

Pioneer Bands Family Handbook 2015-16



**Pioneer High School
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

See the [2015-16 Pioneer Bands Calendar](#) for important activity, meeting, rehearsal and performance dates.

2015-16 FAMILY HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

THE DOWNBEAT	3
Welcome from the Band Directors	3
About your Directors of Bands	4
About the Pioneer Band Association	5
THE FUNDAMENTALS	6
Incoming 9 th Grade Families	6
Band Registration	6
Band Camp Registration	7
Instrument Needs	8
Uniforms	9
2015-16 Band Calendar	10
2015-16 Concert Season	10
Communication and Information Sharing	11
THE PIONEER BAND EXPERIENCE	12
The Band Curriculum	12
Band Camp	13
Classroom Activities	14
Performance Activities	14
District Band Festival	15
Band Tours & Travel Opportunities	15
Social Activities	16
Student Leadership	17
Honors for Students	18
THE PIONEER BAND MUSICIAN	19
Student Expectations and Responsibilities	19
Auditions and Practice	20
Band, Sports, and Physical Conditioning	21
Private Instruction and Accompanists	22
Solo & Ensemble Festivals	22
Outside Performance Opportunities	23
THE PIONEER BAND ASSOCIATION	25
PBA Committee Volunteer Opportunities	25
Financial Information for Pioneer Band Families	28
The Centennial Project	32
Family Participation 2015-16 Year-At-A-Glance	33
THE FINALE	35
2015-16 Pioneer Bands Contact Information	36
2015-16 PBA Officers & Committee Chairs	37
Index	38
Website Information	40
Alma Mater & Fight Song	41



The Downbeat

Welcome from the Band Directors

WELCOME TO THE 2015-2016 PIONEER BAND PROGRAM! Pioneer is an exciting place to be; there is *always* something happening in the Pioneer Bands.

THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR begins with Band Camp at Interlochen, followed quickly by Symphony Band marching for home football games; Concert Band also marches during one home game. Continuing throughout the year are many opportunities for Symphony, Concert, Varsity and Jazz Band members to play in concerts, festivals, and special performances. There are also social and fundraising activities that provide opportunities to be with fellow band members and their families. We all look forward to our annual **PIONEER BANDS GALA** in March, an opportunity for us to do a big amount of our yearly fundraising in one AMAZING evening of fun and festivities!

FOR BAND STUDENTS, being a member of the Pioneer High School Bands is an amazing opportunity. The Pioneer Bands are a wonderful way to make life-long friendships, experience an outstanding level of musical accomplishment, personal growth and character development, and to have a sense of belonging in a high school that at times can seem overwhelming. Students are to be congratulated on their decision to become high school musicians.

FOR BAND PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND EXTENDED BAND FAMILIES, there are many opportunities for you in the Pioneer Bands family! We ask that you please show your support by attending Pioneer Bands concerts and performances, Pioneer High School Capsule Nights, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and Pioneer Band Association meetings. Parental involvement has been cited as the *number one factor* for success in a student's musical endeavors. Clear your calendar and mark all dates and times that have been announced in the master band calendar (available on <http://www.aapioneerbands.org/>). **PLEASE BE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THE PROBABILITY THAT DATES ON THE CALENDAR WILL CHANGE. PLEASE CAREFULLY WATCH THE WEBSITE, PBA NOTES BAND NEWSLETTER, AND CLASSROOM HANDOUTS FOR MORE INFORMATION AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES.**

Encourage your band student to practice daily. Practice is the dividend on all you have invested in equipment, supplies, private lessons, etc. Be sure your student has a quiet, distraction-free area in which to practice. Then, be sure that he or she really does it! Participate in fundraisers and attend band family social events. Your presence at your student's activities is extremely important. It is only through your active participation in your student's life that you will know what is happening in his or her world. This is the best manner that we as parents can demonstrate our unconditional love and support. Parents, if the financial obligations of membership in the Pioneer Bands is truly too much for your family, please contact one of the Directors to discuss the situation. We may, in conjunction with the Pioneer Band Association, be able to find ways to assist you while keeping the matter handled confidentially and professionally.

We are very excited about your family being a part of the Pioneer Bands. Have a great year and we look forward to visiting with you often!

David A. Leach, Director of Bands
Nancy Waring, Associate Director of Bands

The Directors



DAVID A. LEACH

DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Born and raised in Ann Arbor and a proud graduate of Huron High School, **David A. Leach** has served as Director of Bands at Pioneer High School since 2002. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Education at Eastern Michigan University and studied trumpet with Professor Carter Eggers, conducting with Professor Russell Reed and Dr. Max Plank. He has attended master classes in conducting with Professor Elizabeth A. H. Green, Michael Haithcock (U of M), John L. Whitwell (MSU), and Michael Adelson (NY Philharmonic).

Mr. Leach began his teaching career at Ypsilanti High School and spent fourteen years there before coming to Ann Arbor. Mr. Leach has served on the executive board of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District XII as Secretary and Vice-President of Adjudication, President and is currently serving as 1st Past President; He has been a member of the organization since 1988. He is a member of the National Association of Music Educators, The National Band Association, and the American School Band Director's Association. Mr. Leach has been included in Who's Who Among America's Teachers three times, a listing of the best teachers in America selected by their students.

In 2000 the University of Michigan chapter of the national music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia honored Mr. Leach with the Scott Pendleton Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in music education. In 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2005 he was nominated for Disney's American Teacher Award. He is the 2006 and 2010 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District XII Teacher of the Year, and is a Quarter Finalist for the 2014 National Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation.

Mr. Leach is a proud member of the 2006 & 2011 National GRAMMY Signature School Award-winning Pioneer Music Department.

NANCY WARING

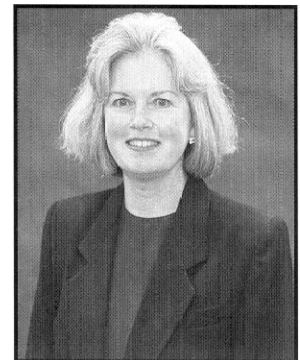
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Nancy Waring has worked with the bands at Pioneer High School since 1992. She has helped to produce the high level of performances for which the bands are known at music festivals and performances here in Michigan as well as Orlando, Chicago, Boston, New York, Virginia Beach, Myrtle Beach, Toronto, Orlando, Austria, Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic and China.

During her tenure the Pioneer High School Music Department has been chosen two times by the GRAMMY Foundation as a GRAMMY Signature School (2002, 2003), four times as a GRAMMY Signature Schools Gold (2004, 2005, 2010, 2015) and twice as the National GRAMMY Signature School (2006 & 2011). Ms. Waring is included in the ninth edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, a listing of the best teachers in America selected by their students.

Ms. Waring's teachers include Roy Ernst, Larry Teal, Joseph Mariano, Keith Bryan, and Elizabeth A. H. Green. She is a graduate of The University of Michigan School of Music where she received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education ('71) and a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance ('72). She has performed as principal flutist and soloist with several orchestras in southeast Michigan, including as a substitute flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At present she is the flutist with the Intrada Woodwind Quintet.

Ms. Waring has taught flute on the faculties of the University of Toledo and the Interlochen Arts Academy. She has maintained a private flute studio in the Ann Arbor area for over forty years. Ms. Waring also wrote the proposal for, developed the course structure and content for, and teaches the Music Theory and Technology course at Pioneer.





Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

About the Pioneer Band Association

The Band Program at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School has an incredibly rich and storied history and a promising future. As part of the Pioneer Music Department, the Pioneer Band Program shares the honor of being named a Signature School in 2001 & 2002 by the GRAMMY Foundation, and in 2004, 2005, 2010 and 2015 received GRAMMY Signature Schools Gold Awards as one of the top seven high school music programs in the nation. In 2006, AND AGAIN IN 2011, the Pioneer High School Music Department was honored as the *NATIONAL GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL* -- the BEST public high school music program in the nation! This is no surprise, as musical excellence has *always* been the cornerstone of the educational experience in the Pioneer Bands at Pioneer High School!

The Pioneer Band Association (PBA) was formed nearly three decades ago as a booster club for the Pioneer Bands. The PBA draws most of its membership from the parents of current band students and staff, but membership is open to all alumni and friends who want to advance the Pioneer Bands program. Membership in the PBA is a great way to keep the Pioneer High School experience personal, especially for our new parents and students.

The **mission** of the Pioneer Band Association is to provide financial and physical support to the directors, students and families of the Pioneer Band Program. Our purpose is to promote and enhance the quality of the total band experience for all. To achieve these goals, the PBA pledges to **(1) support the band program with supplemental financial aid and with the donation of volunteer time and talents; (2) encourage excellence in musicianship; (3) encourage and nurture the social growth and friendships of both students and parents; and (4) work to foster responsibility, pride, school spirit and good sportsmanship.**

To accomplish this, the PBA is heavily involved with band performances, social and fundraising activities, and in general, helping any way we can. Every Pioneer Bands student and family is expected to participate actively in several fundraising events each year to continue our current level of support for the Pioneer Bands. Funding for special events, such as tours, requires an extra special effort.

Pursuant to the organization's Bylaws, the Pioneer Band Association is a 501(c) non-profit tax-exempt cultural organization, and like all such organizations, we depend on the generosity of our members and our supporters. **Contributions to the Pioneer Band Association are tax deductible.** The PBA will qualify for most employer charitable matching grant programs. If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact our [Treasurer](#).

