

Letter of Introduction  
**Gregory Benson, New Director of Bands**  
*Pickerington High School North*

Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Dear Students and Parents of the Pickerington High School North Band,

My name is Gregory Benson and I am so very excited to join the Pickerington North Band family as your Director of Bands. I have observed the traditions of both musical and personal excellence of the Pickerington North Bands for many years and am so very humbled and honored by the privilege to lead such an incredible program with such dedicated and talented students at such a wonderful school.

It goes without saying that the Pickerington North Band Program is one of the finest in our region and the nation. This is thanks to your students' commitment to strive for excellence in all aspects of their preparation and performance, in addition to the sincere and diligent work of your fine instructors. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside master teachers and leaders in our profession in Matt Guirrerri, Chris Carmean, and Marc and Tracie Parulekar to write the next great chapter for the Pickerington North Bands together. I am particularly grateful to Marc Parulekar for his exceptional leadership of this program over the past 15 years, and his gracious and warm welcome of me to the Pickerington North Band family.

Music is so much more than an activity or a class. It is an opportunity for students to grow into confident young adults who know how to set goals and work diligently to achieve them. It is an opportunity for students to be a part of something bigger than themselves and to learn how to feel and empathize with the world around them. It is an opportunity for them to give back to their community and their peers in a very powerful way. Our goal as your students' teachers will be for your students to not only develop musical excellence from being a part of the Pickerington North Band, but personal excellence as well. High expectations, personal accountability, positivity, and exceptional standards of character and musicianship are already hallmarks of the Pickerington North Band, and will continue to define this organization. Together, we will work to stretch ourselves to new heights in the future while honoring the very rich band history here at Pickerington North.

Students and parents, I very much look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the months and years to come. As we look to the exciting future ahead, I ask for your trust. I hope you will glean the very sincere passion I have for music and student success, coupled with an energetic and positive spirit. I can assure you that my colleagues and I will work diligently each day to ensure the continued excellence of the Pickerington North Bands, preserving the valuable traditions of the past and generating exciting opportunities for the future. One of my favorite quotes reads, "When words fail, music speaks." To this end, I believe music has the power to transform and inspire beyond any measure, and look forward to sharing this vision with your students. I commit to you to approach all of my work as your director through this perspective, and look forward to the proud future of the Pickerington North Bands that we will all build together!

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Benson", written in a cursive style.

Gregory Benson

# PHSN Band Handbook

## 2018-2019

*(Revised 5/20/18)*

### Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to eliminate student/parent confusion and misconduct by providing a reference for band policies and procedures. It is imperative that **every** student and parent read this handbook and be familiar with all of the policies and procedures. With a band program involving over 200 students, chaos would result without clearly defined rules and procedures. Following the rules set forth in this handbook will help everyone have a positive and exciting band experience. Thank you for the tremendous amount of time and effort you put into our band program.

**Gregory Benson**  
Director of Bands

**Chris Carmean**  
Assistant Band Director

**Matt Guirrerri**  
Assistant Band Director

**PHSN Band Acknowledgement Form**  
(FORM DUE July 29, 2018)

I have carefully reviewed the school rules, regulations, and guidelines regarding school activities, as explained in the Pickerington High School North Student Handbook and the PHSN Band Handbook. I understand that these rules will be in effect at all band activities including those activities not held on school grounds. *The rules governing band activities are not made or enforced to detract from the fun and enjoyment of participation in band. They have been put in place to protect students and ensure a safe, productive, and enjoyable experience for all participating students.* We would remember our participation in band for the wrong reasons if someone were to be seriously injured or represent our school poorly.

If there is a question about permission to do something, **ASK FIRST! THINK BEFORE YOU ACT. DO NOT FORGET, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS.**

Failure to follow these rules may result in one or more of the following:

- Detention(s)
- QST(s) and/or Suspension
- Loss of performance privileges
- Suspension, dismissal, and/or loss of privileges to participate in the band program and its activities
- Other disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the PHSN or PLSD administration

Although this course of action is not desired, it is the responsibility of school authorities to set guidelines and hold students accountable for improper behavior. Students who have performance privileges suspended, travel privileges suspended, and/or who are dismissed from the band program are not entitled to any refunds of band or trip fees.

