

**PENN WOOD HIGH SCHOOL
BAND BOOSTERS
PARENT HANDBOOK**



2018-2019

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About the William Penn School District

District Website: <http://williampennsd.org>

Located in southeastern Delaware County, the William Penn School District serves approximately 5,500 students who live in the six communities of Aldan, Colwyn, Darby, East Lansdowne, Lansdowne, and Yeadon Boroughs. Our eight elementary schools, which serve students in Kindergarten through the sixth grade, are as follows: Aldan, Ardmore Avenue, Bell Avenue, Colwyn, East Lansdowne, Evans, Park Lane, and Walnut Street.

Our secondary schools are Penn Wood Middle School (grades 7 and 8), Penn Wood High School – Cypress Street Campus (grades 9 and 10) and Penn Wood High School – Green Avenue Campus (grades 11 and 12).

The William Penn School District also offers: Alternative education through its Ombudsman Program Alternative School and the Twilight School; Customized, accelerated learning options through our Blended Schools program; and an alternative to the traditional brick-and-mortar school setting through the William Penn School District Cyber Academy.

Mission Statement

The William Penn School District, having high expectations and accountability for all, is committed to a continuous learning ethic that promotes student achievement and prepares students to make positive choices.

Vision Statement

In a safe and nurturing environment, the William Penn School District, in cooperation with its communities, will assume responsibility for engaging students in diverse and challenging learning experiences. High expectations and accountability will be established for students and staff. It is our vision to develop classrooms that engage students fully in their learning, where students work independently and in groups, and where the importance of continuous learning is emphasized. Our schools will become places where students develop the skills to make positive choices in their lives.

Shared Values

- We believe that every individual has worth.
- We believe that every individual can learn.
- We believe that education is a right as well as a privilege.
- We believe that students, parents, and community working in partnership promote lifelong learning.
- We believe that every individual in the learning community is entitled to a safe and healthy environment.
- We believe that every individual is entitled access to opportunities that develop one's potential.
- We believe that our community's diversity is a strength.
- We believe that knowledge is the result of active and purposeful learning.
- We believe that students have a responsibility for their learning.
- We believe that teachers have a responsibility for their students' learning.
- We believe that the community has a responsibility for educating its youth.



Important Contact Information

Band Staff

Please address all band curriculum-related issues or student concerns to Mr. Robert Cherry, Band Director.

Band Director	Robert Cherry	610.284.8080ext. 2176 rcherry@wpsd.k12.paus
Assistant Director	Adam Naroff	
Brass	Joe Carano	
Woodwind	Christopher Vazquez Jon Simonnet	
Battery Percussion	Brandon Coklay	
Pit Percussion	Amelia Sermania Veronica Hudson	
Color Guard	Rachel Wilson Chris D'Arcy	

Penn Wood Band Boosters Officers

Website: www.PennWoodBand.com, Email: info@PennWoodBand.com

President	Lisa Richardson	610-724-3024 bridgester919@gmail.com
Vice President	Felicia Williams	610-804-2578 fjj233@msn.com
Treasurer	Shayla Norman	267-407-7065 stl.norman@gmail.com
Secretary	Jessica Davis	484-557-3928 jadavis111911@hotmail.com



Membership

To join, please pay \$10.00 cash or check payable to the Penn Wood Band Boosters. This can be sent in with your child or paid at any booster meeting.

Website and Email

You can get the latest information for any of our bands and guard from our website:

Website: <http://penwoodband.com>

Email: info@PennwoodBand.com

Booster Meetings

Day: First Wednesday of each month (Sept – May)

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: The room will vary each month.

