



# **Handbook 2010-2011**

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**Pride. Greatness. Music. Success.**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 year of the Piney Grove Middle School Band! I anticipate great things during this third year of the program's existence. As we look forward to much advancement in musical development, I encourage you to be an active advocate for the importance of music in the educational life of your child. The fact that you have made the commitment to support your child in this endeavor shows that you believe that musical training plays a vital role in the education of the whole child. In band we not only learn how to play an instrument, but also how to be a team player, how to be a leader, how to be organized and responsible, and that hard work can be very rewarding. Together with your child, your investment of time, effort, and energy can produce a lifetime of wonderful memories and enjoyment of music.

To function in a manner which benefits its members to the fullest, any program must follow certain organizational procedures, rules, and regulations. It is with this in mind that the Piney Grove Middle School Band Handbook has been written. Its purpose is to answer any questions you may have concerning the band program, as well as establish clear guidelines and procedures by which the program will operate. The intent is to establish a common ground of agreement from which all members can accomplish both their individual goals and the goals of the entire organization. I encourage you to read it carefully with your child and become familiar with its contents. I look forward to a successful and rewarding year with the band. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions at 678-965-5010 ext. 381265 or email me at [jcowart@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:jcowart@forsyth.k12.ga.us).

Thank you for your support!  
Sincerely,

Jennifer Cowart  
Director of Bands

## Band Calendar 2009-10

<b>2009</b>		
<b>August</b>		
20	6 <sup>th</sup> grade Rental Night	Band Room 5-8 PM
<b>September</b>		
3	6 <sup>th</sup> grade Beginning Band Clinic and Mini Concert	After school, concert starts in gym at 7:30
29	Forsyth County Marching Exposition - 8 <sup>th</sup> graders will perform!	WFHS 7:00 PM
<b>October</b>		
1	Fall Concert – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade bands	PGMS Gym – 7PM
22	8 <sup>th</sup> grade rehearsal with SFHS band	SFHS stadium
23	8 <sup>th</sup> grade performance with the SFHS band	SFHS stadium
<b>November</b>		
6	ROCK A THON!!!	After school – 10 PM
<b>December</b>		
5	District Band Auditions – 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade bands	Gainesville MS
7	Winter Concert – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade bands	PGMS Gym – 7PM
10-13	UGA Mid Fest (select students)	Athens, GA

<b>2010</b>		
<b>January</b>		
9	All State Auditions (select students)	TBD
<b>February</b>		
5-6	District Honor Band (select students)	Toccoa, GA
8	Pre-Festival Clinic and Concert (Festival Band)	After school, concert starts in gym at 7:30
25	Forsyth County Concert Band Festival (Festival Band)	WFHS, time TBD
<b>March</b>		
15, 16, or 17	Large Group Performance Evaluation (Festival Band)	TBD
4-7	All State Band (select students)	Savannah, GA
<b>April</b>		
24	Forsyth County Solo and Ensemble	Riverwatch MS
<b>May</b>		
1	Six Flags Trip (optional for all students)	Six Flags
11	Spring Concert and Awards– 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	PGMS Gym – 7PM

### **Piney Grove Band Expectations**

Listen  
Respect  
Be on time

Be prepared

**What does it mean to listen?**

*You must be silent before you can listen.*

1. Listen to instructions without talking or being distracted. Follow directions the *first* time they are given.
2. Play your instrument only when instructed to, talk only when the teacher calls on you. You might miss important instructions if you don't!
3. Listen to music and listen while performing music.

**What do we need to respect?**

*Treat others the way you would like to be treated.*

1. Respect your classmates' right to learn.
2. Respect your teacher's right to teach.
3. Respect other people's space and property.
4. Respect your classroom - no food, drink, or gum allowed.

**What does it mean to be on time?**

*You are only on time if you are early.*

**During school** you should:

1. Walk quickly to class, stopping only to use the restroom or get water.
2. Be in your seats with all materials at the time posted on the board.
3. Be silent and ready to play when the director steps on the podium.

**Performances and rehearsals outside of class** you should be:

1. Inside the room at least 10 minutes before call time.
1. In seats at least 5 minutes before call time.
1. Silent and ready to play when the director steps on the podium.

**What does it mean to be prepared?**

*Prepared = Practiced!*

**Items you need in class every day:**

1. Your instrument and its accessories labeled with your name and phone number.
2. Your black band binder with your music, your handouts, and your method book.
3. Your music folder (this does not leave the room unless check out)
4. A couple of sharp pencils with erasers (you'll *never* need a pen)
5. A positive attitude

**Performance Attire**

Performing groups always make an impression on their audience with their appearance. It is very important that the group look uniform and neat every time that we go out to

perform so that we can make a great impression on our audience. If, for any reason, a band member has difficulty acquiring parts of the uniform, the director is to be notified in advance of the scheduled performance so that arrangements can be made.