*Make your participation in the band program something to be extremely proud of. Take pride in our band, school, community, parents, and most importantly yourself!*

I understand and agree to abide by the rules and follow the schedule set forth in the PHSN Student Handbook and the PHSN Band Handbook. I also understand that it is my responsibility to follow through with my academic, financial, and time commitments in order to be eligible to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## I. Definition of Common Terms

### Band Member

A Pickerington High School North Band Member (Guard Member) is a student who has by choice committed to and dedicated herself/himself to the objectives and goals of the PHSN band program:

- **To Learn and Grow as People and Musicians**
- **To Rehearse and Perform to the best of our abilities**
- **Strive to Improve Our Musicianship and Discipline Every Day**

*Band Members must be enrolled in band (marching and concert) for the entire school year.* A Band Member should always strive to become a successful part of the band and help others achieve these same goals. A Pickerington High School North Band Member should be synonymous with hard work, pride, and excellence.

### Leadership Team

The leadership team is made up of outstanding musicians and leaders who have demonstrated a high level of achievement and enthusiasm. They are responsible for assisting band members in learning music, drill, and marching fundamentals. They are also responsible for supervising loading/unloading of equipment, uniform inspections, and other duties as needed.

*The most powerful form of leadership is by example.*

*Prepare Fully, Rehearse with Intensity & Purpose,  
and Perform with Pride!*

### On-time

Being where you are supposed to be with what you are supposed to have 10 minutes before the announced time.

### Performance

Anytime the band performs (both concert and marching band). That includes parades, games, in support of the football team, competitions, and concerts. **You must be at all performances. They are a part of your grade.**

### Checking Off Your Music

You will be able to play your music (from memory for marching band) well enough so that you would receive a **SUPERIOR** rating at solo & ensemble. (*Our goal is to be a superior band and we are the sum of our parts.*)

### Clean

There is NO tarnish or fingerprints, smudges, grime, spit, gunk, or any other foreign substance that will detract from the “shine” of your instrument. Woodwind instruments are swabbed regularly.

### In Uniform

Wearing the uniform that has been specified by the directors, AND wearing it in the correct manner at all times.

### Instrument in Working Order

**Brass** - All slides, valve caps, neck, bits can move correctly and smoothly. All valves work correctly and smoothly.

**Woodwinds** - All pads are in place and seal correctly, all parts of ligature are working and not bent, mouthpiece is not chipped or cracked. ***Woodwind players must have at least three playable reeds that should be rotated on a daily basis*** (this is because the fibers in reeds must be gradually broken in over time to produce a good tone. By rotating reeds on a daily basis students will always have a reed that is ready to use for performance). ***Chipped or cracked reeds are not acceptable!***

### Goals

Setting personal goals and striving to achieve them is crucial to personal growth!

#### **A. Grow as people and musicians.**

- **Set a daily practice routine (30 Minutes per day)**
- **Do everything you can to help other band members succeed**

B. Overall Superior rating at every OMEA competition. The PHSNMB has achieved a SUPERIOR rating in 65 consecutive competitions dating back to 2004. Pickerington North Concert Bands have qualified for OMEA State Band Contest every year of the school dating back to 2003.

C. Superior ratings in every sub-caption on the judge’s sheets at all OMEA Concert and Marching Contests.

D. Earn 280+ total score at an OMEA Local Marching Band Contest.

## II. Student Behavior

The Pickerington North High School Band Program has a long tradition of excellence. It has proudly represented the City of Pickerington and the Pickerington Local Schools throughout the State of Ohio and the United States. The band has qualified for the OMEA State Marching Band and Concert Band Contests every year of its existence. The band has also performed in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade (2006), Fiesta Bowl Parade (2007, 2013), Orlando Citrus Parade (2009) as well as numerous other parades, concerts, and events throughout the United States. **These events have occurred because of the outstanding behavior and work ethic of students in the Pickerington North Band Program.** The following policies are in place for the protection of the students and will be enforced while students are participating in band activities.