About Our Bands

The Penn Wood High School Music Department provides several performance ensembles for our students. Some are offered as part of the high school curriculum and fulfill credit requirements for a diploma. Others are extra-curricular and provide a fantastic opportunity for students to pursue their interest in music amongst peers with the same passion for music. These ensembles provide the students with a “home” in the high school: a place to enjoy themselves and make good friends. The following is a description of the ensembles, and the specific information you need to know about each:

Band (co-curricular)

Choir (co-curricular)

Color Guard (extra-curricular)

Jazz Band (extra-curricular)

BAND

The band is the foundation of all instrumental ensembles at Penn Wood High School. Band refers to both Marching Band and Concert Band as they are the same group of students. **All students who are members of the Band are required to participate in both Marching Band and Concert Band activities.** When the band performs at outdoor events such as parades, football games and band competitions we refer to the group as the “Marching Band”. When the band performs indoor concerts we refer to them as the “Concert Band”.

Band Class: **ALL band members should take BAND as a class during the school day.** Please make every effort possible to schedule band. If you are unable to fit band into your schedule (due to AP classes etc.) please see Mr. Cherry.

Practice Schedule

The Band practices from 5:00pm-8:00pm on Monday and Wednesday nights throughout the year. From August to mid-November the rehearsals focus on marching band as we prepare for Marching Band Championships. In mid-November rehearsals are moved into the band room and the focus is on concert band as we prepare for the Winter Concert. In April the rehearsals will begin to include aspects of both concert band and marching band as we prepare for the parade season, the Spring Concert and Graduation.

Marching Band

Our award-winning Penn Wood Patriots Marching Band is made up of a dedicated group of **musicians and colorguard members** who work together as an ensemble emphasizing performance in field show production. The marching band competes weekly at various band shows in the area, as part of the Cavalcade of Bands competition circuit. They also perform at the Penn Wood High School football home games, as well as local holiday parades and community events.

Marching Season

Our marching band begins its season in late May with the Memorial Day Parade. Several practices are conducted during the months of June and July to acquaint incoming freshmen and other new band and guard members with the way the band operates. The band also prepares for participation in local Fourth of July parades. They also preview the music for the fall field show, and receive practice and performance schedules for the season. During the first two weeks of August, students participate in a mandatory full-day band camp, which concludes with a parent preview performance and ice cream party. After Band camp the band meets twice a week in the evening for practices and continue through mid-November. Occasionally additional practices will be added before competitions. Competition and football performances begin in September and conclude with the championship performance in mid-November. At the end of the season, the band parent organization hosts a festive tailgating for the students to celebrate their season and success.

Practices

During the summer each section leader schedules rehearsals separately. **All** band members are expected to be at their scheduled rehearsals. Beginning the first week in August, the entire band rehearses the field show together at the high school for **two full weeks**. The marching band practice schedule can be found on the website. All band members are **required** to attend band camp. If your family has vacation plans, please notify Mr. Cherry at least two weeks in advance, and let him know which days your son or daughter will be away. Please do not schedule vacations during Band Camp. **Beginning with band camp, all rehearsals and competitions are mandatory.**

- Band members are expected to be on time for practice! If you are going to be late, you have to inform Mr. Cherry or your section leader.
- band members- come early- get yourself settled and ready to practice promptly.
- members should make every effort not to be late- this cuts into valuable practice time
- Life happens so if something comes up and your child will be late or absent, it is vital to let Mr. Cherry know right away.

- To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is to be left behind.

Reporting to practice on time and ready to play is vital to the band's success. Any "holes" in the band's performance negatively affect all.

Band Camp

Mandatory band camp includes:

- Full day practice
- music review
- dot books and music binders
- marching and formation practice

Rehearsal Etiquette

Students are not to utilize their cell phones during practice as this is a **huge** distraction. Marching formation and musical direction are vital to their success. They will have time to check messages at water breaks.

Performance Etiquette

The band's performance at games begins at pre-game and does not end until the students return to the school after the game. During a competition, the performance extends from their arrival and warm-ups, until they have left the field after competing. Please refrain from talking to the students during these times (exception: third quarter snack time). They need to focus on performing! Also, keep in mind the Director of Bands is involved in the performance and **cannot** give parental questions the consideration they deserve. If you have questions about the competition, any of the PWBB board members would be happy to answer. If you have questions about your student, please contact Mr. Cherry by email or phone using his contact information listed at the beginning of this guide.

