*Fall*

*2016*

*Powhatan Band & Ensembles*

*Co-Curricular Activity Information*

*Color Guard*

The 2016 edition of the Powhatan Marching Band is ready to get underway! As the PHS Band staff prepares for the fall season, it is important we have an accurate count of who is participating. The marching band welcomes all returning members and new members into the marching band on a voluntary basis. The also invites rising 8th grade band members to march an instrument based on criteria laid out by the junior high band program. ***Rising 8th grade students wishing to march must have a signature from Mr. Snead in order to attend Placement Clinics and potentially participate in Marching Band***. Participation in Powhatan High School’s award winning marching band is an opportunity to become involved in one of the school’s largest, most active, and most successful extra-curricular activities! The band performs at parades, football games, community events, and band competitions including regional and national contests.

Marching Band fees for the 2016 season are as follows: Wind Instruments: $300, Percussion: $350, and Color Guard: $375. Students who were actively involved in the 2016 Varsity Winter Ensembles (Varsity WG or PVWP) will have until Thursday, July 9, 2016 to be fully paid. ALL Students must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE minimum $150 deposit with their form (Please attach copy of receipt). ***Please note that all fee payments are non-refundable due to the nature of show design and budgetary process for the marching band.*** All Fees are paid directly to PHS Bookkeeper Ms. Lucas, or may be paid online through the PHS online payment page. (Please attach copy of receipt to form) ***NO fees go to Mr. Snead, Mr. Landini, Mr. Snead, or any other band staff.*** Students who do not pay their fees by the final due date (June 2, 2016) are not guaranteed a spot in the competition show design, will serve as an alternate member in the competition show, and perform in the football, parade and other functions of the marching band.

The Marching Band fee covers expenses for the music, drill design, staffing, Pre-Season rehearsal food, travel, uniform (guard), uniform rental & cleaning (winds/percussion), and other operating expenses. The only other expenses will be for personal uniform items such as gloves ($3), under-uniform (TBA), mid-calf length black socks (Winds and Percussion), marching shoes (@$35), etc. The Marching Band does perform several fundraisers each year that help to keep costs down, and the band moving:

* **Tag Day – our community invitation to band events, and donation drive, ALL FAMILIES PARTICIPATE!**
* **Powhatan Fall Classic – the marching band competition we host, ALL BAND FAMILIES PARTICIPATE!**
* **Fall Concessions – we do all home football and springs sports events, ALL FAMILIIES will sign up for AT LEAST TWO DATES PER SEASON.**

These are events that do not require you to sell anything (Chocolate Bunnies for example). The student marching band fee covers only a portion of the band program’s operating expenses. ***If students and families do not participate in fundraisers, the Activity Funds and Band Boosters budget will not meet the needs of the band program.*** While students will not be excluded from marching band because of financial need, *it is incumbent upon each parent to make contact with the directors in the event of difficulty*, as tailored payment plans are available on a confidential basis.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page to aid new parents and students in transition to high school band. We are re-working [www.powhatanbnds.com](http://www.powhatanbnds.com) and we also maintain a Facebook page (Powhatan Bands and a Marching Band group) as well as a Twitter account (@powhatanbands) to aid in further communication.

By filling out the attached form you are giving your reasonable assurance that the listed student is planning to march. Although things come up that we cannot foresee, completing this form indicates to the staff that the listed student’s plan to participate. In addition, payment of the Marching Band fee secures your child’s spot in the competition show design. The commitment document also allows us to get an accurate count of who is participating this season. We must plan for proper instrumentation, and to ensure enough uniforms, equipment, and instruments are available for every participating student. We look forward to your participation and involvement in the 2016 Powhatan Marching Band!

*Please do not hesitate to ask questions, we are always here to help!*

*Regards,*

*Nicholas L. Snead, Neil R. Landini, Tykeem Rainey, Gabrielle Vita*

*Marching Band Directors (**director@powhatanbands.com)* *(tykeem.rainey@powhatan.k12.va.us)*

*Placement Clinics & Guard Auditions*:
The following dates are for the clinics designed to teach the beginning marching and musical skills needed to be a member of the marching band and be placed in the proper section and part:
**May 10, 12, 17,19,24, and 26 3-6pm at PHS
May 31 6:30-9pm at PHS Meeting Mandatory**

**ALL Students must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE minimum $150 deposit with their form. (Please attach copy of receipt) \***2016 Varsity Winter Guard/Percussion members have until July 7th to be paid in full.\* Fees are to be paid to Ms. Lucas (PHS Bookkeeper) or online through the PHS online payment page. Make all checks payable to Powhatan High School (put your Child’s name and Marching Band Dues in memo) *(Please note there are* no refunds for the deposit.) ***Students with outstanding fees from previous seasons will need to apply fees to arrears first, and will not be able to participate if you have an outstanding balance from a previous season.*** *Color Guard auditionees who do not make the unit will have their money promptly refunded.*

***ALL FEES ARE DUE BY JUNE 2nd, 2016.\****

*Summer Reading Sessions:*

We will have three optional (but strongly encouraged) Summer Reading Sessions for all musicians;

**June 23, July 7, and July 21 from 6-9pm at PHS***(These dates are tentative, and may change due to building availability, etc.)*

**Color Guard will meet at PHS every Tuesday during the summer 9a-6p (Thursday TBD).** These are camps to prepare you for the upcoming season. We will notify you in advance if we have to cancel a camp.