**Smoking, consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances, profanity, and insubordination are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with Pickerington High School North and PLSD Board policy. Violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action as set forth by the Pickerington Local School District. The band directors, at their discretion, may take additional disciplinary action including dismissal from the Pickerington High School North Band Program.**

Students will be expected to follow all rules and regulations as defined in the Pickerington High School North Student Handbook and the Pickerington Local School District Extracurricular Student Discipline Code (IGD-P). Please be familiar with your PHSN student handbook and the PLSD Extracurricular Student Discipline Code (IGD-P).

**Think before you act and strive to represent the band program, the community of Pickerington, and most importantly yourself with dignity, class, and excellence.**

### III. Attendance Policies

#### A. General

Absences at rehearsals and performances affect the entire band. It is expected that all band members attend all band events (rehearsals, performances, etc.). With advanced notice, the band directors can often make changes or adjust plans to accommodate an absence, minimizing the negative impact on the other students. Therefore, absences must be reported ahead of time to Mr. Benson. Reporting an absence does not necessarily mean the absence will be counted as “excused”.

#### B. Rehearsals

Absences from rehearsals will be excused for the following reasons: family emergency, personal illness, or extenuating circumstances as deemed acceptable by Mr. Benson. Work conflicts are not considered an excused absence. Two weeks notice is required for any rehearsal or sectional absences to be approved as excused. An unexcused absence from any rehearsal may result in one or more of the following:

1. Deduction in grade.
2. Loss of performance opportunities.
3. Removal from leadership responsibilities.
4. Assignment to a shared spot.
5. Dismissal from PHSN Band Program.

*Perfect attendance is the mark of an outstanding band!*

#### C. Summer Rehearsals

You are expected to attend all summer rehearsals and performances. Plan your summer carefully. *To be excused from a summer band event a student must notify Mr. Benson, in writing, before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.*

#### C. Pre-Band Camp, Band Camp, and Post-Band Camp

Attendance at pre-band camp, band camp, and all post-band camp rehearsals is mandatory. These rehearsals are crucial to the band’s success at marching band contests. Failure to attend these rehearsals may result in the student being placed on shared spot status or other disciplinary action. *Mr. Benson should be notified, in writing, of any potential conflicts before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.*



## D. Performances

All band members are required to attend all band performances. Absences from performances will be excused for the following reasons: family emergency, personal illness, or extenuating circumstances\* deemed acceptable by Mr. Benson. Any absence from a performance may result in one or more of the following:

1. Deduction in grade and/or additional assignments.
2. Not being able to make up the points given for the performance or rehearsal (which will ultimately result in a grade deduction).
3. Loss of performance opportunities.
4. Removal from leadership responsibilities.
5. Assignment to a shared spot.
6. Dismissal from PHSN Band Program.

A great band does not have **any band members missing** from performances!  
\*There are very few “extenuating circumstances” that will be approved by Mr. Benson as an excused absence from a performance. If an extenuating circumstance is in conflict with the band calendar, the directors must be notified, in writing, **no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for any Fall Marching Band performance and no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for any other performance during the year. Please do not schedule vacations, family outings, or other events during a band performance date and time! All band members are starters. We have no bench or reserves. Each member is vital to the entire ensemble’s performance and learning.**

OMEA District and State Concert Band Contests are major portions of the course curriculum. Attendance is mandatory of all students!

**OMEA Solo & Ensemble: February 16, 2019**

**OMEA District 15 Band Contest: March 8-9, 2019**

**OMEA State Band Contest: May 3-4, 2019**

An unexcused absence by only one band member has a negative effect on the performance level of the entire band. The high level of performance, a trademark of the Pickerington High School North Bands, is due to the pride and dedication of its students. Attendance is crucial! *Students may not miss these performances for any reason!*

## E. Unexcused Absences

There is no reason for an unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal. Missing a rehearsal or performance negatively affects all band members. **Missed work from an unexcused absence may NOT be made up.**

However, at the discretion of the director, the following procedures may be used for students with unexcused absences:

1. Student may be required to make up the time missed (supervised practice time, special projects, etc.)
2. Student's grade may be lowered.
3. Director may require a written make-up assignment.
4. Student may lose their leadership position, be assigned to a shared spot, be moved down chairs within section, or be suspended from performances.
5. Student may be removed from the band program.