**Seventh and Eighth Grade Band - formal dress:**

Girls: Black skirt (knee length or longer), or straight legged long dress pants (no denim, spandex, sweat pants, etc.).

Black long sleeved blouse (no sleeveless or spaghetti straps!)

Black pantyhose

Black dress shoes (no open toes or backless)

Boys: Black dress pants

Black button-down shirt with a collar

Black belt

Black socks

Black dress shoes

Absolutely no jeans, cargo pants, T-shirts, or athletic shoes!

**Sixth Grade Band attire (also Seventh and Eighth Grade informal dress)**

Girls and Boys: Black pants (no shorts or skirts)

Band Polo Shirt (tucked in!) - **\$15**

Black dress shoes

**Conduct**

There are many exciting off-campus activities scheduled for the band this year. While it would be ideal for everyone be able to participate in the trips, keep in mind that traveling with the band is a privilege. In order to take a trip with the group you must maintain outstanding behavior in band class. The Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct and rules for Piney Grove MS students as prescribed in the PGMS Student Handbook are in effect for the duration of each trip.

Students must behave in a considerate and respectful manner toward all they meet during our band activities, be an example of civility, and demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times.

**Consequences of for not meeting expectations:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Student - teacher conference, note/email/phone call to parent or guardian.

3. Detention, note/email/phone call to parent or guardian.
4. Parent/teacher/student conference with administrator present.
5. Office referral, note/email/phone call to parent or guardian.
6. Parent - teacher conference, possible removal from band program.

**Chewing gum in the band room will result in an immediate detention- NO WARNINGS WILL BE GIVEN!**

## **Grading policy**

### **20% Formative**

#### **Daily participation grades**

- Being prepared and on time for class
- Having all necessary materials
- Remaining attentive and well behaved during class
- Demonstrating proper rehearsal skills (good posture, proper playing position, etc.)
- Listening to and following all instructions from the teacher

### **80% Summative**

#### **Performances**

Includes participation and attendance at all required performances and outside of class.

#### **Tests**

Includes playing assessments such as scale tests, chair tests, and music pass offs, as well as written tests and quizzes

## **Chair tests**

Chair tests for all levels of band will be held on a regular basis. The students may be tested on any material that is being covered in class. This includes but is not limited to scales, clapping exercises, warm-ups, district band music, and concert music. Each student's chair placement is dependent on his or her level of preparation at the time of the chair test. The director can also determine chair placement based on rehearsal etiquette. Failure to demonstrate proper rehearsal technique may result in a student being moved down from the top of his or her section.

## **Attendance**

Band is a performance class. Each performance is the result of hours of daily classroom work and diligent practice at home. They count as our final exams and are major test grades. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing test grade that will be reflected your final grade. In the event of an excused absence, an alternate assignment will be given. The following are considered excused absences:

- a) Illness
- b) Death in family
- c) An important religious observance

d) An unforeseen emergency or extenuating circumstance. A *parent* must contact the director before or as soon as possible after the event to let her know about the reason for the absence.

**Parents, please understand that the presence of every student is crucial for a good performance. We hope that you will plan your schedule to ensure that your child has a ride (that will get them there on time) to each band event and that you will be able to attend all of their performances.**

## **Sectionals**

**All Seventh and Eighth Grade students are strongly encouraged to attend sectionals during the first semester.** These sectionals will start on October 5<sup>th</sup> and will focus on preparation for District Honor Band auditions. Starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, attendance at sectionals will be required only for those who are participating in Festival Band and will focus on LGPE preparation. After LGPE, morning rehearsals will focus on Solo and Ensemble preparation. Sectionals last 45 minutes and occur one day each week.

## **Sectional Schedule**

Monday	8:00 AM	All Brass Instruments
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Flutes and Oboes
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Saxophones and Bassoons
Thursday	8:00 AM	Clarinets
Friday	8:00 AM	Percussion

The band room opens at 8:45 every morning for students to put away their instruments, turn in assignments, ask questions, and get extra help. Entering the band room before 8:45 is prohibited unless you have a sectional or appointment. Students who arrive before 8:45 should wait in the gym until the band room opens. Please do not congregate outside the band room door. **For the safety of all of our property, non-band students are not permitted in the band room at any time.**

## **Instrument storage**

Instruments should be brought to the band room before school (at 8:45) and picked up promptly after school every day that you have band class. The buses do depart quickly at the end of the school day so be sure to move fast (without running) to the band room to pick up your instrument and then head to the bus. They will not leave you! For the safety of your property, instruments must not remain in the band room after school hours. You must take your instruments home with you and your instrument must be with you or in your band locker at all times.

## **Band Lockers**

- Each band member will be issued a band locker.