Performance Times

Beginning in September, the marching band performs at the Penn Wood High School football

home games during half-time. They will also be competing at the Cavalcade of Bands competitions, from late September through mid-November. All performances for football games and competitions are on Saturday, with the exception of the championship competition which can fall on Saturday or Sunday. Dates of all games and competitions are listed on the calendar that the students are given during band camp and are also on the website. Specific times for football game performances and competitions may not be available until a few days before the event. As a result, detailed weekend schedules including meals, rehearsal, travel and performance times will be provided at the Monday or Wednesday rehearsal prior to the event.

Meals

Prior to Saturday football games and leaving for competitions, students will be given the opportunity to eat before dressing for performance. **Students are not allowed to leave school grounds during these meal times.** Students should eat breakfast before arrival and bring money or food for lunch and dinner. Students may bring food to the band room prior to practices or parents may drop off food at the school. Please be mindful that it is your responsibility to clean up behind yourselves. Failure to do so may result in the Director of Bands to restrict food in the band room. Some performance days students will have the opportunity to pay \$5.00 for lunch or dinner brought to school by PWBB. Dinner break times will vary week to week and will be listed on the weekly schedule.

Football Game Days

Students will arrive at call time, rehearse, eat, dress, and go to the game. The weekend schedule will list dinner break, performance and pick-up times.

- **Uniform** - Students uniforms are kept in the band room. If a student needs to bring their uniform home for any reason, they must notify their section leader prior to taking any part of the band uniform home.
- **Snacks** -Fruit snacks, fruit and cookie/snack bags are suggested. Please avoid greasy or messy snacks such as chips, cheese puffs/Doritos and chocolate candy, that can stain uniforms. Instead of purchasing snacks each week, families can make a \$30 donation for the season and the Band Boosters' snack crew will purchase for you.

Competition Days

The schedule provided at the Monday or Wednesday rehearsal prior to each Saturday competition will indicate arrival time at school for band members, as well as meal, dressing, and pick-up times. Performance times and locations will be on the weekly schedule, and the website will list times other bands will be performing. You may be interested in seeing another school from our area, or in watching all the bands in the same division as Penn Wood. After their performance, the band returns to the trailer to put away instruments and props, change into band t-shirts/hoodies, and have a snack before returning to the field area to watch the remaining bands perform and hear the announcement of awards. At competitions there are concession stands selling food, drinks and snacks, so band members should bring money if they would like to purchase anything after their performance. Also goodies are available for parents to purchase for the band along with cheer notes for team spirit.

Dress for the Occasion

Marching band is an outdoor activity, band members and parents need to be prepared for inclement weather. Rain happens! So does cold and wind. What looks like a beautiful day in the morning can be miserable if you're not prepared for a drastic drop in temperature. A blanket and warm gloves for use in the bleachers may be useful, particularly late October and November.

Uniforms

It is essential that every part of the uniform arrive with your child prior to a scheduled performance. This includes raincoats for both musicians and colorguard, even though there is no threat of rain or snow. Students with **incomplete uniforms** will be unable to march. Thermal or Under Armor gear will provide your child with warmth and comfort during competitions.

Band Members: The band uniform consists of the following items:

- (School Provided)
- Blue jumpsuit
 - Black “Drillmaster” shoes
 - Red, white and blue jacket
 - Red, white and blue hat with plume
 - Blue beret (tuba players only)
 - Raincoat
 - Hat Provided by PWBB
 - White gloves* (except for pit and battery)
- (Family Provided)
- black socks (calf length or longer)
 - Band t-shirt and hoodie (purchased with gear pack for \$30)

* If gloves given to students are lost, a new pair can be purchased.

Uniform Care

Band: The band looks its best in clean uniforms. Be prepared to do some **spot cleaning** of uniforms and shoes for weekends performances! Dry cleaning of uniforms is done before the start of each new season.

Special Notes:

- The hem from the pants must be removed **before** the uniform is brought to the dry cleaner and hand washed or machine washed, gentle cycle, and hung to dry.