#### IV. Tardiness Policies

*To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left!*

Students are expected to be punctual for all band events. **For example, if a rehearsal begins at 6 pm, a student should arrive by 5:45pm, leaving enough time to be in his/her seat or on the practice field in time to start at 6 pm.** Students should leave enough time to warm up, stretch, and have all materials ready at the designated start time.

Tardiness to rehearsals and performances may result in (but are not limited to): deduction of grade, assignment to shared spot status, loss of leadership position, and or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the directors.

#### V. Football Season

The band will perform at all home and away varsity football games (including OHSAA playoff games). Games are held on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings throughout the fall athletic season. Band Members are required to participate regardless of weather conditions and should dress appropriately underneath their uniform.

##### A. Band Stand Conduct

1. Good bands are organized at all times! Your conduct in the band stand during football games is important to the public's general impression of our band program. Poor discipline presents a negative image and good discipline presents a positive image. You must always strive for and maintain good discipline.
2. Be alert! Events happen quickly at football games. Watch the directors and field commanders. Be ready to play at all times! This is what we are here to do!
3. Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is playing.
4. Only members of the Pickerington High School North Marching Band are allowed in the band stand and surrounding areas during football games.

5. No food or drink is allowed in the band stand/area at any time during the course of the game. Band Members are permitted to get refreshments during the third quarter but may not bring them into the band stand/area.
6. Take good care of your instrument. The school is not responsible for instruments damaged as a result of neglect and poor care. The only sure way to keep your instrument safe is to keep it with you at all times!
7. Stay in your uniform at all times. Never place any part of your uniform on the ground. At no time at a performance should you be out of uniform.
8. **Remain in assigned seats for the duration of the game.** *Seating assignments are used to gain maximum performance quality.*
9. Smoking, profanity, and use of alcohol or illegal drugs and substances are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with PHSN and PLSD Board Policy. Violation of this will result in disciplinary action.
10. Never leave the band stand without the permission of a director.
11. When you are in uniform you represent the band program, Pickerington High School North, and the community of Pickerington. Think before you act and leave a positive impression.

### B. Third Quarter Procedure (Privilege)

1. **Only students who have passed all music memory checks, uniform inspection, and instrument inspection will be permitted to leave the band stand area for third quarter breaks.**
2. Make sure your instrument is secure and safe when leaving the band-stand. The only sure way to keep your instrument safe is to keep it with you at all times. **You are responsible for your instrument at all times!**
3. Do not bring food or drink back into the band stand.
4. Do not leave the stadium.
5. Stay in uniform at all times.
6. Public display of affection is not permitted at any time.
7. You are expected to be in your seat ready to play with **one minute** left on the third quarter game clock.

**Violation of these rules may result in loss of third quarter privileges!**

## C. Bus Conduct

The band takes many trips during the school year. The majority of these trips are to away football games and marching band contests, but these rules apply to all bus trips. The rules are designed to ensure that all students have a safe and comfortable trip.

1. Profanity, public displays of affection, inappropriate conversation, Smoking, and use of alcohol or illegal drugs and substances are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with PHSN and PLSD Board Policy. Violation of this will result in disciplinary action.
2. Students must ride their assigned bus to and from all band performances. *After dark, boys and girls will be separated on the bus.*
3. The bus driver and chaperones are in control of the bus at all times. Follow all chaperone and driver instructions. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.
4. No food, drink, candy, and/or gum is permitted on the bus at any time.
5. Keep your voices and conversations down. Instructions may need to be given at any point during the trip. At times drivers and chaperones may need your complete attention and silence.
6. Maintain silence at all railroad crossings.
7. Hands, arms, feet, and the rest of you must remain inside the bus at all times.
8. Remain in your seat at all times.
9. Reserve the front seats for directors. Chaperones may reserve additional seats throughout the bus.
10. Do not board or load equipment until instructed to do so.
11. Remain on bus and in your seat until instructed to disembark.
12. Always take care of your uniform. Be sure it is properly stored and safe from tears, dirt, and wrinkling.
13. Be on time for bus departures (Remember: To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be left!). You will be left behind if you miss your departure time. Violation of this policy may result in suspension of future traveling privileges.
14. Never yell on bus or out the bus windows.
15. Remember to use the rest room before the buses depart.