THE PIONEER BAND ASSOCIATION IS ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP. We ask for the active commitment of everyone involved; students, parents, and staff. If everyone gives a little, your Pioneer Band student gains a lot. This is your chance to get involved in your student's life and make a big difference to the students of the Pioneer Bands. We are always looking for people to assist in various activities throughout the school year. Volunteer to help with one or more of the committees; attend PBA meetings; participate in all of our Pioneer Band activities to support our students. ***SEE THE CONTACT INFORMATION PORTION IN THE LAST SECTION OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR A LIST OF PIONEER BAND ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS.***



The Fundamentals

Incoming 9th Grade Band Families

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL BANDS INCOMING 9TH GRADE CLASS OF 2019 ORIENTATION

Monday, March 21, 2016, 7:00 pm, B-126

Everything You Need to Know about the Pioneer Bands - And An Opportunity to ASK! This short orientation program/Q&A session for incoming Pioneer 9th grade students and their families will feature the Pioneer band directors, students from all Pioneer bands, and current band parents.

Incoming 9th grade students sometimes find entering high school a daunting experience. The Pioneer Bands provide a unique opportunity for our freshmen and their families to experience a **SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITY** within the larger Pioneer High School environment. With over 200 students enrolled in the Pioneer Bands program divided into five classroom ensembles, incoming freshmen will likely be rehearsing with upper classmen and will also be participating in concert, social and fundraising activities with band musicians and band families from all grade levels and experiences.

Middle school band directors are aware of the transitional issues their band students face and work hard to prepare their musicians for the audition process. Middle school band directors provide the audition music to students planning to continue their band experiences after 8th grade and work with them to practice it properly. In the spring of the 8th grade year, Director of Bands David A. Leach visits each AAPS middle school classroom to conduct individual interviews and auditions. This gives students the chance to ask questions and demonstrate their musical skills. In late spring, student audition results are posted and students will be informed as to which Pioneer ensemble they have been assigned. Student 9th grade course selections can then be completed, confirmed or changed with Pioneer counselors as appropriate.

With the announcement of the audition results, incoming 9th grade students also receive materials to register for PIONEER'S BAND CAMP, held each August at the Interlochen Arts Camp. Band Camp is a great opportunity for incoming 9th graders to jump-start their transition to high school and the Pioneer Band program. Band Camp is open to all Pioneer Band students and introduces both concert and marching fundamentals in a fun and friendly environment. In one week, incoming 9th graders prepare for a Sunday concert alongside upper classmen -- the only time during the school year every Pioneer Band Camp musician performs together in one ensemble. Students also drill marching fundamentals; even though many 9th grade students will not be a part of the marching band during their first year of high school, this opportunity is invaluable in building their spirit of ensemble work and in preparing them for their marching years ahead.

Camp space is limited to 200 beds. A student's spring audition results determine membership in the Pioneer Symphony and Concert Bands, whose members are *expected* to attend Pioneer Band Camp. The remaining camp spaces are made available to Varsity Band students on a first-come, first-served basis determined by date of application and by instrumentation needs.

Band Registration Procedure

Each year, all Pioneer band students and families are required to complete the **PIONEER BAND REGISTRATION** process. With a program of this size and scope, it is essential that the band directors have up-to-date information to effectively communicate about band activities with Pioneer Band students and their families. There is a special Band Registration day in August. A link to the online registration form is emailed to band families during the summer; medical forms are available on our [website](#).

BAND REGISTRATION DAY

Usually the first or second Monday in August, the day *before* the buses leave for Pioneer Band Camp at Interlochen, the Pioneer Bands holds the annual **BAND REGISTRATION DAY**. This event is held in the B-

wing (Performing Arts wing) at Pioneer High School from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Band families follow the signs into the Performing Arts Wing and file through a series of registration stations manned by Pioneer Band Association volunteers and student helpers. Students turn in the forms and pick up materials, and a school instrument if needed. For students going to Band Camp the next day, final payments and health information forms are verified or collected, and band camp T-shirts are distributed. For students with incomplete uniform size information or questions about their measurements, our uniform team is on hand to help determine correct uniform sizes.

PIONEER BAND REGISTRATION FORM

ALL Pioneer band students **AND** their parents or guardians complete the comprehensive online three-part **PIONEER BAND REGISTRATION PACKET**:

PART 1- STUDENT & FAMILY PERSONAL DATA & RELEASE FORM

PART 2- PARENT/GUARDIAN, volunteer opportunity checklist

PART 3- UNIFORM INFORMATION, body measurements for uniform assignment(s)

The information provided on the Pioneer Band Registration Form is used to maintain our databases, assign uniforms, and manage our various performances, and social and fundraising activities. This form is due on or before Band Registration Day.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT CARD

For students using a school-owned instrument, whether for marching or concert use, an instrument card must be completed and signed. This card registers the instrument as being in your student's care and explains your liability for its upkeep and safe return. Pioneer does supply many of our marching instruments and larger concert instruments, as well as other school-owned instruments for those students who have not purchased their own. This card must be completed at the time the student takes possession of a Pioneer musical instrument.

Band Camp Registration

BAND CAMP REGISTRATION takes place during spring of the school year. Pioneer Symphony Band and Concert Band students are *expected* to attend camp, and Varsity Band students attend on a space-available basis based on date of application and instrumentation needs. Pioneer Band Camp Registration Form, Health Form and the Band Camp Fee should be returned to the directors in the classroom or mailed to the address provided on the form.

In order to notify Interlochen of our expected enrollment, the registration deadline is normally the 2nd Monday in May (see the calendar). Registering as early as possible is highly encouraged. Registration for band camp is closed when our maximum enrollment is achieved or at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

BAND CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Current Pioneer students receive the Band Camp Registration Form & Health Form from Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring in the classroom. Incoming 9th grade students receive Band Camp Forms at Incoming 9th Grade Orientation, from their middle school band director, or from Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring. Band Camp Forms are also available in the Pioneer Band Room or [online](#).

BAND CAMP HEALTH FORM

As with any Ann Arbor Public Schools off-campus trip or camp, students attending Pioneer's Band Camp must complete a Health Form. This form should be turned in with the Band Camp Registration Form. This standard Health Form gives our on-site medical staff at camp vital information for treating emergencies and permission to secure proper medical treatment for your student. This form is also used each and every time the bands travel as a group for school-sponsored festival trips or special concert engagements.

Instrument Needs

Questions about ‘upgrading’ a student’s instrument often come up during high school. These issues are best explored with your student’s private instructor. Each instrumental upgrade is of varying price so plan for the future playing needs of your student. Do not get rid of any old instrument as your student may use it for marching band. A student’s best instruments are used for rehearsals and performances only, *not* for marching drills. As always, if you have any concerns, contact Mr. Leach.

PIONEER PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTS: Pioneer Bands provide all large instruments: TUBA, EUPHONIUM, FRENCH HORN, BASSOON, OBOE, BASS CLARINET, BARITONE SAXOPHONE, TENOR SAXOPHONE and MELLOPHONE (for French Horn players during marching season).

COMPANIES TO CONTACT FOR INSTRUMENT REPAIR, NEW & USED INSTRUMENTS, GLOVES, LYRES, FLIP FOLDERS, REEDS, OIL, GREASE, INSTRUMENT CASES & ACCESSORIES INCLUDE:

INSTRUMENT SALES/REPAIR:

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1-517-337-9700

INDIVIDUALS: The Pioneer Band Library of Solo & Ensemble Music is available in the Band Office from The Directors of Bands.

Uniforms

All band students receive a uniform for the concert season and if applicable, for the marching season in the fall. The registration materials mailed home in the summer include forms requesting measurements for each band student so the appropriate uniform can be assigned. These forms are to be completed prior to Band Registration or emailed prior to the start of fall classes.

UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

All uniforms are fitted and distributed during the appropriate marching or concert season. Uniform Distribution dates are listed on the Calendar of Events distributed at the beginning of each year. Pioneer Band Association members make up the Uniform Team. Parent volunteers are needed to assist in distributing the uniforms.

MARCHING UNIFORMS are distributed at the beginning of the school year to Symphony & Concert Bands students. They are collected shortly after the last football game performance.

CONCERT UNIFORMS are distributed in late November/early December to all Bands students. Uniforms are collected shortly after the last concert or the final tour performance for your performing ensemble.

CONCERT UNIFORMS ARE NOT WORN FOR THE PICNIC POPS CONCERT.

Students will have the opportunity to try on their uniform at school on uniform distribution day. Changes to the assigned uniform pieces can be made at that time. At Check-Out, uniform numbers are recorded on a set of duplicate cards (copy for you and a copy for us) and the student will sign for the pieces received. At Check-In, the same pieces checked out must be returned, all in good condition. The PBA Fees payable at Band Registration covers the cost of cleaning uniforms.

ALL Band Students wear a **CONCERT UNIFORM** for Pioneer Bands concert performances.

All MALES will be provided with:

- ♪ A BLACK COAT
- ♪ A BLACK PAIR OF PANTS
- ♪ A BLACK BOW TIE
- ♪ A WHITE TUXEDO SHIRT (Symphony Band males only)
- ♪ A CUMMERBUND (Symphony Band males only)

All FEMALES will be provided with a black dress.

MALES and FEMALES must provide your own:

- ♪ BLACK DRESS SHOES
- ♪ BLACK SOCKS (males) or HOSE or BLACK DRESS STOCKINGS (females)
- ♪ WHITE DRESS SHIRT (Concert Band and Varsity Band males only)

Symphony Band and **Concert Band** wear a **MARCHING UNIFORM** for football games.

Marching Band Students are provided with:

- ♪ COAT (& EPAULETS FOR CONCERT BAND)
- ♪ PAIR OF PANTS
- ♪ HAT & PLUME

Marching Band Members must provide their own **WHITE GLOVES** (available for purchase from the Uniform Committee or the Director of Bands)

2015-2016 Pioneer Bands Calendar

At the beginning of each school year, we publish a comprehensive current school year **BAND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**. The calendar includes all Pioneer Band rehearsal and performance dates and times, Pioneer Band Association meeting dates and other special events. This is a key document to guide you through the band year. Many find it helpful to post the calendar on a refrigerator, bulletin board, or other favorite location. The Calendar is available on the [website](#) (where you can subscribe to the Google Calendar), or can be obtained from a Director.

