSAL NECESSITIES

- ✓ GOOD PAIR OF TENNIS SHOES WITH SOCKS (NO FLIP FLOPS OR SANDALS)
- ✓ SUNSCREEN WITH A HIGH SPF FOR BOTH UVA AND UVB
- ✓ WATER BOTTLE
- ✓ HAT AND SUNGLASSES
- ✓ WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES (THINK ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE)
- ✓ PENCIL/PEN AND PAPER
- ✓ HAND TOWEL
- ✓ INSTRUMENT
- ✓ MUSIC, AND SUPPLIES LYRE AND FLIP FOLDER WITH EXTRA PAGES
- ✓ MEDICINE THAT MAY BE NEEDED/BUG STINGS ETC
- ✓ **POSTIVE ATTITUDE**

Pinecrest Marching Patriots Participation Contract and Code of Conduct

I am happy that you want to be a part of the award-winning Marching Patriots. In order for the Marching Band to present the highest quality performance possible, every band member counts on every other band member to put forth their best effort. When even one band member fails to commit to the band, or fails to exhibit good conduct, the performance of the entire band is affected. Therefore, as a requirement for membership in the Marching Band, you and your parents/guardians must read and sign the following Participation Contract and Code of Conduct.

Participation Contract

“There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.” -Unknown

When you make the decision to become a part of the Pinecrest Marching Band, you make a commitment to become part of a single unit dedicated to excellence. In addition, the Pinecrest Marching Band makes a commitment to incorporating you as an equal member of the group. You are committing your talents, your time, and your financial support. The Band counts on you to fulfill the role you are given in the band and makes a significant financial outlay on your behalf.

When you turn in your intent form to join the Pinecrest Marching Band, you are immediately considered when music is being written, when marching drill is being written, when buses for travel are being reserved, when shirts and other supplies are being ordered, etc. Therefore, your initial enrollment deposit is a non-refundable payment of \$50. At least this amount or more is outlaid or committed by the band on your behalf before the start of band camp.

Be sure to consider the following when making the commitment to join the Pinecrest Marching Band:

- All students are required to attend ALL practices, sectionals, games, competitions, events and activities as listed on the Calendar. Absences from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead. Since we must perform as a complete group, it is therefore imperative that we rehearse as one.
- All students are required to be on time for all practices, sectionals, games, competitions, events and activities listed on the Calendar. On time means be in your spot with your instrument or equipment ready to perform. To be on time, you must arrive at school (or other meeting place) at least 15 minutes before call time. Remember, early is on time, and on time is late.
- All students are required to make sure other commitments will not conflict with the Marching Band calendar. This means all vacations, driver's education, doctor's appointments, sports, clubs, etc. must be scheduled at times that do not conflict with the Marching Band calendar. These types of events will not be an excuse to be absent, late, or leave early from any Band practice or event.
- Students must make a commitment to practice their music every day and memorize it as soon as possible. Only with continued practice will student performance improve. It is expected that all students will come in to the marching band program with different levels of expertise; however, every student should continually strive to improve and never feel that they've reached a level where they do not need to improve. Students who have not mastered and memorized their music by the time performances begin may be asked to stand on the sidelines.
- All students are required to participate in all Marching Band fundraisers. Fundraising efforts are necessary to help keep student participation fees as low as possible. Fundraisers are also necessary for the continued growth of the band programs and provide a bonding experience among students.
- All parents/guardians are expected to assist with the Marching Band as they are able. The success of the band depends on the help provided by the adults committed to their students. Adults are needed to chaperone at football games, competitions, and other performances. Adults are needed to help with uniforms, equipment, dinners, fundraisers, etc.

Code of Conduct

“Music is a discipline, and a mistress of order and good manners; she makes the people milder and gentler, more moral and more reasonable.” -Martin Luther

The success of the Marching Band is dependent upon the dedication, attendance, and appropriate behavior of all members of the group. Absences and tardiness from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band’s ability to move ahead, as do negative or inappropriate behaviors. When you wear the uniform of the Marching Patriot, you are identified as a representative of the band, of the school and of the community. Even when not performing, your role as an ambassador continues. As such, all members of the Pinecrest Marching Band will be held to high behavior standards.

There will be immediate consequences for not following the Code of Conduct, and continued offenses can result in the student being suspended from the next marching performance, being referred to the school for appropriate school penalties, and dismissal from the Marching Band. Some important guidelines to remember:

- Insubordination will not be tolerated. Marching band members are expected to follow the direction of directors, band staff, and any students in leadership positions (drum major, section leader, etc.).
- Marching band members are expected to use appropriate language at all times. Use of swear words or inappropriate discussions are unacceptable while representing the band.
- All students are required to attend ALL practices, sectionals, games, competitions, events and activities. Any absence, late arrival, or early dismissal must be approved by the band director at least two weeks in advance. The only exception to this policy is illness, death in the family, or other family emergency. The band director has final discretion as to whether a particular family emergency is a justifiable reason for absence, late arrival, or early dismissal. Unexcused tardies or absences not only impact on the individual but also prohibit the band in general from functioning properly at rehearsal. Either an alternate will automatically be inserted in a slot where an absent member is missing or their spot will be removed from the drill
- Eating and drinking are permitted only during designated times while in uniform.
- Use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages and/or narcotics is strictly prohibited. Students violating this policy will be reported to the proper school administration.