16. When arriving back at school be sure to leave the bus in better condition than you found it.

17. Thank all drivers and chaperones for sharing their time and efforts. Without them our trips would not be possible.

D. Important---Important---Bus Excuses---Important---Important

Band members are never permitted to drive themselves to and from band events that are not being held at PHSN. In the instances where there is a conflict with a band event and another school related event (Sports, ACT/SAT, etc...) making it necessary for you to transport your student, the following procedure should be followed:

1. **PARENTS** must submit a *request in writing* (email preferred) to the directors to transport their student at least one week prior to the band event.
2. Parent or Guardian is responsible for knowing arrival time and route to event.
3. Parent or Guardian must drive student to and/or from event. **Students are never permitted to drive themselves to and/or from or drive with another student to and/or from an event off school grounds.**
4. When transporting a student home from a band event a parent or guardian must “check out” with a director. You must pick up your student in person at the conclusion of the event.
5. Students will not be permitted to leave until a parent or guardian is present.
6. These rules are in place to protect our students from potential problems and to keep them safe.

## E. Instrument Transportation and Care

1. All instruments must be transported to and from events in their cases.
2. Small instruments (flutes, clarinets, and any instrument with a soft “gig bag”) will be transported on the bus with the band member.
3. Instruments placed on the instrument bus must be properly stored/secured in its case with all latches/zippers closed. Students should assist with the loading and unloading of the instrument bus whenever possible.
4. Make sure your instrument case is properly identified with your name and any other pertinent information.
5. Make sure you have all of your vital information for your personal instrument on file at home (Make, Model, Serial #, Value, etc....). The PLSD and the band directors are not responsible for keeping records on personally owned instruments.
6. Never lay your instrument on wet ground.
7. Make sure you clean your instrument frequently. Keep corks and slides greased, valves oiled, and swab daily.
8. Make sure your mouthpiece(s) and accessories are packed securely in their case. Failure to do so can result in unnecessary damage to instruments.
9. Clean your mouthpiece weekly. Warm soapy water will kill most germs and remove any food particles.
10. Always store your instrument in the designated storage areas. Never leave your instrument lying out in the band room.
11. Do not play other students’ instruments.
12. **If a school-owned instrument is damaged due to student negligence, poor treatment, and/or improper storage, the student is financially responsible for the repair of that instrument.**

## F. Music Checks

All band members are required to play music checks. Music checks are used during marching and concert band season in preparation for performances. They insure that all marching band music has been correctly memorized and all concert band music is being performed accurately. **Music checks are part of your band grade.** The following criteria are used to evaluate music checks:

- a. Student uses characteristic tone quality when performing music.
- b. Student is able to play music with correct articulation and style.
- c. Student is able to play music at the correct dynamic levels.
- d. Student is able to play music at correct performance tempi.
- f. Student is able to play all music from memory (when applicable).

Music check procedures for marching band are as follows:

1. Section Leaders & Squad Leaders, will play their music checks for the directors.
2. Band members will play their music checks for the student leadership and/or directors.
3. If a band member does not pass a music check for their student leader, the band member may appeal their score to a director at the immediate conclusion of the rehearsal the music check was conducted.
4. **Band members who do not pass their weekly music check will lose their Third Quarter privileges and will be required to remain in the band stand area.**
5. **If a band member does not pass their music check they may be placed on shared spot status and/or held out of marching performances.**
6. **Failure of music check will result in a grade deduction, may result in loss of chair, and/or result in a student's performance privileges being suspended.**

## G. Shared Spot Policies & Procedures

Shared spots will be initially determined by the PHSN band audition held the previous school year, Independence Day Parade music check, and marching progress made during Spring Training and the early part of the summer. *Students in shared spots are full members of the band program and are required to participate in all band activities even if they are not scheduled to perform on the field at a given event.* Students who share spots will perform in pre-game, halftime, and/or competition performances as determined by the directors. **This ensures that we have a safe environment for all students and the best product on the field each time we perform while allowing more students to participate in the band program.** The directors will evaluate shared spots throughout the course of the season.

The following criteria may be used to evaluate and determine shared spots:

- Safety of individual performer and those marching with the performer
- Music Check scores
- Ability to perform marching routines
- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances (including band camp)
- Rehearsal attitude and discipline
- Academic eligibility and overall deportment

Students in shared spots will have the opportunity to demonstrate musical and marching growth via music checks and challenges. These evaluations will occur periodically throughout the marching season.