Because students are required to attend all the official band functions for their group, it is very important to enter all the dates on your calendar at the beginning of the year.

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM NEEDS TO BE SIGNED BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND RETURNED THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. STUDENTS SHOULD INFORM THEIR BAND DIRECTOR OF ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Pioneer Bands Tentative Concert Season

TONIGHT WE SWING

Featuring PHS/HHS/SMA/MSU Jazz

Thursday, December 3, 2015, 7:00 pm, Schreiber Auditorium

JAZZ CONCERT

Cliff Bell's (Detroit) – FREE ADMISSION

Monday, December 7, 2015

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL BANDS WINTER CONCERT – FREE ADMISSION

Featuring Pioneer The Pioneer High School Varsity, Concert, Symphony & Jazz Bands

Monday, December 14, 2015, 7:00 pm, Schreiber Auditorium

BANDS IN REVIEW

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 7:00 pm, SCHREIBER AUDITORIUM

Featuring Pioneer HS Varsity, Concert, & Symphony Bands

**Please note: ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS BANDS IN REVIEW CONCERTS – ADMISSION FEE REQUIRED
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM PIONEER BANDS STUDENTS**

Jazz Concert

Zal Gaz Grotto - Check PBA Website for Date and Time (April)

PICNIC POPS – FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, May 21, 2016, ALL DAY RAIN OR SHINE, PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL FRONT LAWN

Featuring performing groups from Ann Arbor's Middle Schools, the Huron High School Varsity, Concert & Symphony Bands, the Pioneer High School Varsity, Concert & Symphony Bands, and Skyline High School Varsity, Concert & Symphony Bands.

2016 JAZZ SUMMIT– FREE ADMISSION

Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival

Check PBA Website for Details (May)

Featuring the Pioneer Jazz Bands and others to be announced at a later date

Communication and Information Sharing

MEETINGS

Pioneer Band Association (PBA) meetings are a great way to meet fellow parents, the officers and the Directors. It's also a great way to find out more about upcoming events and participate in the official business of the Association. Meetings are generally the second Tuesday of the month and are held from **7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Pioneer Band room (B126)**. Some months may be dedicated to committee work. Band parents are welcome and encouraged to attend all PBA meetings.

NEWSLETTER

Each year, the PBA publishes five regular issues of *PBA NOTES*, the Pioneer Bands newsletter. The issues include: **(1) SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, (2) NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, (3) JANUARY-FEBRUARY, (4) MARCH-APRIL, and (5) MAY-JUNE**. All are welcome to submit materials for publication in our newsletter. Please contact our *NOTES* editor at timdouthit@gmail.com.

WEBSITE

The Pioneer Band Association maintains our own website, allowing us to make information available to our members and friends on the Internet. Visit us at www.aapioneerbands.org. Feel free to submit photos and copy for consideration for use on our website by sending it to webmaster@aapioneerbands.org.

DIRECTORY

The Band Directory contains band rosters and band member information for the current school year, contact information for current PBA officers and band directors, and important information regarding the band's activities and calendar. It is normally published early in October.

E-MAIL

The Pioneer Band Association uses e-mail as an effective and efficient way to share timely information about important events, make announcements, send reminders, and gather information from our members. If you use e-mail, be sure to provide your address on the annual Band Registration Form. E-mail addresses change often so be sure to keep us up to date by contacting: secretary@aapioneerbands.org.



The Pioneer Band Experience

The Band Curriculum

The Pioneer High School Band Program is made up of four major performing ensembles.

SYMPHONY BAND (course #08107 credits: .50 unit per semester)

This select group of wind and percussion instrumentalists is our finest ensemble in music performance. Repertoire consists of outstanding band literature encompassing various styles and periods of music. The band presents numerous concerts and participates in festivals. The Symphony Band is the Marching Band during the fall quarter and appears at home varsity football games. After school rehearsals and performances are required. Band members participate in Band Camp in August.

CONCERT BAND (course# 08106 credits: .50 unit per semester)

Students in the Concert Band have demonstrated an advanced level of musical ability. The Concert Band works on marching fundamentals in the fall, joining the regular Marching Band on the field at the game designated as Band Senior Recognition Night in October. The ensemble concentrates on concert performance throughout the rest of the year, participating in all regular concerts and festivals. After school performances and rehearsals are required. Band members participate in Band Camp in August.

VARSITY BAND (course# 08101 credits: .50 unit per semester)

Members of the Varsity Band work on developing of their basic skills in tone production, articulation, music reading, scales, and solo and ensemble performance within their instrument family of woodwinds or brass/percussion. The ensemble comes together as a complete band several times a year to further develop their group skills and to participate in concerts. The Varsity Band spends approximately two weeks in the fall learning marching fundamentals. Band members may attend Band Camp.

JAZZ BAND (course #08113 credits: .50 unit per semester)

Open to all qualified saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, keyboard, and percussion players. This course provides opportunities for the performance of outstanding jazz literature and the study of jazz styles, jazz history, and improvisation. The Jazz Band performs in numerous concerts throughout the year. After school rehearsals and performances are required.

MARCHING BAND (see Symphony Band)

The Symphony Band serves as the Marching Band performing at pre-game and half-time shows at all home football games after school starts in September. The Concert Band joins the Symphony Band for Senior Recognition Night at one football game per year. *Students who complete two semesters of Symphony marching band or one semester of Symphony marching plus two semesters of Concert Band marching are eligible for a .5 credit physical education waiver.*

AUDITIONS

Each spring, students audition with the Director for band placement for the following year. When current students have completed their auditions, incoming freshmen audition with Mr. Leach at their middle school or by appointment. New and transfer students can request an audition with the Director once they enroll at Pioneer High School. Chair placement is determined by auditions in the Fall. All audition music is provided by Mr. Leach.

SECTIONALS

Sectional rehearsals are scheduled on an as-needed basis to work on specific pieces of music and/or as an extra activity outside of regular school hours.

Band Camp at Interlochen

Our 68th Annual Band Camp will be held at the world famous Interlochen Center for the Arts at Interlochen, Michigan in August of 2015. The Interlochen Center for the Arts is the premiere music camp in the nation, and Pioneer bands and choirs have had the privilege of attending the facility (with the Huron bands and choirs since 1969) for over sixty years during our annual camp in August. In later years, Skyline and the high school orchestras also joined the music camp experience. More information about Interlochen can be found at www.interlochen.org.

Pioneer Band Campers spend their time refining musical skills and brushing up on their high steps and glide steps. Campers rehearse in small sectionals (by instrument or instrument families) and rehearse and perform as one band, giving younger students an opportunity to experience a very high level of musicianship and technique simply by sitting next to a senior Symphony Band member in rehearsal, while upper classmen learn leadership skills and responsibility. Rehearsals occur throughout the Interlochen campus, with the marching rehearsals at the Braeside tennis courts. The Pioneer Band Camp Week culminates in Band Camp Sunday: our Sunday afternoon concert in beautiful Kresge Auditorium which precedes the marching demonstration to which family and friends are encouraged to come and enjoy. There is also time for socializing at Band Camp! Most nights have dances, games, and other traditional activities to enjoy, including the famous (or infamous) Senior Skit.

While Pioneer Band Camp is not required of Varsity Band students, it is highly encouraged. Band Camp is a core part of the Pioneer Band Program, as well as an ideal way for all band students to make new friends each and every year. By the time students return to Ann Arbor and school begins, it is unlikely that any freshman band student who attended Pioneer Band Camp will walk into any Pioneer High School classroom and not see a student he or she has already met, and right away freshman students feel at home both in the band program and at Pioneer High School.

Pioneer Drum Major auditions occur during Band Camp Week at Interlochen. The Pioneer Drum Major is determined by vote of the band members. The Assistant Drum Major position is open to band students after their sophomore year. The Assistant Drum Major marches as the assistant during his or her junior year, and automatically assumes the role of Senior Pioneer Drum Major during senior year.

Mr. Leach brings an army of assistants and counselors to assist at band camp. The faculty is drawn from the Ann Arbor Public Schools instrumental music staff, and our well-qualified cabin counselors are Alumni of the Pioneer High School Band program who are college music majors and/or participants in their college or university band programs. Our Alumni Counselors act as instructors for sectional rehearsals and other musical activities. Students are given personal attention when needed, and will have a lot of fun!

Parents are an integral part of the success of the Pioneer Band Program. Parents and families are invited to come to Band Camp Sunday and look around the camp grounds, visit the PBA Welcome Table, meet other parents in the Pioneer Band Program, and prepare for the great year ahead! There is a Sunday afternoon concert performed by the ensembles, followed by a Pioneer marching demonstration at the tennis courts. Parents and guests see what our band students have been drilling all week long in preparation for marching season. Directions to Interlochen can be found on our website. PBA also organizes a bus for families to visit on Band Camp Sunday.

Classroom Activities

The structure of the band program is designed to help student musicians develop their individual skills, techniques and understanding of band music, and then to contribute to the group as part of a balanced ensemble.

As with all classroom activities, parents are encouraged to read through curriculum guides, attend Capsule Night, and communicate effectively with the directors. Parents are encouraged to foster a positive relationship with both their student and the teacher to maximize the benefits of the educational experience. Individual classroom concerns should be brought up with the directors through e-mail, at parent-teacher conferences or by requesting a one-on-one conference.