Colorguard:

Rehearsals: The colorguards are required to wear shorts and tee shirts at the start of the season progressing to longer trousers and hoodies at the end of the season. Sneakers should be worn for all rehearsals. Color guard responsibilities, participation in practice are the same as the rest of the band. (please refer to pages 10 and 11)

Performances: The color guard uniform changes year to year, to go along with the show’s theme. Uniforms for guard members will be ordered in June so they arrive in time for the first competition. The guard is also provided with raincoats, which can be worn when not performing (raincoats are to be returned at the end of each performance). Members are responsible for accessories such as gloves, makeup, undergarments and hairstyling products.

Spectator Information

Whether at a football game or a competition, it is very important that the band hears us cheering and supporting them.

At competitions, hearing parents cheer can actually help improve their performance! This is accomplished best when parents sit as a group in the stands. To make it easier for the band to spot their cheering section, and for parents to spot each other, parents should wear their band gear to create a “**Sea of Blue (or whatever the color is for the year).**” PWBB will sell band gear packs, scarves and fingers during band camp, and at the beginning of each season.

Championship

This year we are scheduled to compete in the **Cavalcade of Bands** on Saturday, November 10th, 2018 at **Hershey Stadium in Hershey, Pa.** Please see the schedule that was handed out earlier in the year for all competition dates. Details will be provided as they become available.





MARCHING BAND CONTEST ETIQUETTE

One of the most important parts of a band show is the audience. It is very disappointing for band members who spend weeks and months preparing a show to walk into a large stadium and find that the seats are empty. There are many types of spectators at a band show and they have many different reasons for coming to the show. However, they all have one thing in common and that is that they should be allowed to enjoy the experience.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO AT A BAND SHOW

- Support all bands. Regardless of which band is on the field you should applaud or even cheer when they do a good job. Reaction from the crowd will encourage the band to perform better and will result in a more enjoyable show for the audience.
- Watch the whole show. Observe different elements of the band's performance. Your interest may be percussion but, you might be surprised with the work the color guard is doing. Often, several things are going on at once in a show. If you watch a show several times you may see something new on each occasion.
- Show up early. This is especially true for supporters of larger class bands. Many smaller class bands have great shows. Arrive early at the next show and see what you have been missing.
- Buy something from the concession stand. In many cases a band competition may be the major source of a band programs yearly budget. They have made a large

investment and would appreciate your support. In most cases you will find that the prices are much less than what you will pay at your local movie theater.