The directors have the authority to determine which positions are shared and which students shall be assigned to shared spots. A student with a non-shared spot could have their position changed to a shared spot at any time.



## VI. Rehearsal & Performance Conduct

*Well-disciplined and efficient rehearsals are critical to our continued success.*

### A. Guidelines

1. Be prompt and ready to start at the designated time. During school time a pass from a teacher, counselor, or administrator is required to excuse tardiness (PHSN Handbook).
2. Inattentive behavior, disrespect to peers and/or directors, and excessive talking during rehearsals contribute to negative results and wasted time. These actions may result in one or more of the following consequences:
  - a. Grade deduction
  - b. Removal from rehearsal
  - c. After-school detention
  - e. Placed on shared spot status
  - d. Suspension or loss of performance privileges
3. No food, drink, or candy is permitted during rehearsals.
4. Never chew gum. It is a personal health hazard and bad for your instrument.
5. When performing with the band, you are representing the band program, Pickerington High School North, and most importantly yourself. Destruction of property, insubordination, and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
6. **Prepare all of your music before rehearsal. Practicing individually outside of rehearsal time is essential if we are to continue our tradition of excellence.**
7. All cases should remain in their lockers during rehearsal. Your lock is your responsibility. There will be a \$15 charge for lost locks.

*You are a member of an outstanding band program.  
Make positive contributions towards our present and future success!*

### B. Daily Requirements for Marching Band

1. Have all charts and **coordinate book**.
2. Wear proper apparel.
  - a. Students must wear athletic shoes (no sandals, pumps, etc.)

- b. Do not wear clothing that restricts athletic movement.
- c. Students must have rain gear and other weather-related clothing. (We practice in all weather conditions; remember, it could be worse tomorrow!)
- 3. Instrument must be in working condition.
- 4. Students must have music.
- 5. **North Pride!**

### C. Daily Requirements for Concert Band

- 1. Instrument must be in good working condition.
- 2. Reeds, mutes, and all accessories necessary to perform the music being rehearsed.
- 3. Proper storage of all equipment (including percussion) and music at the conclusion of the rehearsal.
- 4. Music
- 5. Pencil
- 6. Desire to be the best musician you can be!

## VII. Concert Band

### A. Ensembles

At Pickerington High School North, we have the unique and exciting opportunity of offering three concert bands. These bands are the Symphonic Band, Concert Band I, and Concert Band II. These ensembles are open to students who are enrolled in the band program and are in grades 9-12. Students are placed into one of the three ensembles by audition. These auditions also determine the seating within each band. Auditions are normally held immediately following marching band season.

#### Symphonic Band

Consisting of approximately 60-75 students. This ensemble is for students who have advanced and characteristic tone quality, excellent technique, superior reading skills, and an outstanding work ethic. This band performs difficult literature and demands a high level of performance. It is highly recommended that students participating in this ensemble study privately. Students who do not meet the musical demands of the literature performed will be moved to another concert band. **Students are required to participate at OMEA Solo & Ensemble.**

#### Concert Band I

Consisting of approximately 60-75 students. Students must have a characteristic tone quality and good technical foundation. This ensemble performs literature suited to the ability of the students. It is highly recommended that students participating in this ensemble study privately.

## Concert Band II

Consisting of approximately 40-70 students. Students must have a basic foundation of playing skills. This ensemble performs literature suited to the ability of the students. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in private lessons.

### B. Challenge Procedure

Challenges give students the opportunity to obtain higher chairs during the concert band season. With the permission of the director students may challenge into another band. There are two types of challenges:

1. Open Challenges- Students may challenge anyone within the same band of their particular section.
2. Closed Challenges- Students may only challenge students who sit directly above them. This type of challenge is done as often as time allows during concert band season.

No one may challenge from band to band within four weeks of a performance. No one may challenge within the same band two weeks prior to a performance. Unless open challenges are announced, you may only challenge the person sitting above you. The challenger must play the part of the higher chair (including solos). In order to challenge, a student must:

1. Sign up when challenges are announced and before end of sign-up period.
2. Inform the person you intend to challenge.
3. Copy music of the person you are challenging if they play a different part.