- Band lockers are for the storage of band materials only. Non-band materials will be confiscated by the director.
- **Combination locks will not be issued with your locker this year.** Any student who wishes to lock their instrument in their locker must bring their own lock and must give the combination to the band director. Keyed locks are not allowed.
- Always latch your locker closed – do not leave it open, even when empty.
- Students may not change lockers without the approval of the director.
- Failure to follow these guidelines can result in confiscation of materials inside a band locker as well loss of locker privileges.

### **Instrument Repair Policy**

Students must have their instruments in class in order to participate, practice, and learn! All the same, we all know that the instrument may become damaged from time to time and needs to be taken to the shop. There are repair shops located at our two closest music stores: Ponce de Leon Music, and Music and Arts Center. The contact information and addresses for these two locations are listed below. Should the instrument need to go to the shop, the student must turn in a signed note from the parent indicating the fact that the instrument is being repaired and noting when it is scheduled to be returned to the student. Please do not wait to take the instrument to the shop. The sooner it can get into the shop, the sooner it will be back out making beautiful music again!

#### ***Music and Arts Center***

7331 North Point Pkwy  
Alpharetta, GA 30022  
(770) 993-4428

#### ***Ponce De Leon Music***

1060 Dahlonega Hwy  
Cumming, GA 30040  
(770) 889-7616

### **Practicing**

Practicing is extremely important to the development of any musician. You are expected to practice at least 150 minutes (that's 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week) each week to achieve adequate progress on your instrument. This is our band homework! If you put the time into your instrument, you ***will*** be a successful band musician!

### **How can parents help?**

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Arrange a regular time and dedicated space for him/her to practice every night.
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair with needed supplies in the case.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities a priority.
- Make sure the instrument is going to school and coming back home daily.
- Consider, if possible, arranging for private music lessons for your child.

### **Private lessons**

Private music lessons are encouraged but not required for Piney Grove Band Students. These weekly lessons with professional musicians enhance and compliment the learning

that occurs on a daily basis in the band room. They provide the student with insight and experience from professionals on their instrument who are able to give them one-on-one attention. There are several places to inquire about lessons. South Forsyth High School has teachers out on a weekly basis to teach out of their school. There are also several music stores that offer lessons. You can try Music and Arts Center, Music Matters, Ponce de Leon Music, and Carrere Music if the teachers at South Forsyth are over booked.

### **Smart Music**

Band practicing is going high tech! This year, students at PGMS have the option of subscribing to Smart Music for a \$30 per year fee plus \$19.95 for a Smart Music microphone. While this program is in no way required for PGMS students, its use can have a positive impact on the effectiveness of your practice sessions. With this computer program, students play their part with accompaniment and receive, in real time on the computer, detailed feedback on their performance. It makes practicing more fun and allows students to quickly fix mistakes they may not be aware that they are making. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are planning to audition for All State are highly encouraged to subscribe. The All State Etudes, Scales, and Sight Reading exercises are all there for you to work and the program will give you valuable input on your progress. Our Festival music, solo and ensemble music, and the Essential Elements Book 1 will be available on Smart Music as well!

### **Music Notebooks and Folders**

All band students will continue to use their black, 1 inch, 3 ring band binders for all handouts, scales, clapping exercises, class notes, their method books, and so on. Concert music, however, will be kept in a folder and be shared with a stand partner. These folders will contain original copies of the music and will not leave the band room unless they are signed out by a student. Students should never mark on the music with anything other than a pencil and must erase all marks when the music is returned at the end of each concert. Students may sign a folder out for home practice but it must be returned on the following band day. If a folder is lost or destroyed, the student must pay \$2.50 to replace each missing piece. All copied handouts that are given out are to be kept in the band binder. If a student loses anything out of their band binder, they will be able go on Angel to print out a replacement copy. Due to budget constraints, Mrs. Cowart will only be able to give out one copy per student of each handout this year.

The following is a list of supplies that will be needed for band class:

- **Basic Classroom Supplies:**
  - 1.5 inch black three ring binder

- Notebook paper
- Several sharp pencils with erasers
- Page protectors
- Pencil pouch
- At least one big eraser
- 1 box of tissues or 1 roll of paper towels, if you can donate

- **Band Uniform Shirts**

**Band Polo: \$15.00**

All band students will need to have a band polo shirt for several performances this year. First year band students and any returning band member whose shirt has been lost or does not fit should order a shirt at this time. This is the same shirt as last year. If your band polo shirt is still good, you do not need to purchase another one.

**Band T-Shirt: \$7.00**

This is an *optional* shirt that can be worn at any time by parents and students as a show of Grizzly Band Pride. Note: This is the same shirt as last year and this shirt will not be a part of our performance uniform this year.

- **Band Method Books** (to be used the textbook throughout the year)

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 (approx: \$9.00)
- 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King (approx: \$8.00)

Both of these books are available at our local music stores but please notify Mrs. Cowart right away if you are unable to pick one up.