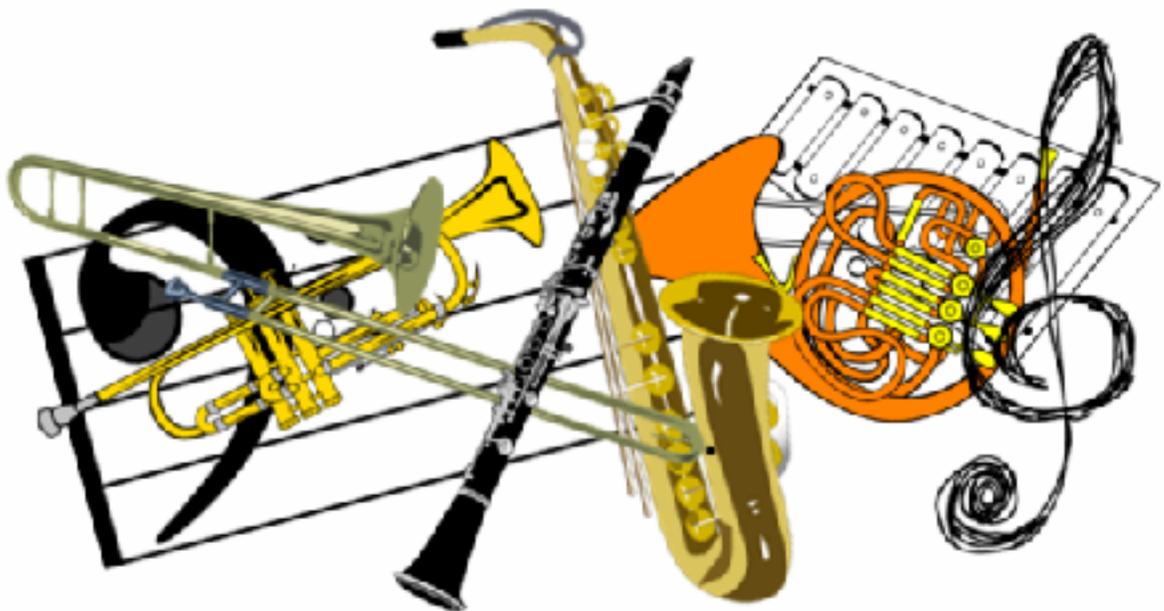
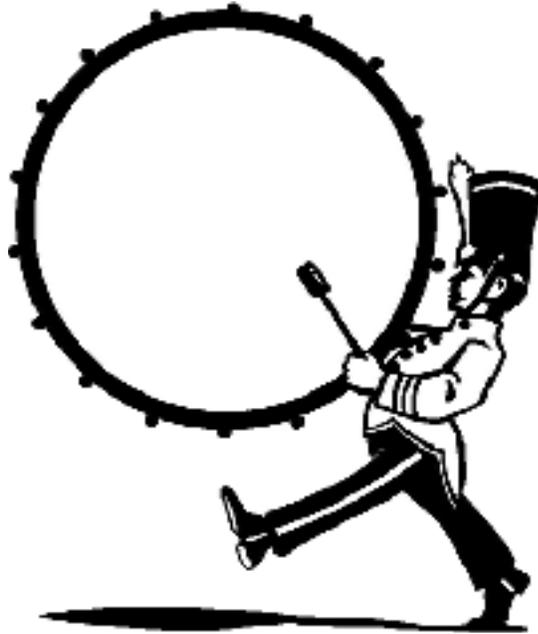
THINGS YOU SHOULD AVOID

It is important to realize that although it is fun to visit with family and friends during a contest, it is unfair to distract other spectators from enjoying the show. This is true at any performance, including a marching band performance. Be respectful of all other spectators and hopefully they will extend you the same courtesy.

- Do not leave or enter the stadium while a band is performing. Try to avoid any unnecessary movement, especially while a band is performing. At most contests the time for each band is fifteen minutes. Each show lasts around 7 to 9 minutes so that gives you plenty of time between bands to leave the seating area for concessions or to enter the stadium.
- Do not talk on your cell phone. Turn off your cell phone or set it to vibrate. If someone calls you on your cell phone you can return the call between bands. Please do not talk on your phone during a performance
- Do not allow children to play in the stands and distract other spectators. Obviously, children are the future of this activity. It is good for them to see why big brother and big sister are always at practice and are not at home. However for their safety and as a courtesy to others they should not be allowed to run up and down steps and play in the aisles so others may enjoy the show.
- Do not make negative comments about other bands. That color guard uniform that you don't like may have been made by that guard members mother that is sitting behind you. That man sitting in front of you could be the arranger or drill designer or even the band director. If you don't have something nice to say then you probably should not say it. Remember how hard your band's members have worked to get their show ready for the field. Chances are that the other bands have worked just as hard to get their show ready.
- Do not obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner to display, try to do so from the top of the stands or in some way that others can still see the bands.
- Do not boo other bands or the contest results during the awards. Unfortunately, everyone is not going to agree on contest results. Booing the award winners or the judges will not accomplish positive results.

Hopefully these tips will make your experience more enjoyable as you cheer your favorite band and support all performers of this amazing art form.

If you have more questions about Penn Wood marching band contests you can contact the Band Booster president.



Concert Band

Start of the Season: Rehearsals for this ensemble are held after the marching band season has finished. These rehearsals begin in November.

Practices: Schedules will be provided to band members at the beginning of the season. Occasional additional practices will be added before competitions. Practices are **mandatory**. If your child cannot attend they must inform Mr. Cherry as soon as possible. It is essential for your child to be on time for all practices. just as the marching band.