Failure to do this will result in forfeiture of the challenge. The director(s) will judge challenges. All decisions are final.

### C. After-School Rehearsals

In preparation for OMEA District and State Band Contests, it is necessary to have after-school rehearsals. **It is required that each band member attends at least three after-school sectionals and four after-school full band rehearsals in preparation for OMEA District Band Contest. (The exact number of rehearsals will be determined by the director.)** The same number of rehearsals (4) and sectionals (3) will be required in preparation for OMEA State Band Contest. *At sectionals, the student needs to have concert band music prepared and ready to play individually for the director. This is comparable to a marching band music check.* Attendance at rehearsals and sectionals is mandatory and part of a student's band grade. An exact schedule of sectionals will be determined by each section and finalized by the director. A schedule of full band rehearsals is on the yearly band calendar. (Please note some full band rehearsals may be

moved due to winter and spring OHSAA athletic playoffs. Please be flexible as we try to accommodate all students.)

**OMEA District and State Concert Band Contests (held in the spring of each year) are a major portion of our course curriculum. Attendance is mandatory of all students. It is a significant portion of a student's grade.**

### VIII. Important---Band Dropout Policy---Important

Music is an integral part of the curriculum and the curricular aspects of band should be considered along with the social aspects of band. Contrary to some beliefs band **is not** a two-part program: (1) Marching Band Season, (2) Concert Band Season. Band is a full-year course. The Band Department's goal is to foster a life-long appreciation of music, teach leadership skills, and teach musicianship. Band is a year-long program that continually stresses excellence and the appreciation of music.

Students who drop band during the school year (including dropping at the conclusion of marching band season) will be handled as follows:

1. All Pickerington High School North rules and procedures for dropping a course apply (please review them in your student handbook and with your guidance counselor).
2. Students will receive no credit for band and withdraw failing.
3. Students **will not** receive any band awards or recognition for their participation in band.
4. Students will not be considered in "good standing" (i.e., directors will not endorse students for OMEA All-State Ensembles, honor bands, PHSN Jazz Band, etc.)
5. Students will be placed in a quiet study hall during the band period they dropped.
6. Students will not be permitted to audition for band the next school year without the permission of Mr. Benson.

### IX. Use of Band Rehearsal Hall Facilities

#### Rehearsal Hall

We have very limited space in the music department! Due to the large volume of traffic that passes through the music department each day (over 450 students), it can be very difficult to keep the band room neat and clean. Every effort should be taken to keep the rehearsal hall, practice rooms, storage rooms, and instrument cases clean. Personal belongings such as books, jackets, shoes, etc. may not be stored in the band hall. There is no room for them and they must be stored in student lockers. No book bags or athletic equipment bags will be permitted in the band hall (please refer to PHSN Student Handbook). **Items left in the band room at the end of the day will be placed in the**

**band room lost and found. Every Friday the band room lost and found will be placed with the PHSN lost and found located in the main office.**

### Practice Rooms

Practice rooms have been provided for those students who wish to practice their music at school. They are not to be used for non-music study without permission of the director. *Lesson teachers have priority for the use of practice rooms after school.*

### Storage Room

Instruments and music should be kept neatly on the shelving in the storage rooms. Make sure that all cases are latched, zipped, and properly secured. This reduces the chance that instruments will be damaged while being stored. This storage should not be considered lockers for books, school supplies, and/or athletic equipment.

**No student is permitted in the band room without a director supervising the activity. Do not assume that you can hang out in the band room after school. Please check with a director first. Although we are willing to give up our time so you can practice, on occasion we have lives outside the rehearsal hall!**

## X. Instrument Loan Agreement

Pickerington High School North is very fortunate to have a very large inventory of high quality school-owned instruments and equipment available for students to use during the school year. Yearly maintenance on these instruments is a tremendous cost in both time and finances. By taking some simple steps, using care and good judgment, we can continue to provide these instruments at minimal cost to our students (*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*).