*2016 Summer Pre-Season Schedule***August 8-11 – Guard/Percussion: 8a-5p
 August 15-19 – FULL BAND 8a-6p
August 22-26 – FULL BAND 8a-6p
August 31-Sep. 4 – FULL BAND TBA
(August 31- September 4 dates and times TBA based on Teacher In-Service and Orientation schedule, usually 2-3 meetings)
*(All rehearsals are at PHS)***

***\*\*\*PRE-SEASON IS REQUIRED FOR ALL MARCHING MEMBERS. ALL MEMBERS MUST HAVE A COMPLETED VHSL PHYSICAL AND UNIVERSAL PERMISSION SLIP TO ATTEND. This is the time the whole band works intensively on the football, parade, and competition material, and is the most important activity in establishing a successful marching band in both attitude and performance. Please do not schedule vacations or appointments during these weeks. Students missing any large portions of the FULL BAND weeks may not initially be written into or perform in the sections missed.\*\*\****

*2016 Regular Season Rehearsal Schedule*

The Regular Season Rehearsal Schedule is:

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3p-6p and **mandatory** guard sectionals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6p-7p for the month of **September**.

This schedule begins the first week of school and continuing until early November.
(*Note: We practice right up to 6pm, and then students will be dismissed to put away their equipment, gather their belongings, and depart. If you child is not outside by 6:15pm then he or she is probably doing something unrelated to the rehearsal and needs YOUR motivation to leave. )*

*2016 (Draft) PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:* ***(Saturday events in bold)***

Aug 30 – In Service Kick Off Performance (TBD)

Sep 1 – AWAY FOOTBALL – Midlothian (THURSDAY) (We are traveling to this

Sep 5 – POWHATAN LABOR DAY PARADESep 9 – HOME FOOTBALL (Hopewell)

**Sep 10 - TAG DAY FUNDRAISER**

Sep 16 **-** HOME FOOTBALL (George Wythe) **Sep 17 – REHEARSAL @ PHS (Times TBA)**Sep 23 – HOME FOOTBALL (Orange)
**Sep 24 - REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA**Sep 30 – HOME FOOTBALL (Western Albemarle)

**Oct. 1 – REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA**Oct. 7 **-** HOME FOOTBALL

**Oct 8 - REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA**Oct 16 – HOME FOOTBALL – (\_)
**Oct 15 - COMPETITION – TBA @TBA, VA**Oct 21 – HOME FOOTBALL (Albemarle)(HOMECOMING)

**Oct 22 – REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA
Oct 29 - Powhatan Fall Classic Marching Band Competition (ALL DAY)**Nov 4 – HOME FOOTBALL (Monticello)
**Nov 5 - REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA
Nov 12 – REHEARSAL/COMPETITION – TBA
Dec TBA - Powhatan Xmas Parade**

 (Competitions are all day/evening events, please plan accordingly. We will rehearse before departing if possible.)

***This is a tentative schedule; final schedule will be published when confirmed.*** *Marching Band Attendance Policy*

**Expectations: *You are making a commitment to be in the marching band for the fall season. Everyone is counting on you, and in order to have successful performances and rehearsals it is essential that we have full attendance. The absence of one person not only affects that person but the entire band.*** Critical factors of uniformity, balance, precision, spacing and alignment cannot be learned, improved or maintained with absences.

**Unexcused Absences: An *Unexcused absence from a performance is unacceptable and may result in dismissal from the marching band.*** Unexcused absence from a rehearsal may result in benching from the next performance on the first offense; repeat offenses may result in removal from the marching band. **Essentially, no non PCPS absence excuse will be accepted for missing a competition or performance.**

 **Excused Absences:** Please refer to PCPS and PHS Attendance Policies. *If you attend school that day, you come to rehearsal that day!* ***Absences, tardiness, or leaving early out of convenience (homework, work, etc.) or not having transportation are not excused.*** (We typically have over 110 members, someone lives near you!)