Annual Performance Activities

IMPORTANT: BE AWARE THAT DATE CHANGES WILL PROBABLY OCCUR. WATCH THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR CHANGES. STUDENTS WILL BE INFORMED IN THE CLASSROOM.

The Pioneer Bands perform several concerts each year. In addition, the band ensembles, along with small group ensembles and individuals, participate in various music festivals and performances. A typical year's performance activities include:

- ♪ FOOTBALL GAMES – Fall Home Football Games (Marching Band)
- ♪ TONIGHT WE SWING – December 3, 2015 (Jazz Band)
- ♪ ORCHESTRA CONCERT – DECEMBER 8, 2015 (Symphony & Concert Band Orchestra Winds & Percussion)
- ♪ WINTER PIONEER BANDS CONCERT - December 14, 2015 (All Pioneer Bands/recitalists)
- ♪ DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL - January 30, 2016 (All Bands)
- ♪ BAND FESTIVAL – March 5, 2016 (Symphony/Concert Bands)
- ♪ PIONEER BAND GALA –March 9, 2016 (small ensembles)
- ♪ STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL - March 19, 2016 (All State Solo/Ensemble Qualified Students)
- ♪ BANDS IN REVIEW – March 19, 2016 (All Pioneer Bands)
- ♪ CONCERTO CONCERT – March 30, 2016 (Orchestra Winds, Wind Soloist(s) with Symphony Orchestra)
- ♪ PICNIC POPS - May 21, 2016 (All Pioneer Bands)
- ♪ JAZZ SUMMIT CONCERT– Check PBA Website (Jazz Band)

Complete details on each Pioneer Bands performance activity are explained in the classroom, at Band Association meetings and in specific communications. See the Band Calendar for specific dates, times and participating groups for each Pioneer Bands performance activity.

BANDS IN REVIEW March (All Pioneer Bands)

BANDS IN REVIEW is a showcase of AAPS bands from all of our middle and high schools in two performances as our middle and high school students demonstrate their skills with the discipline, concentration, and perseverance that they learn as members of their public school bands. These wonderful concerts are an opportunity for the community to see and hear the results of the comprehensive education our students have received in the Ann Arbor Public Schools Instrumental Music Program. *Traditionally held on a late weekend of March in Schreiber Auditorium.*

MSBOA District XII Band Festival

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District XII Band Festival is an opportunity for ensembles from MSBOA member schools to perform a program of three pieces for adjudication.

District-level band and orchestra festivals are held throughout the state's 16 districts from mid-February through mid-March. Ann Arbor Public Schools is a member of MSBOA District XII.

Each performing ensemble is evaluated by three performance adjudicators and one sight-reading adjudicator. Each performing ensemble is rated on a scale from "I" to "V" with "I" being the highest rating possible. The overall score is computed using a formula which combines the ratings of each judge.

Participating ensembles that earn a rating of "I" or "II" at District or State Festivals receive a certificate and plaque for display at their school.

The Pioneer Bands and Pioneer Band Association families host the MSBOA District XII Band Festival at Pioneer High School in late-February/early-March, a day to hear great music, watch sight reading, and help run a concession stand! We provide the space and the food to feed hungry band students, chaperones, directors, and fans. Our PBA parents staff the concession, selling beverages, and breakfast & snack foods. Volunteers are needed to work, and to listen to our Pioneer Band Students play! Emails go out before the event to solicit the beverages & snacks for sale. (Middle School-aged siblings can be great workers too, and it is a wonderful experience for them if they plan to be in the Pioneer Bands!)

Band Tours & Travel Opportunities

The Pioneer Bands traditionally tour during even-numbered years, in rotation with the Pioneer Orchestras. **2015-16 is a TOUR YEAR.** Symphony Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band will travel to New York City from April 26-May 1, 2016, where the bands will play at Carnegie Hall. Recent Pioneer Band Tours have produced the high level of performances for which the band is known at state, national and international music festivals and performances.

In 2014, there were two Band Tours: In April 2014, the Symphony and Jazz Bands traveled to Central Europe (Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic), where they played in a Mini-Festival with two Hungarian Orchestras in Budapest, performed at the Jazz Club Reduta in Prague, and both bands performed at St. Simon & Jude Church, also in Prague. Concert Band traveled to Boston, where they performed in the WorldStrides Heritage Festival, and attended a spectacular performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra plus a Master Class given by BSO French hornist, Rachel Childers.

In 2012, Symphony, Concert and Jazz Bands traveled to New York City, where they played at Carnegie Hall.

In 2010, there were two Band Tours: In April 2010, Symphony Band traveled to China where they played on the Great Wall and in Tianjin. Concert Band played in the Cedar Point's Music in the Parks and earned 1st place for Best Band.

In April 2008, Symphony, Concert and Jazz Bands traveled to New York City, where they played at Carnegie Hall, the IBM Atrium and Blue Note Jazz Club and attended performance workshops, a New York Philharmonic Concert and the Broadway Musical *Wicked*.

Annual Social Activities

IMPORTANT: WATCH THE CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE. STUDENTS SHOULD LISTEN TO CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Several activities are planned throughout the year to build friendships and esprit de corps among our band students and families. Some of the events also include performance opportunities. Further details on each activity are explained in the classroom, at Band Association meetings and in future communications. See the Calendar for specific dates, times and participating groups for each activity.

Activities with social aspects include:

- ♪ **BAND CAMP** at Interlochen – **August** (See **BAND CAMP** section in The Handbook for details).
- ♪ **BAND PICNIC** at the Pioneer Practice Marching Field – **September**. This is an opportunity for band families to meet, eat, play, and celebrate the start of a great year.
- ♪ **BOWLING PARTY**– **December**. A fun study break for our hardworking students just before January final exams. The Band Association provides shoes, balls & food; band directors and parents supervise, and students provide the fun! Varsity Band students are free, all other band students pay \$10.
- ♪ **BAND BALL** at Cobblestone Farm – February. A semi-formal event organized by band students and held every February. Tickets are reasonably priced and go on sale a few weeks before the ball. This is a classy dance that is fun for all!
- ♪ **BAND GALA**– **March** The Band Gala is a great evening of cocktails and appetizers with small ensemble entertainment. Our fund raising goal is \$15,000 – \$18,000 to provide funding and scholarships for our students in the classroom and on tour.
- ♪ **BANDQUET & AWARDS NIGHT** at Pioneer High School – **May**. This is the culminating celebration for our band families. Awards are presented, the Seniors are celebrated (and are usually very entertaining) and the food is great! The catered event is usually held at Pioneer, and requires volunteers to make it happen.
- ♪ **PICNIC POPS** at Pioneer High School – **Saturday mid-May**
A city-wide “Ice Cream Social” with great music, fun games, good food, and more. Every year, the AAPS High School and Middle School Bands team up for a full day of music under the tent on Pioneer's lawn. Of course, it takes enthusiastic volunteers to make this great event happen. Volunteers are recruited each spring to help put on this event.
- ♪ **SENIOR LUNCHEON** – a **Tuesday or Wednesday in early June (before commencement)**
The Senior Luncheon is the final event for our graduating class. Catered by the PBA, the event is “Seniors Only” and celebrates their four years as members of the Pioneer Bands.

Student Leadership

The Pioneer Bands rely heavily on the talent and dedication of Student Band Officers. Elected officers for each Pioneer Bands performing ensemble include: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Drum Major, and Flag Captain. Section Leaders are determined by audition. Librarians and Marching Band Committee members are appointed. Student Band Officers are elected by the band membership. Appointments are made by the directors. Elections are held early in the fall during band class. Duties are described below.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT BAND OFFICERS:

- ♪ **BAND PRESIDENT:** The band president serves as the official student representative of each organization within the band program and acts as the liaison between the band members and the Directors, school district, and parents, alumni and friends of the Pioneer Bands.
- ♪ **BAND SECRETARY :** The secretary is responsible for any correspondence from the band membership, for checking the roll at rehearsals and performances, and assists the directors with clerical duties.
- ♪ **BAND TREASURER:** The treasurer, under the supervision of the directors, collects, and records any band monies and assists the Directors with coordination of all publicity and compiling the annual band scrapbook.
- ♪ **BAND LIBRARIAN:** The Band Librarian is responsible for maintaining the band library, including: filing, distributing, and repairing music and keeping the library uncluttered. The Directors usually appoint more than one student to serve as librarian.
- ♪ **FLAG CAPTAIN/LIEUTENANT** The Flag Captain is determined by vote of the group. The Lieutenant serves in the Captain's role should the captain be absent for any reason, and is the captain in training. The Flag Captain is responsible for writing routines and drill and rehearsal of the Flag Corps, and is directly responsible to the Director of Bands for the appearance and attitude of the Pioneer Flag Corps.
- ♪ **SECTION LEADER:** The Section Leader is the musical leader and an example for his/her section. The Section Leader is selected by the Director of Bands on the basis of performance audition as one who possesses musical leadership qualities as well as people management skills.
- ♪ **DRUM MAJOR/ASSISTANT DRUM MAJOR:** Determined by vote of the band members, the Pioneer Drum Major must display strong leadership and motivational qualities and have knowledge of teaching drill and marching fundamentals. The Drum Major is the field commander during performances, and acts as a field assistant during rehearsals by helping to correct individual and musical style issues and to inspire Pioneer Spirit! The Drum Major helps organize rooming charts for camp; helps organize bus seating for tours; chairs the Marching Band Committee; helps with any miscellaneous jobs that may occur throughout season; and assists with uniform inspections in all sections. The Assistant Drum Major position is open to band students the summer after their sophomore year. The Assistant Drum Major marches as assistant during his or her junior year, and automatically assumes the role of Pioneer Drum Major during senior year. Drum Major auditions are held on the final Saturday at Band Camp, with results announced on Band Camp Sunday evening.
- ♪ **MARCHING BAND COMMITTEE:** The Marching Band Committee is comprised of the Drum Major, the Flag Captain, and several student members from the Symphony Band. The Marching Band Committee is responsible for selecting the season's Marching Band shows, music and drills as well as many aspects of the organization of the marching band; including esprit de corps, band camp activities, and communication with students and families.