- band members- come early- get yourself settled and ready to practice promptly.
- If you are going to be late, you have to inform Mr. Cherry or your section leader.
- members should make every effort not to be late- this cut into valuable practice time
- Life happens so if something comes up and your child will be late or absent, it is vital to let Mr. Cherry know right away.

Rehearsal Etiquette: Rehearsals are closed to spectators. Rehearsal time is limited and having others in the band room is a distraction. Cell phones are not to be used during practice. They will have breaks to check their phone messages.

Performances

The Concert Band performs at two concerts held at PWHS-Green Ave each year. These are the Winter Concert (held in December) and the Spring Concert (held in May). Attendance is required at all performances. In addition, each ensemble may perform during the winter, along with bands from other local high schools, and at regional band festivals held in the area. These performances give each ensemble a chance to show what they have accomplished during the year. Additional rehearsals may be needed for some performances, and attendance is required unless excused by the director.

Concert Performance Etiquette: Try to stay for the whole performance. Enjoy the other ensembles, they are a pleasure to watch. Do not get up and walk around when another group is performing. Please do not shout out for your child during the performance. Do not leave or enter the auditorium while a group is performing. You can leave or move about in between groups when the stage hands are setting up for the next performance. Try to avoid any unnecessary movement, especially while a group is performing.

Band Room Etiquette

Prior to performances only authorized individuals are permitted in the band room. A lot happens when the students are preparing for a performance, but the goal is to keep the uproar in the band room to a minimum. Parent uniform and crew volunteers may be there to help get things ready, but additional parents create unnecessary disruptions. Please do not enter the band room if the door is closed and activities are being conducted (meetings, practice preparation, instruction, sectionals etc.). Generally during the season, when the band room door is open, it is okay to enter the band room.

Concert Band Performance Attire

- **Boys:** white shirt, black pants, black socks, black dress shoes, a tie
- **Girls:** white shirt, black pants or long black skirt, black socks/stockings, black shoes



Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an elite group of musicians who are selected and/or auditioned from the band. In order to participate in the PWHS Jazz Band you must be an active member of the band in

good standing. Our award-winning Jazz ensemble introduces members to jazz literature and provides performance opportunities, including school concerts and jazz competitions at other schools.

Start of the Season: Rehearsals for this ensemble are held after the marching band season has finished. These rehearsals begin in November at the end of the school day.

Practices: Schedules will be provided to jazz band members at the beginning of the season. Occasional additional practices will be added before competitions. Practices are **mandatory**. If your child cannot attend they must inform Mr. Cherry as soon as possible. It is essential for your child to be on time for all practices.

Performances:

- **Concerts:** The Jazz Band performs at two concerts held at PWHS-Green Ave each year. These are the Winter Concert (held in December) and the Spring Concert (held in May). The jazz band also performs at the Winter and Spring Elementary Music Department Concerts held at Green Avenue.
- **Competitions:** (February – May) Competition schedules will be provided by the Band Director. It is **mandatory** to attend all practices and competitions. If you are unable to attend you must inform the Band Director as soon as possible. The band sounds awesome when all members perform together.
- **Jazz and Pasta:** Season ends with a Jazz and Pasta performance in May (Middle and High school ensembles). This is our most successful fundraiser each year!

• **Jazz Ensemble dress**

o **Boys:** black shirt, black pants, black socks, black dress shoes,

o **Girls:** black shirt, black pants or long black skirt, black socks/stockings, black shoes

The Purpose of the PWBB

The Penn Wood Band Boosters (PWBB) is a parent organization with the mission to provide support and services for the enhancement of the Penn Wood High School band, colorguard and choir programs. The Penn Wood school district is supportive of the band and guard programs, but with the support of the PWBB, students have even more opportunities to learn musicianship, teamwork and leadership. The PWBB serves students in the following capacities:

- Organizes and carries out PWBB fundraising events
- Provides assistance and support at football games, concerts, competitions and band camp

- Promotes support and involvement in the band and guard programs by informing other parents and the community of events scheduled throughout the year
- Encourages, supports, cheers, and congratulates students involved in all areas of the band and guard program.