 **Club or Other Meetings:** You may occasionally attend after school meetings with advanced communication with the director and a signed note from the sponsor/teacher*.* ***You must report to band rehearsal by 3:30pm.***

 **Communication:** A note, phone call, text or email goes a long way! ***DO NOT send messages with or through other band members.***

**Ask:** If you are not sure, or have a request; *ask the directors before the event occurs! (At least 24 hours prior to the event).*

*Hair, Grooming, Tattoos, etc.*

Professionalism is a large part of what is being taught and is expected of the Marching Band members throughout the season(s), as fashion trends continue to evolve and tastes change, we have encountered several areas of potential concern:

**Hair:** Students should **refrain from dying or cutting their hair in a way that could be distracting from the uniform/costume** or production they are a part of that season (i.e. Purple hair with a Black, orange, white, and grey uniform or hair cut/styled so that does not fit into a shako). Students will be asked to fit hair/hair color into shako (winds, battery percussion) or use an appropriate covering to blend into the uniform.

**Grooming:** Students need to maintain good grooming habits; shaving, haircuts, bathing, and overall cleanliness are not only strongly encouraged but are a must considering the athleticism and uniformity demanded by this activity. ***Never underestimate the power of great grooming habits upon your self-esteem and overall attitude!***

**Tattoos:** Students who are old enough and/or have their parents sign off on tattoos should realize that while having the tattoo is not a problem; the pattern/design/color may not blend with the production. (I.e. Aztec Tribal pattern in a classical music show) ***Students with visible tattoos ANYWHERE in relation to the uniform will need to provide a covering (sleeve, bandage, etc.) for each public performance.***
Please note: The Directors do not wish to restrict your individualism or uniqueness, however if you are unable to abide by these guidelines you may be benched or removed until the distraction has been addressed.

*Band Boosters, Fundraising, and You (Parents):*A quick note about the Powhatan Band Boosters (PBB), we have a wonderful parent organization that assists the band in many ways from logistics (moving equipment, loading and unloading, driving, etc.), chaperoning, and fundraising. The Powhatan Bands and Ensembles and the Band Boosters do fundraising throughout the year. During the fall The Boosters run concessions at all home football games (JV and Varsity), run a Tag Day in September, and host the Powhatan Fall Classic marching band competition in October***. We want and need your support, and many hands make for light work!*** More information to come!

Here are some basic expectations for Band Booster Parents:

1. Support all of the groups! Clap and cheer wildly at concerts, contests, assessments. Help move instruments; drive, maintain, load/unload the truck, travel and chaperone with the performance ensembles!
2. Come to meetings!

Usually once a month, almost always attached to a rehearsal or other event. Here is where our planning and discussion occurs and where questions get answered!

1. Work Fall/Spring Concessions

We run all Home Football (JV and Varsity) and all Spring Sports Concessions out of the concessions stand down in the stadium. Each family is required to work two (2) events each season (2 – Fall, 2 – Spring) to keep the work-load distributed as evenly as possible to avoid burn-out.

1. Work Tag Day!
Tag day is our door-to-door community invitation fundraiser that makes more money in one day than many other fundraisers combined! We need parents to be drivers to pre-assigned neighborhoods, and to supervise the kids in their efforts!
2. Work Fall Classic!
We host one of the largest (30+ bands) marching band competitions in the state of Virginia, with our renowned hospitality and Director’s Tent, no one does it bigger or better, and we need all hands on deck to make it happen! EVERY parent is expected to work a shift!
3. Work AIA/WGI Winter Events!

We have been hosting indoor percussion and guard competitions since the mid-1990s and once again are known for our skill and hospitality. These are just like the Fall Classic but are held inside the building during the winter/spring months, and all parents are expected to work a shift!

*Do not miss this opportunity to support our kids!*

*FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)*

How will my parents and I keep track of all of this information?

We are working on a new and improved [www.powhatanbands.com](http://www.powhatanbands.com) for the 2016-17 school year, more information coming soon!
We also maintain a Facebook presence (Powhatan Bands, and a Marching Band group) and you can also follow @PowhatanBands on Twitter. For those of you who do not have Internet access, a printed version of the exact same information is available upon request. Printed schedules also go home before events. *Parents*: we work hard to ensure that all the information you need is available as soon as possible. Between the email updates, the Web site, Facebook, Twitter and printed schedules we feel that we have covered our fiduciary responsibility in broadcasting information. **It is then incumbent upon the parents to make efforts to retrieve information and to periodically check with the director and staff to ensure all information has been received.**

What kind of fees can I expect?

The 2016 marching band regular fees are $300 for winds, and $375 for color guard. All fees are due paid in full by June 2, 2016 (Varsity Winter Guard/Percussion Members have until July 7, 2016 to pay in full). Some members may have additional expenses (Under Uniform, shoes, and gloves). M*oney for food on trips should be planned for as well.* **ALL Students must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE minimum $150 deposit with their form. (Please attach copy of receipt) All fees are non-refundable.**

How long to competition days last?