Honors for Band Students

VARSITY AWARD – The Varsity Award honors Varsity Band Students for commitment, work ethic, and dedication to the Bands

CONCERT AWARD – The Concert Award honors Concert Band Students for commitment, work ethic, and dedication to the Bands.

SYMPHONY AWARD – The Symphony Award honors Symphony Band Students for commitment, work ethic, and dedication to the Bands.

ROBERT ALBRITTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – The Albritton Scholarship honors the twenty-year career of Robert Albritton as Director of Bands at Pioneer. A merit-based scholarship intended to enrich both the recipient and the Pioneer Band program, the award is to be used for a recognized music program outside of the Pioneer program. The recipient's record clearly shows that he/she regularly participates in band performance, social and fundraising activities; demonstrates a desire to improve as a musician and contribute to ensemble performance; and will continue in the Pioneer Bands program for at least one more school year following the outside program experience.

ROBERT ALBRITTON MUSIC AWARD – This award is given on a rotating basis annually by the Pioneer High School Music Department to a student in the bands, orchestras, or choirs. The student, elected by his or her peers, demonstrates those qualities exemplified by Robert Albritton: dedication, commitment, hard work and excellence in the Pioneer Music Program.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD – The Director's Award honors a deserving Varsity Band Student for outstanding contributions to Varsity Band, the foundation of our program.

WOODY HERMAN AWARD – The Woody Herman Award honors a deserving jazz student for outstanding contributions to the jazz program. Woody Herman was a jazz clarinetist, saxophonist, singer, and Big Band leader. His musicianship carried the genre into a new era.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG AWARD – The Louis Armstrong Award is presented to the most outstanding jazz performer each year. Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) as widely recognized as a founding father of jazz – a uniquely American art form. He had an impact on all musicians to follow; he recorded hit songs for five decades, and his music is still heard regularly on television and radio and in films. He composed dozens of jazz standards and his tours to all parts of the world earned him the nickname "Ambassador Satch".

PATRICK S. GILMORE AWARD – The Patrick S. Gilmore Award, established to recognize an outstanding student in our band program, is presented annually to the runner-up of the John Philip Sousa Award. Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore is often called the "father of the American Band". A cornet soloist, he founded Gilmore's Band in 1857, which featured two woodwinds to each brass instrument: the same ratio used in modern concert bands today. He conducted the first Promenade Concert in America (1855), a forerunner of today's Boston Pops Orchestra. Gilmore made some of the first commercial recordings for Thomas Edison in 1891, and it was Gilmore and his band that started the new familiar tradition of greeting the New Year in Times Square.

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD – The John Philip Sousa Award honors our most deserving Pioneer Band member. The Sousa Award recognizes superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty and cooperation – the qualities directors strive to develop in all students. John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was the longtime director of *The President's Own Marine Band*, and a prolific composer and arranger. He championed the cause of music education and fought for composers' rights.

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS ARE PRESENTED ANNUALLY AT BAND CAMP:

- ♪ **BEST NEW MARCHER (MALE & FEMALE):** This award goes to a new band member who exemplifies the best marching technique during band camp.
- ♪ **BEST OLD MARCHER (MALE & FEMALE):** This award goes to a returning member who exemplifies the best marching technique during band camp.
- ♪ **BEST NEW MUSICIAN (MALE & FEMALE):** This award goes to a new band member who has made the most improvement musically over the course of the year.
- ♪ **BEST OLD MUSICIAN (Male & Female):** This award goes to a returning band member who has made the most improvement musically over the course of the year.



The Pioneer Band Musician

Student Expectations and Responsibilities

Being a member of the Pioneer High School Bands is a special privilege. Finding success in any performing art requires hundreds of hours of diligent work, practice, repetition, failure, reevaluation, discussion with teachers and peers, rehearsal, and performance. It is important to demonstrate unswerving persistence toward musical excellence and dedication.

Most students have spent many years developing their musical talents prior to attending Pioneer High School and are aware of what is expected of them, but it doesn't hurt to have a reminder. Showing respect for people and property, kindness and cooperation, good and honest intentions, being punctual and prepared, showing a positive attitude, and displaying integrity, intellectual curiosity, and trust are all important attributes expected of Pioneer Bands students.

The following concepts form the basis for a code of values for students in the Pioneer Bands:

- ♪ **RESPECT:** Members are expected to demonstrate respect for faculty, parents, other students, guests, and especially themselves. All property falls under this expectation. Common courtesy and politeness, friendliness, support of peers and competitors, helpfulness, and positive behaviors indicate respect. Conflicts should be handled maturely. Profanity, obscenity, and disrespectful speech or actions are not tolerated.
- ♪ **PUNCTUALITY AND PREPARATION:** Students must be **WHERE** they are supposed to be, **WHEN** they are supposed to be there, with the **RIGHT** equipment, materials, and supplies, **WEARING** the proper attire, and with **RESOLVED** schedule conflicts. For after school or evening rehearsals, it is requested that students arrive at least 15 minutes prior to start time. For performances, students will be asked by the directors to arrive at a specific time prior to the start of the program. Students are reminded **OFTEN** of arrival and start times for scheduled activities.
- ♪ **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** You have two responsibilities: 1) to yourself and your own personal growth, and 2) to any group to which you belong. Within the Pioneer Band program, performances take precedence over all other activities, and evening rehearsals take precedence over most activities. When a conflict arises, you are accountable for resolving it appropriately through adequate communication with and agreement between all parties concerned in a timely manner.
- ♪ **INTEGRITY:** Integrity can be defined as "being complete as a person or having great strength of character and trustworthiness." A person with integrity demonstrates honesty, loyalty and sincerity, showing consistency among principles, values, and behaviors.
- ♪ **VOLUNTEERISM AND WORK ETHIC:** It is important for you to seek out opportunities to help keep the day-to-day activities of the Pioneer Band program running smoothly. **ASK: "WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?" OFTEN AND CHEERFULLY!** Be quick to assist with library work, collating, stuffing envelopes, distributing information, organizing, setting up chairs and stands, tearing down performance sets, helping younger students through modeling and mentoring, ushering, moving and packing equipment, and running errands.

Auditions and Practice

BAND AUDITIONS occur each March to determine placement in the Pioneer Band Program for the following school year. The music for these auditions is given to the students by Mr. Leach or to incoming 9th graders by their middle school band directors. New students to Pioneer High School should request a personal audition with Mr. Leach. He also visits the feeder Ann Arbor Middle Schools and conducts auditions each spring for incoming 9th graders.

CHAIR AUDITIONS occur once per year in the fall. All students within various sections (i.e., flutes, clarinets, trumpets, etc.) are given the same music to prepare. This music is also drilled in the classroom. However, perfection of this music can only be accomplished by diligent practice outside of the classroom.

Dates for chair auditions are given well in advance and will be posted on the PBA website. Students sign up for individual times. Symphony Band students generally audition first, usually in early November, followed by Concert and Varsity Bands. Particular dates for auditions for each band are announced in class, and that information will also be placed on the web site www.aapioneerbands.org and in the issues of **PBA NOTES**.

Chair auditions are completed by December, and results are posted in the Band Room when all auditions are complete.

GUIDE TO PROPER PRACTICE:

WHEN TO PRACTICE

- ♪ Stick to a daily routine that student, family, and friends will respect.
- ♪ Approximately the same time every day in 30 minute intervals.
- ♪ At a time when the student is mentally and physically alert.
- ♪ At a time when there are no distractions.

WHERE TO PRACTICE

- ♪ In a place free from TV, cell phone, video games, iPod, other people, etc.
- ♪ In a place that the student can hear himself or herself play. (Like a bathroom!)
- ♪ In a place where the student feels comfortable.

EQUIPMENT

- ♪ A chair with a straight back and no arms. (For good posture)
- ♪ A music stand. (Also for good posture)
- ♪ A mirror. (To view hand, body, and embouchure position)
- ♪ A metronome. (To develop good rhythmic coordination)
- ♪ A cassette, micro or digital recorder. (To hear what he or she *really* sounds like!)

WHAT TO PRACTICE

- ♪ Warm up materials - long tones, lip slurs, scales, etc.
- ♪ Band music - concert music, method book, etc.
- ♪ Private lesson music - assigned by private teacher
- ♪ Solo & Ensemble music
- ♪ Sight-reading - use any music you can find
- ♪ Student music - anything you like, but only after everything else is finished!

“PRACTICE ONLY ON THE DAYS THAT YOU EAT”

Band, Sports, & Physical Conditioning

BAND & SPORTS

For band students who also play sports, there is occasionally a conflict with band, but there are guidelines established so that it is very clear where the student's responsibility lies in the event of time conflicts. Many band students play multiple sports without any problems at all. Pioneer Athletic Department information may be found on the Athletics website: <http://aapioneerathletics.com>.

The [guidelines](#) are available on the Pioneer Athletics website. For example, if a student has a band rehearsal and a game at the same time, the game takes priority. However, if a student has a concert and a game at the same time, the concert takes priority as music is an academic subject and the sport is extracurricular. These conflicts occur rarely and are easily remedied with advance planning.

We ask that students always tell both parties well in advance and remind a day or so before; in writing generally works best.

Communication is the key. Remember that the Pioneer Band Calendar is provided to each student in August. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that his/her coach and Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring know of any potential conflicts.

If your student is ever put into an uncomfortable position between band and sports, please contact Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring immediately via phone or e-mail.