The recipients of year-round support include:

Marching Band

Concert Band

Middle School Band

Jazz Band

Chorus

Simply stated, PWBB support all of our great students' endeavors!

Keeping Informed!!!

- **Website:** The website provides schedules, calendars, photos, contact information and other details about all of the Penn Wood bands and colorguard.
- **Email lists:** When information needs to go out quickly, or when reminders for volunteers or spectators need to be sent, e-mails can be sent to members in a timely fashion. Simply provide your email address on the membership form, which is available on the website.

Fundraising

Each year a number of fundraising events are conducted; some by the students and some by the PWBB.

They are generally grouped into three categories:

Student Fundraising (through school):

Students in all of our ensembles are given the opportunity to participate in several fundraisers each year including Cherrydale. Additional student fundraisers may also

be scheduled. To save money, encourage your student to sell and participate in the other fundraisers as well!

Band Council Fundraising (through school):

The Band Council is a group of students, similar to the Student Council, acting as representatives for the band and guard members in discussions regarding fundraising and other activities. They conduct several fundraising events during the year, such as selling an entertainment coupon book, breakfast at school, restaurant nights, and organizing a bowling night. The funds they raise go to support their programs including the dinner at the end of marching band season, and the end of the year dinner for all students in band programs.

PWBB Fundraising:

The purpose of the PWBB's fundraising is to enhance the quality of the band and related programs. Funds raised are used to purchase music, accessories, supplies and equipment for all ensembles, as well as provide money for competition fees, and scholarships. Planned fundraisers are below:

\$ Membership Drive

\$ Band Apparel Sales

\$ Raffles

\$ Jazz and Pasta Night

It is a very ambitious schedule, and the support of every band parent is needed to help make the year a success! Please attend monthly meetings to see how you can help!

How to Get Involved

Attend band parent meetings. By staying informed, you can learn how best to support the band!

Attend football games, competitions and other band and guard events. The bands love to hear their fans cheering for them.

Join the Marching Band Pit Crew. During each football game and marching band competition at least **ten** people are needed to serve as the "Pit Crew" to:

- load and unload the band trailer before and after all away football games and competitions.
- lift and set up large band equipment and any needed props, for all football games and competitions.

Help out the Snack Crew at football games and band competitions. At least five people are needed to set up and take down the refreshment table at home and away football games and competitions. The refreshment table consists of snacks (baked goods, cheese & crackers, veggies etc.) provided each week by the students/parents and drinks provided by the PWBB.

Lend a helping hand. You can help get everyone home sooner by assisting with unloading the band trailer after band events. When the truck pulls into the parking lot please lend a hand. The students will show you where things go.

Take an active part in each fundraiser! Join a committee and have some fun while making a difference. Committee chairs will be announced at the PWBB meetings.

Help with uniforms, flags and props. Join a group of band parents who either hem, spot clean and iron uniforms, shine shoes, or adorn flags and other necessary items that enhance the visual effect of the marching band and guard.

Donate Snacks and Water/Gatorade for the band: Every Game and competition we provide 60+ students and band support staff with snack and beverages after all games and competitions

Be a demonstrative fan. During competitions, be loud! Vocal supporters sitting in close proximity of each other show the band how much they are supported and appreciated. Be part of the “Sea of Blue (or whatever the color is for the year)”.

Learn the Penn Wood Marching Band’s mantra: “Pennnnn Woooood!”, “The Woooood!” or chant “Penn Wood (4 claps), Penn Wood (4 claps), Penn Wood (4 claps) The P-e-n-n Wood!”

Mark your calendars now!

And finally..... JUST ASK!!

Don’t be afraid to ask what seems to be a “dumb question”. If this is new to you, please remember that it was once new to the experienced members of the PWBB as well! We all realize the more you know about the band activities and the band parents organization, the more you’ll feel comfortable getting involved. So ask -- we’ll be delighted to help.

*“Once a band parent...
always a band parent”*