*Competition days take up the whole day/evening;* between rehearsals (when possible), travel to and from, and the competition themselves. We always choose competitions that do not interfere with SAT’s and PSAT’s. The competitions may be on the same days as testing, but will be afternoon/evening events. **We have successfully navigated these events for years.**

Do I have to attend “Pre-Season” to do marching band? …and where is it held?

In short – YES! Pre-Season is what we call our summer intensive program that prepares the band for the competitive season (some call it ‘band camp’) is held at PHS. All students that plan to march need to plan to attend every rehearsal day of band camp. **Students missing any large portions of the FULL BAND weeks may not be written into or perform in the sections missed. If you have an issue please contact the directors ASAP.**

Do I have to attend every rehearsal and performance/competition?

In short – YES! Families of marching band members should make all plans to schedule doctor’s appointments, etc. around the practice schedule. The Marching Band Attendance Policy (pervious page) and the Powhatan Bands and Ensembles Handbook (passed out in August) cover all of the details for absences. **Essentially, no non PCPS absence excuse will be accepted for missing a competition or performance.**

Is marching and playing hard?

No, you’ll find it is quite easy and fun. Once you understand the skills involved, you will then get to develop your performance level and qualities way beyond what you though you could do. We have never had a student who could NOT march and play at the same time. **Remember: We’re professionals, you will be good!**

Can I do this and keep up in school?

SURE! Thousands and thousands of freshmen and 8th graders across the country do it every year! Once you are in the program, you will learn all of the methods the upperclassmen use to keep up with homework and class work. In fact having a network of friends in the band program can actually improve your ability to make and keep good grades (and many testimonials can attest to this!). **Remember: being in marching band gives you upwards of 100+ upperclassmen friends on the first day of school!** You will already know about many of the things that your non-marching freshmen friends will have to find out on or after the first day of school.

Can I play brass as a woodwind player, or percussion, or spin in the guard if I am a wind student?

In general wind students need to play their native wind instrument for marching band, and we handle exceptions or changes/switching on an individual, case by case and season by season basis as ***the balance, blend and instrumentation is crucial to our success as a marching band.*** Remember, we offer two winter guards (JV and Varsity) and two winter percussion groups (JV and Varsity) for students to enjoy guard and percussion. In addition, we offer a brass choir and various small ensembles for students to gain experience on these instruments.

# **🖉** *2016 Commitment Form*

**Student’s name (first & last) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student’s Email Address (print clearly, one character per block):**

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 **❑ Yes, I am planning to march for the 2016 season! ❑ I want to march and have more questions, contact me!**

**In the fall of 2016, I will be in:

❑ 8th grade ❑ 9th grade ❑ 10th grade ❑ 11th grade ❑ 12th grade**

 **Position I would like to March: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Email Address (print clearly, one character per block):**

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 **Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone #:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student(s): By signing this document, you acknowledge the understanding of and are committing to attendance at all rehearsals and performances, and to the financial obligations: NON-REFUNDABLE $300/$350 fees for the 2016 Powhatan Marching Band. I also acknowledge that all fees are due by June 2, 2016 (July 7, 2016: PVWG, PVWP) to guarantee my spot in the show design. I understand that I am committing to the rehearsal, performance, and fundraiser schedule for the season. I further understand that my commitment requires my attendance at the events listed in the calendar provided in this packet and on the web-based calendar.Members not following directions, fostering unhealthy attitudes and relationships, and those with communication/attendance issues will face disciplinary action. Infractions may result in verbal warnings, parent contact/conference, being suspended from travel and performance(s), or dismissal from the group at the discretion of the director.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s): By signing this document you acknowledge the understanding of and are committing to your child’s attendance at all rehearsals and performances, and to the financial obligations: NON-REFUNDABLE $300/$350 dues the 2016 Powhatan Marching Band. I also acknowledge that all fees are due by June 2, 2016 (July 7, 2016: PVWG, PVWP) to guarantee my child’s spot in the show design. I understand that I am committing to support the rehearsal, performance, and fundraiser schedule for the season. I further understand that my commitment requires my child’s attendance at the events listed on the calendar provided in this packet and on the web-based calendar. Members not following directions, fostering unhealthy attitudes and relationships, and those with communication/attendance issues will face disciplinary action.** **Infractions may result in verbal warnings, parent contact/conference, being suspended from travel and performance(s), or dismissal from the group at the discretion of the director.
Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*\*THIS FORM IS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 31st, 2016\*\*\***

**ALL Students must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE minimum $150 deposit with their form. (Please attach copy of receipt)**