MARCHING BAND VARSITY LETTER HONORS

Students who participate in two seasons of Symphony Marching Band are eligible to receive a Varsity Letter designation.

PRACTICE & PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

The Pioneer Bands play a demanding and varied repertoire. Members are encouraged to maintain a daily instrumental practice regimen to sharpen their technical and musical skills. Scales, flexibility drills, etudes all will increase your ability as an instrumentalist. Band members who practice with intention on a regular basis will succeed.

Marching is a very demanding physical activity, and your success and ability to enjoy the season, both at Band Camp and throughout the fall, depends in a very large way on your pre-season physical condition. To prepare for the physically demanding marching season, it is important to sustain a daily exercise program throughout the summer. Many members find running, biking, swimming, and climbing stairs very helpful.

Private Instructors & Accompanists

As students progress from one band to the next level throughout their high school years, the music and skills required of the Pioneer Band student musician becomes more challenging. Private lessons help Pioneer Bands students to advance their skills and abilities.

For Solo and Ensemble Festival performances, working with an excellent accompanist is an essential part of the student's preparation. *Fees for accompanists vary widely — make sure you know your accompanist's fee structure.*

Contact Mr. Leach if the cost of private lessons or accompaniment is a reason for not participating. The PBA has limited scholarship funds available for families in need.

2015-16 Solo & Ensemble Festivals

The District XII MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) Solo & Ensemble Festival is held each year at Livonia Franklin High School. Pioneer Band students are required to participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. It is a very important part of the curriculum at Pioneer.

FORMS ARE DUE in Late October.

District Solo & Ensemble date is Saturday, January 30, 2016.

The Band Library has a great deal of solo & ensemble music available, or pieces can be chosen with the help of a private teacher. Students are encouraged to put together duets, trios, quartets, and quintets. Mr. Leach is often available by appointment to guide and encourage small ensembles. Soloists and Ensembles should be aware that their music must be prepared and practiced outside of the regular band rehearsal schedule.

This District XII event allows participants to perform before a judge either as an ensemble or a soloist. They receive ratings from "I-V", with "I" being the best. Each event receives written comments from the judge, and medals are awarded to events which receive "I" or "II" ratings.

Each soloist or ensemble must provide the judge with an **original score** (not a photocopy) with each measure numbered, or no rating will be given. If a full score is not published, a condensed score will be accepted. If no score is published, it is the responsibility of the event to make one.

All events must be accompanied if an accompaniment is written, or no rating will be given.

Each student may perform in as many as three events at Solo & Ensemble Festival. The minimum time allowed for each event is two minutes, the maximum is six minutes. Students receiving a "I" Rating at the MSBOA District XII Solo & Ensemble Festival may register for State Solo & Ensemble Festival, held each March at seven different sites across the state of Michigan.

State Solo & Ensemble Festival Date is Saturday March 19, 2016

Tenth through twelfth grade soloists are required to take a Proficiency Examination, including scales and sight-reading. State Festival Registration materials are available to those who qualify after District Festival from Mr. Leach. Soloists and members of traditional ensembles (e.g. woodwind and brass quintet) who excel at the State Festival level are often invited to perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (MYAF) held each May at Western Michigan University. Only 250 out of the more than 80,000 instrumental music students who participate at the district Solo & Ensemble Festival level across the state will be part of the MYAF Honors Band or Orchestra. Pioneer High School sends a large percentage of MYAF members each year.

Outside Performance Opportunities

Following are performance opportunities for our students outside of school or during the summer:

BLUE LAKE FINE ARTS CAMP

300 East Crystal Lake Road, Twin Lake, MI 49457-9592 800/221-3796 800/221-3796, www.bluelake.org
Blue Lake offers two sessions of high school level band, orchestra, and jazz band. Students are grouped by ability, with the more advanced assigned to the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, or Symphony Orchestra. Students receive 5 hours of daily rehearsals, sectionals, and technique classes. Students also have the opportunity to hear professionals as a part of Blue Lake Summer Arts Festival, as well as participate in elective courses.

BLUE LAKE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

300 East Crystal Lake Road, Twin Lake, MI 49457-9592 800/221-3796 www.bluelake.org/int

Blue Lake annually sends six performing groups on concert tours in Europe. After intensive rehearsals at camp, the groups enjoy a three-week tour of Europe, presenting a performance in each community visited and staying in private homes with host families. For more information on auditions, contact the Blue Lake International Exchange Program at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp at the address above.

INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP

P.O. Box 199 Interlochen, MI 49643, (231) 276- 7200 www.interlochen.org

The High School Division is for students who have completed grades 9, 10 11, or 12. Audition requirements are listed, by arts area, in the division's class descriptions. Admission to the High School Division is highly competitive, therefore your early application is recommended. Applications are available online.

MPULSE ANN ARBOR

MPULSE, School of Music 1281 Moore Building, 1100 Baits Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2085 phone: 936-2660 http://www.music.umich.edu/special_programs/youth/mpulse/.

MPulse Ann Arbor provides an opportunity for young musicians and performing artists to gain exposure to the rigorous training provided by the University of Michigan School of Music. Designed for students who are considering studying music, dance, or musical theatre in college, the program gives students the opportunity to work with distinguished University of Michigan faculty and alumni while experiencing campus life in Ann Arbor.

Outside Performance Opportunities (Cont.)

MICHIGAN YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Michigan Youth Office, School of Music, 1281 Moore Building, 1100 Baits Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2085 734-763-1279, http://www.music.umich.edu/special_programs/youth/mye/MYEgeneralguidelines.htm.

The University of Michigan School of Music's brings together over 350 select musicians in five ensembles providing participants with the opportunity to work with notable conductors, rehearse in a university setting, and perform in the world-renowned Hill Auditorium. Students audition in April in Ann Arbor for participation in one of the band, orchestra, choir or jazz ensembles: All rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons (September - November and January - March) and the ensembles give two performances during the year (November and March).

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CIVIC YOUTH ENSEMBLES

3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201, 313-576-5164, civic@dso.org

The Civic Orchestras offer world-class training and performance opportunities for students of all ability levels-from elementary school to college graduate students. The Civic Jazz Ensembles, a national leader in jazz education, provide students with big band and improvisational training under the guidance of world-renowned jazz artists. All members of the Civic Youth Ensembles benefit from one-on-one interaction with DSO musicians, conductors and staff; opportunities to work with and perform with internationally renowned artists; and perform in the state of the art facilities of the Max M. Fisher Music Center-including historic Orchestra Hall and the Jacob Bernard Pincus Music Education Center. Auditions take place every spring at the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

MICHIGAN YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

Epic Center, Suite 203 359 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 Phone: (269) 342-1400 Fax: (269) 342-6531 <http://www.michiganyoutharts.org/>.

Soloists and members of traditional ensembles (e.g. woodwind and brass quintet) who excel at the State Festival level can be invited to perform at the Michigan Week Youth Arts Festival (YAF) held each May at Western Michigan University. Only 250 out of the more than 80,000 instrumental students who participate at the district level are part of the YAF Honors Band or Orchestra, and Pioneer High School sends a large percentage of members each year. The very highest scoring soloists are recommended by their State judges to audition to play with orchestral accompaniment at the YAF. These soloists are required to play a concerto at State Festival. The Soloist Auditions take place in early April on the campus of Western Michigan University.

The Pioneer Band Association

Pioneer Band Association Committees provide annual support to a myriad of **Pioneer Bands** activities. The list below encapsulates a year of our association's activities. ***WE ARE ONLY AS SUCCESSFUL AS OUR PBA MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO HELP.*** We ask that you support your student musician by taking an active role in the PBA. Your help will ensure that the Pioneer Bands retain a quality program standard.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS OF THE PIONEER BAND ASSOCIATION):

The PBA is managed and controlled by the Board of Directors.

- ♪ **PRESIDENT:** The President is the principal executive officer of the PBA and supervises and controls all aspects of the Association, including leading monthly meetings, etc.
- ♪ **VICE PRESIDENTS (2):** The Vice Presidents perform the duties of the President if the President is unable to do so. The Vice Presidents recruit Chairs for Band Events such as Picnic Pops, Band Festival, and Marching Escort. Vice Presidents also welcome new families each year at Band Camp and by hosting the Band Picnic in September.
- ♪ **COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY:** The Communications Secretary prepares and sends communications to PBA families and students, manages email lists, and performs all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties that may be assigned by the Board or the President.
- ♪ **RECORDING SECRETARY:** The Recording Secretary keeps the minutes of General Meetings and of the Board of Directors and performs all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties that may be assigned by the Board or the President.
- ♪ **TREASURERS (2):** The Treasurers are responsible for all funds and securities of the PBA, receives and gives receipts for money payable to the PBA, and manages the deposit and dispersal of Association Funds, and prepare and file taxes for PBA.

PBA Volunteer Opportunities

Pioneer Band Association VPs recruit event Chairs who then recruit Volunteers as needed and run a myriad of Pioneer Bands activities. The VPs help in providing Chairs with lists of potential volunteers.

(Chairs and Volunteers needed annually):

ADVOCACY: works on outreach programs to our feeder schools, community and alumni relations, and issues related to the school district.

- ♪ **HISTORY ARCHIVES/DISPLAY** (as needed) The Pioneer Bands are rich in history and tradition, and the Archives/Display coordinator works to ensure that items like programs, posters of events, etc. are protected for the future..
- ♪ **INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION:** (late March) The Pioneer Bands hold an orientation meeting for incoming 9th grade students and families. The Coordinator is responsible for preparing a flyer for the 8th grade **BAND** students. The Coordinator works with the Director of Bands to get student speakers for the event, and works with the President, Communications Secretary & Band Camp Coordinator, to get camp registration materials, the Band Handbook, and any other forms necessary to our new families ready for that meeting.