- **Instrument in good working order**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:**

For your convenience, instruments can be rented at our Music and Arts Center rental night on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 8:00 PM in the Piney Grove Band room. You can rent instruments and purchase all musical supplies at that time. Rented instruments and all supplies will be delivered to the school on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. If you choose to go directly to the music store to take care of your rentals and supplies, please do not allow your student to open the instrument case or attempt to play the instrument until they receive instructions from their band director to do so. All instruments should be in class on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> for woodwinds, and Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> for brass and percussion.

Three of our local music stores, Music and Arts Center, Music Matters, and Ponce de Leon Music, have the list of supplies that will be needed for Piney Grove Band. **If you choose to purchase or rent from another source, please consider the fact that all instruments are not created equal.**

Several brands are poorly made and break easily. The following is a list of reliable brands and needed accessories for each instrument. Please take this list with you if you are going to a store.

**Returning students** should check and make sure that they are still stocked up on the needed accessories for their instrument. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students need to have their instruments at school on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Pearl

Open hole flute with removable plugs, cleaning cloth and rod

Clarinet: Buffet E11, Yamaha

Hite Premiere Mouthpiece, 1 box of Vandoren 2.5 clarinet reeds, 4-slot reed saver, cleaning swab, and cork grease

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer

C Star Mouthpiece, 1 box of Vandoren 2.5 clarinet reeds, 4-slot reed saver, cleaning swab, and cork grease

Trumpet: Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter

Bach 7C Mouthpiece, cleaning kit including valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, and polishing cloth.

Trombone: Yamaha, Bach, King

6 ½ AL Mouthpiece, cleaning kit including slide cream, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, and polishing cloth.

Baritone/Euphonium: Yamaha, Jupiter

6 ½ AL Mouthpiece, Bach 7C Mouthpiece, cleaning kit including valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, and polishing cloth.

Percussion: Pearl, Vic Firth

*6<sup>th</sup> grade:* Bell kit (includes bell set, drum pad (not a snare drum), stand, carrying case with wheels, drum sticks, and hard mallets),

*All grades:* Vic Firth Intermediate Stick Bag package (includes drum sticks, timpani mallets, rubber mallets, and yarn mallets)

- Two more items for all band students to consider for use at home:

Korg T40 Metronome/Tuner Combination

Wire Music Stand

### **Fund raising for the PGMS Band**

While we do receive instructional monies to help purchase band music and large or one-of-a-kind band instruments, it is never enough as we work to build our brand new band program here at PGMS. We were able to purchase several instruments last year but we are still sorely lacking several necessary items. We still need to acquire several instruments as well as a larger variety of sheet music. I would also like to be able to hire clinicians to come in and share their expertise with the band kids. All of this together can easily cost in excess of \$75,000.

In short, we need your help. I would like to save everyone the time and effort of doing a catalog fund raiser this year. Cookie Dough, while very tasty, is not the best way for the band to raise money. Fund raising companies can usually only offer 40% profit and participation in these types of fund raisers is at an all time low.

In lieu of doing another catalog fund raiser, I am asking for parents to consider donating something of themselves to improve their child's band program. Donations of money or time are what I am asking for to help us accomplish our goals. A donation of \$75 per family will go a long way to help us buy the instruments and sheet music we would like to purchase for our band program. If you are able to donate more, please do so. If you need to donate less, please do. If you are unable to give a monetary donation at this time, please consider donating some of your time this year. There will be several opportunities to chaperone band trips/concerts and help in the band room during the school day. We also need parents to help apply for grants and seek corporate sponsorships. Please fill out the attached form and return it to school with a check made out to Piney Grove Middle School.

Thank you for all of your support. **You** are critical to the success of the PGMS Band program.



## Handbook Agreement

### *2009-2010*

We have read the handbook and agree to all of the terms contained within. We understand the following student obligations.

- Students should bring materials to every class
- Let Mrs. Cowart know (in writing or via email) when the student's instrument is in the repair shop.
- Make every effort to attend all performances of the PGMS Band.
- Understand that there is a commitment of time to practice the instrument in order to help maintain adequate student progress.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date; \_\_\_\_\_

Information and Order Form  
(please print neatly)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent Email: (*very important!*) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument Brand \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please check off the items that you are paying for.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 band polo shirt

\_\_\_\_\_ \$7 band t shirt

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 band donation

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ band donation (please fill in the amount you would like to give)

Shirt Size (circle one) YS    YM    YL    AS    AM    AL    AXL    AXXL

Please make checks payable to: *Piney Grove Middle School*

I would like to volunteer my time!

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

\_\_\_ Chaperone/assist with trips and other activities

\_\_\_ Help with data entry/office work

\_\_\_ Help write grants

\_\_\_ Help with corporate sponsorships

\_\_\_ Help in some other way. How? \_\_\_\_\_.