**If a school-owned instrument is damaged due to student negligence, abuse, or neglect, the student is financially responsible for the repair of that instrument.** *Remember, YOU are responsible for your instrument at all times. Use your provided locker and lock and do not leave your instrument unattended during rehearsal and Third Quarter breaks!*

## XI. Uniform Policies

Each individual represents the larger group – the Pickerington North Marching Band. Therefore, it is essential to appear “uniform” at all times when representing the band. The goal is for every band member to look exactly the same when we perform. This is very important if we are to look and perform our best.

### General Uniform Rules

1. Wear the entire uniform unless otherwise instructed. It is never proper to be seen in public wearing the uniform in an “individual” manner (i.e., unzipped coat, only jacket or pants, not a performance event, etc...).
2. **Jewelry may not be worn while in uniform.**
3. Unkempt, dirty, or incomplete uniforms will NOT be tolerated.
4. **Sunglasses are not permitted while in uniform, including transition lenses.**
5. **Hair must be a natural hair color and worn in a way that does not draw attention to an individual.**
6. Uniform inspections will be held prior to performances and are part of your grade.
7. If you need a repair (i.e. a button sewn), notify a uniform mom ASAP. Don’t wait until the last minute!

### **JACKET**

- Must be worn with a SOLID BLACK t-shirt underneath, zipped, snapped, hooked at all times
- Must be kept *neat and clean*, store in garment bag on hanger (we will send it for dry cleaning occasionally)
- Never machine wash your jacket!!

### **PANTS**

- Must be worn at uniform length (3 inches off the floor when standing barefoot)
- Keep straps adjusted so that your pants are not too long or droopy in the crotch
- Never wear bulky shorts, jeans, or long pants under your uniform (try leggings, long underwear, or summer band shorts)
- Always hemmed (no duct tape, etc...) - uniform committee will do this, and we are always in need of volunteers. NEVER cut off any of the total length in order to hem!
- Must be kept *neat and clean*, store in garment bag on hanger - dry mud will come off with any stiff brush
- We will send it for dry cleaning occasionally

### **HOW TO HANG YOUR UNIFORM**

- a. Pants first. Turn the pants upside down, aligning the seams and the pleats. All 4 seams should match (seams are the lines that are sewn down the inside and outside of the pant legs). The 4 pleats should hang completely straight and flat (the pleat is the crease in the front and back of the leg). You should be able to hold the pants from the bottom of the legs and see the uniform hanging flat and straight. When you get this right, you'll know it. If the seams and pleats do not match, the uniform will never hang straight
- b. Place the pants over the hanger and pull the legs down so that the bottom of the pants hangs about even with the straps.
- c. Jackets next. The jacket goes on the hanger so that your name and the numbers can be seen from the front of the jacket.
- d. Zip the jacket ALL the way up and hook the clasp. This allows the jacket shoulders to hang and dry on the hanger correctly

### **HAT**

- Should be worn level on the head with chin strap fastened under the chin (except percussion)
- Wipe with damp cloth to keep *neat and clean* and store in hat box
- Hair must be worn up and under the hat, “off the collar”
- Do not place wet hat in hat box - allow to air dry before storing
- Tuba players will receive a beret. If you lose it, you will have to purchase a new one.

**PLUME**

- Always a part of the uniform (except in rainy weather)
- Receive before each performance and must return at end of each performance (plumes are not souvenirs!)
- Handle plume with care using metal stem to avoid damage.

**SHOES/SOCKS**

- Black marching shoes and long black socks must be worn, keep *neat and clean – no short socks!*

**GARMENT BAG**

- Store Marching Band uniform on hanger, keep properly labeled for identification.
- Keep track of your hanger! Some schools charge as much as \$6 for hanger replacement...
- Do not place wet uniform or components in garment bag – allow to air dry before storing.

**GLOVES**

- You will be given gloves over the summer. If you store them in your hat box, they won't get lost!
- You will have to pay for any additional gloves that you might need.
- An effort should be made to keep gloves as clean as possible. Gloves that are torn, worn-out, or excessively dirty will be required to be replaced.

**SUMMER MARCHING BAND UNIFORM**

- Marching Band polo, tucked in, plain white tee underneath
- Black shorts (girls, don't roll them!)
- Band socks, white with black stripe – Marching Shoes
- No jewelry

**COLORGUARD/FIELD COMMANDERS**

- All approved uniforms must be kept *neat and clean* at all times.
- Any variation of uniformity must be approved in advance by the directors.