PBA Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

PBA NOTES NEWSLETTER EDITORS: The *PBA Notes* is the Association's bi-monthly newsletter. The **EDITORS** are responsible for gathering information from the Directors of Bands, the Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs; for layout; and for sending it to our webmaster for posting in newsletter form on our website.

ENRICHMENT: works on the social and performance activities of the bands.

- ♪ **BAND REGISTRATION:** (June-August) The Band Registration Chair produces the information emails for the band members of the next school year, sets up the August Band Registration Day, and ensures a smooth experience for band students and families. The Registration Chair has a team of registration volunteers to help run the day.
- ♪ **BAND CAMP SUNDAY AT INTERLOCHEN:** (June-August) VPs host The Band Camp Sunday at Interlochen by setting up the PBA Welcome Table at the Band Camp Sunday Concert, gathering any handouts or information to be distributed to PBA members and working with the Apparel Sale Chair to ensure he or she has what is needed to begin sales at the event. A small group of volunteers (3-4) are needed to help man the information table.
- ♪ **BANDQUET & AWARDS NIGHT:** (February-May) The Bandquet & Awards Night Chair coordinates all aspects of the annual Band Bandquet & Awards Night, held annually in the Spring. The chair oversees the following: reserving of the Pioneer cafeteria; sending out of informational flyers and VIP invitations; getting band families' RSVP reservations and fees; ordering awards (with Directors of Bands); getting printed programs; ordering flowers for the seniors; getting volunteers to help set up decorations and clean up space at the end of the evening. A large Bandquet Committee is needed to make it all happen!
- ♪ **BOWLING PARTY:** (October-December) The Bowling Party Chair coordinates all aspects of the annual Band Bowling Party, usually held in early December as a study break for our students. The chair is responsible for reserving the bowling alley, student sign ups, ordering food, and providing chaperones for the event. 4-6 volunteers are needed for check in and chaperone duties.
- ♪ **BAND HANDBOOK EDITOR:** (June-August) The Band Handbook is produced each year for publication early in the fall. The Editor works with the Director of Bands and the PBA Board of Directors to update the book with current and pertinent information for our families.
- ♪ **BAND PICNIC:** (August-September) The PBA's annual Band Picnic is held on a non-UM Football Home Game Saturday in September. The VPs host this event on the Pioneer lawn. Volunteers are needed to provide food and work the event.
- ♪ **EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY:** PBA members are encouraged to photograph PBA events and Pioneer Bands performances. The photos are collected by our webmaster and posted on our website. webmaster@aapioneerbands.org
- ♪ **MARCHING BAND ESCORT:** (Fall Home Football Games) The Pioneer Marching Band marches through the Pioneer parking lot before and after Pioneer Football games at Hollway Field, crossing busy intersections (especially on UM Football Friday nights, when the parking lot becomes a campground for college football fans). Our Marching Band Escort team protects our students by stopping traffic. The Chair signs up the volunteers for each game, and manages the stop signs & reflective vests required to keep our bands safe!
- ♪ **MARCHING BAND HYDRATION:** (Fall Home Football Game weeks – usually about 4 pm on Wednesdays & Thursdays) *SB parents*. The Pioneer Marching Band has two afternoon rehearsals during each home game week. Especially in early fall, the temperature can be daunting, and the students rehearse from 3:30 - 5:30 pm after a full day of school. The Hydration Team provides cold water and sometimes a snack to our marching band students.

PBA Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

(CHAIRS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ANNUALLY):

- ♪ **SENIOR CLASS ACTIVITIES:** (September, March & June) The Senior Class Activities Chair gathers senior student information for our Pioneer OMEGA Yearbook Ad, invites seniors and their parents/guardians to Senior Recognition Night at a home football game (usually on the night that Concert & Symphony Band perform together), coordinates a group photo, taken either at Bands In Review, and coordinates the senior slideshow for the Pioneer Bandquet and for a special end of the year gift.
- ♪ **TOUR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:** (as needed) When the Pioneer Bands travel to a national or international music festival, an organizing committee is a requirement. The Tour Coordinators gather chaperones, student health & safety forms, collect and monitor tour payments, etc., all in coordination with the Director of Bands. This is usually an “every-other-year” job, but sometimes it takes two years to plan a tour!
- ♪ **UNIFORM TEAM:** (All Year) The Pioneer Bands look great at each and every performance due to the diligent efforts of our UNIFORM TEAM. Team members prepare forms for registration, assign uniforms to each student based on size, pull, sort and manage care, cleaning and repair of marching and concert uniforms with all the requisite pieces from spats to bow ties for over 375 students, and do it really well.

FUNDING: works on developing the fundraising and endowment programs of the association.

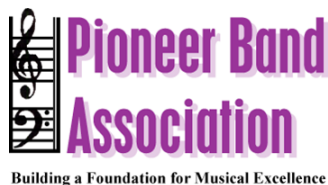
- ♪ **FUNDRAISING CHAIR:** The Fundraiser Chair with a small committee helps set fundraising goals for each event, maximize the success of each fundraiser, and make decisions about adding new fundraisers and/or "retiring" outdated ones.
- ♪ **APPAREL SALES:** The Apparel Sales Chair works with vendors to provide Pioneer Bands logo clothing to our students. Sales typically begin on Band Camp Sunday at Interlochen, and continue through the early fall (August-December). The Chair produces the forms, collects the money, orders and catalogues inventory, and distributes the orders. The chair needs volunteers to help with the process and distribution.
- ♪ **DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL:** (January-March) The PBA hosts the MSBOA District XII Band Festival held each March at Pioneer High School. The Band Festival Chairs provide a breakfast as well as a classy luncheon for the festival judges and directors. A large group of volunteers is needed to make this happen!
- ♪ **BAND GALA:** (All Year) The Chair recruits a Committee to run PBA’s largest fundraising event each March. The Pioneer Bands Gala is held at Zingerman’s Roadhouse and features Student Talent from every Pioneer Band!
- ♪ **CAR WASH:** (Spring) Our annual Car Wash Fundraiser is an “all hands” one day event. The Car Wash Chair is responsible for all aspects of the car wash from notifying the city to get the water permit, to gathering all items necessary for the event. A student chair handles speaking to the students in the classroom about getting lots and lots of pledges, and gathering volunteers to work each shift. EVERY PBA MEMBER IS NEEDED TO MAKE CAR WASH HAPPEN!
- ♪ **PICNIC POPS:** (All year) our annual mid-May “picnic on the front lawn” features “Big Top” performances by all AAPS middle school and high school bands. The Picnic Pops Chairs are responsible for all Picnic Pops Committees, including food, games, volunteers, sound system, performances, equipment rentals, permits, etc. A HUGE list of volunteers is required to make this happen!
- ♪ **PTO THRIFT SHOP LIAISON:** (All year) The PBA PTO Thrift Shop Liaison communicates information to the members of the PBA about opportunities for fundraising through the PTO Thrift Shop.

Financial Information for Pioneer Band Families



The Band Program at Pioneer High School is an offering of the Ann Arbor Public Schools

Research continually demonstrates that music students on average perform at the highest academic levels. Our goal is to ensure that *all students* are able to participate in the highest quality educational experience. **Your tax dollars** and additional public funding pay for directors' salaries, uniforms and a budgeted amount for music and equipment.



The Vital Role of the Pioneer Band Association

The Pioneer Band Association (PBA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide financial and physical support to the directors, students and families of the Pioneer Band Program. Our purpose is to promote and enhance the quality of the total band experience for all. To achieve these goals, the PBA pledges to (1) support the band program with supplemental financial aid and with the donation of volunteer time and talents; (2) encourage excellence in musicianship; (3) encourage and nurture the social growth and friendships of both students and parents; and (4) work to foster responsibility, pride, school spirit and good sportsmanship. PBA is a conduit for funding and facilitating the many activities and opportunities that supplement the classroom activities of this robust program. Your participation through the PBA fees, fundraising, and volunteer activities is necessary to provide our students with the quality program that makes the Pioneer Bands an award winning educational experience.

PBA is a Volunteer Organization

Our regular membership is open to all current band member students and parents, with associate and honorary memberships available to alumni and community patrons. Our leadership is provided by an executive board of elected officers drawn from our regular membership, as well as committee chairs and activity leaders. Participation in monthly meetings and volunteering of your time and resources is crucial to our success as a booster club. PBA covers many expenses and provides reimbursements.

Your participation as volunteer.....PRICELESS

PBA Fee

The Pioneer Band Association incurs many fixed costs throughout the year for items not covered by the Ann Arbor Public Schools, including uniform cleaning, communications (printing, postage, website hosting, credit card services) and other administrative expenses. We assess an annual membership fee per student to help offset these costs.

PBA Fee, per student.....\$35.00

Note: amounts listed are as of the 2015-16 school year and are subject to change

Program Activities and Costs

BAND CAMP is a special week each August which helps students prepare for the upcoming concert and marching seasons, cements friendships, and offers incoming students a priceless welcome to the Pioneer High School community. Fee includes transportation, lodging, meals, and a band camp t-shirt.

BAND CAMP FEE\$375.00 (2015-16 COST; DETERMINED EACH YEAR)

SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL helps students enhance their musical abilities, gives them a chance to be individually adjudicated and to grow in life skills. Fees are dependent upon the size of ensemble and are typically \$8 per student per ensemble. Percussion, piano and State Proficiency exams cost a bit more.

DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL (JANUARY)PER SOLO, \$10.00; PIANO, \$20.00
 PER STUDENT, PER ENSEMBLE, \$8.00

State Solo & Ensemble Festival

..... (MARCH) PER SOLO (9TH GRADE), \$15.00; PERCUSSION OR PIANO \$25.00
 PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION (10TH-12TH GRADE), \$21.00
 PER STUDENT, PER ENSEMBLE, \$9.00

ACCOMPANIST FEES (VARIES BY ACCOMPANIST AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE) \$25.00-\$125.00

BANDS IN REVIEW is our annual concert in March showcasing all the AAPS bands. Band students are expected to sell tickets to support our music programs and showcase our program to the community.

Symphony and Concert Band students

.....(ONE \$10 FAMILY TICKET; TWO \$5 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS) \$20.00

Varsity Band students

.....(ONE \$10 FAMILY TICKET; ONE \$5 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS) \$15.00

PICNIC POPS (May) is our annual spring ice cream social and community concert held on the front lawn of Pioneer High School, showcasing the Ann Arbor Public School Bands.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (POP, CAKE, ETC.)APPROX. \$5.00

Social Activities

BAND PICNIC (September) allows our Pioneer Band families to meet, eat, and play as we start the new school year.

BAND PICNIC, FAMILY CONTRIBUTION **DISH TO PASS**

BOWLING PARTY (December) is a fun-filled event for band students to kick off the second half of the year! (Free for Varsity Band Students)

BOWLING PARTY (STUDENT CONTRIBUTION)\$10.00

BANDQUET (May) celebrates our band students, our seniors, and our band families!

BAND BANQUET, ADULT/STUDENT TICKET\$13.00

BAND BANQUET, CHILD TICKET (AGE 10 & UNDER)\$8.00

SPIRIT APPAREL with Pioneer Bands embroidery or imprint, available all year

Apparel Items, variety available..... \$5.00-\$35.00

NOTE: AMOUNTS LISTED ARE AS OF THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Special Activities

BI-ANNUAL SPRING TOUR (2015-16 will be a tour year) combines travel and concert experiences outside of our regular program activities for our Symphony, Concert and Jazz Band students. During a tour year, regular payments toward a student’s tour expenses are added to financial expectations for Pioneer Band families. Payment dates are indicated on the calendar, and additional fundraisers are often scheduled to ease the financial burden on families. Tour fees vary depending on tour destination, itineraries, transportation requirements, and length of tour.

Spring Tour Fee, per student.....**\$1,000 - \$3,000**

Fundraising Activities

Fundraising is a critical component of our mission. Funds are solicited from band families, friends, patrons, merchants and the community at large through our fundraising activities and our website. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, donations are tax-deductible. (For goods or services purchased, such as those at the Band Gala & Auction, the deductible portion is only that amount that exceeds the fair market value of the goods or services received.) Band students and their families are expected to support the fundraising efforts of the PBA each school year through direct and indirect fundraising activities.

ANNUAL DIRECT FUNDRAISING EXPECTATION, per family.....**\$100.00**

The direct fundraising expectation can be met through participation in the **various fundraising activities** listed below, others that may be offered, or by making a **GENERAL CASH DONATION**.

CAR WASH (Spring) is our annual wet event held in the Pioneer parking lot. Students solicit pledges from friends, relatives and neighbors for an amount per car washed by the students. All students are expected to help wash and dry cars on the day of the Car Wash. While the Car Wash is free to the community, bucket donations are accepted from those having their cars washed.

Typical Pledges are .05 to .25 per car, with 400-500 cars washed..... **\$20.00 to \$125.00**

POPCORN SALE (Fall) The candy sale is a fun and easy way to raise money for our band!
The PBA asks all band students to participate by selling 10 bags of popcorn.

Fundraising credit.....**TBD**

PTO THRIFT SHOP (Open year round) allows Ann Arbor Public School students to earn money for the Pioneer Band Program by volunteering for “Music & Munchies”, donation drives and other special activities. Monies earned by Pioneer Band students at the PTO Thrift Shop will be used to support band activities for the benefit of every band student.

PTO Thrift Shop earnings designated to the PBA General Fund

BAND FESTIVAL CONCESSIONS (March) sells food and drinks, at a profit, to visiting band students and families when Pioneer hosts the MSBOA District Band Festival.

Suggested family contribution towards purchase of foodstuffs.....approx. **\$5.00**

BAND GALA (March) is an amazing evening of entertainment, fun, and music. *All band families are asked to sell (or buy) two tickets to the Band Gala.*

Band Gala Tickets**price TBD**

Note: amounts listed are as of the 2015-16 school year and are subject to change

Scholarship Programs

Our goal is to make it possible for each and every band student to fully participate in the Pioneer Band Program. Knowing that the financial burden is difficult for some families, the PBA annually provides scholarships for Pioneer students for band camp tuition, travel, and many other band related expenses, based on need.

If payments of any kind ever become difficult, we strongly encourage band families to speak confidentially to the Director of Bands. Financial assistance and scholarships may be available.

Our Scholarship Committee reviews applications carefully and awards scholarships based on need and funds available. Scholarship Application Forms are available from the Director of Bands, in the band room, and online at <http://www.aapioneerbands.org>.

- ♪ **Band Camp Scholarships** provide credits toward the Band Camp fee.
- ♪ **General Assistance Scholarships** provide credits toward program activities.
- ♪ **Robert Albritton Scholarship** is a cash award given annually to a deserving band student who will be returning to the band program. Through generous donations from band alumni, students, and families and matching funds from the Pioneer Band Association, an endowment fund in Albritton's honor was established with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. The scholarship must be used for an outside music camp or program experience.

Student Accounts

The Pioneer Band Association has a bookkeeping system in place to track student and family fees, payments, and contributions. Statements are always available upon request.

Payments may be made by cash, check (payable to *Pioneer Band Association*), or credit/debit card (Visa or MasterCard). You will be billed for the costs associated with each check returned by your bank.

Some fees are invoiced via e-mail. These invoices may be paid online through our secure banking connection, or through the mail, or by sending payment into the band room office with your student.

Payments may be mailed to:

Pioneer Band Association
601 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Payments should be clearly identified with the student's name and the activity the payment should be applied to. A **Payment Form** should accompany payments not made online whenever possible. Payment forms are available in the band room and online.

Please direct any questions regarding your student's account to the PBA Treasurers at treasurer@aapioneerbands.org

Pioneer Bands Centennial

In 1913, Tom Black was hired as the first full-time director of the Ann Arbor High School Orchestra, marking the first time an instrumental program was led by a teacher at Ann Arbor High School. One year later, Black began to teach high school band as well. That makes 1914 the beginning of the Band Program, and that made the 2013-2014 school year the 100th anniversary of the Ann Arbor High School Band Program.

The Ann Arbor Pioneer Band Program has been led by a succession of exemplary directors, including George Bowen, Nicholas Falcone, Joseph Maddy, William Champion, E. Rollin Silfies, Charles M. Yates, Clarence Roth, Emil Holz, John Jenkins, Victor Bordo, Myles A. Mazur, Robert Albritton, and David Leach. Countless numbers of students have participated in the band program, and all hold a special place in their hearts for their band experience. For over 90 years, the band program has provided memorable concert performances, achieved the highest accolades, traveled across the nation and around the world to China, Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary, and provided students with life-changing experiences and wonderful memories.

Because of those who started this program and because of those who followed, we celebrated a heritage of musical excellence. The Ann Arbor Bands Centennial Concert was held on Thursday, May 29th at Hill Auditorium, and featured performances by Ann Arbor's own:

- ♪ The Huron, Pioneer and Skyline High School Symphony Bands
- ♪ The Community High School Jazz Ensemble
- ♪ The All-City Centennial Band, featuring top musicians from every school.

The program included the World Premiere of VULCAN, by GRAMMY award-winning composer Michael Daugherty. VULCAN was commissioned by Huron, Pioneer, and Skyline Band Associations and was performed by the All-City Centennial Band.

Pioneer Symphony Band performed And Though We Wander, commissioned by David A. Leach and the Pioneer Band Association, Inc., with financial support given in memory of Pioneer Band alumna Lisa Tubbs. Written in honor of the centennial celebration, And Though We Wander is composed by John W. Stout and uses the musical motifs and material from Ann Arbor High School's Alma Mater The Purple and White, music by Earl V. Moore (for whom the University of Michigan's School of Music building is named), and the school song Push On, also penned by Moore and arranged by famous U-M musical alumnus Jerry Bilik. Actually, And Though We Wander got its inspiration from another famous Bilik work, Victors Valiant, which uses musical motifs from two other familiar tunes often heard throughout Ann Arbor each fall, namely, The Victors and The Yellow and the Blue.

STORIES AND PHOTOS ARE REQUESTED. The story of the Ann Arbor Pioneer Band Program cannot be told by just one person. It is the combination of memories of band camp, band room, concert halls, and tours. It is the impact of relationships between students and their directors, their fellow band members, and family members. It is the story of how individuals and ensembles strived for excellence. As you go through your four years in the Pioneer Bands, students and their families are invited to submit your part of the story to The Centennial Project. Write down your reflections; share your photographs, especially those that show favorite friendships, traditions, and lasting impressions.

2015-16 FAMILY PARTICIPATION:

The Year at a Glance

See the Pioneer Bands Calendar for specific dates and times.

JULY/AUGUST:

- ♪ Students should be practicing and exercising regularly to ensure the student's instrument and body are ready for lots of rehearsing and marching at band camp.
- ♪ All students & parents attend **Pioneer Band Registration** in order to turn in paperwork needed for the school year and to pick up important band calendar information.
- ♪ Parents & families are encouraged to attend **Band Camp Sunday Concert at Interlochen**.

SEPTEMBER:

- ♪ Symphony Band members pick up marching uniforms the first week of school.
- ♪ Parents are especially encouraged to attend the **September Pioneer Band Association (PBA) meeting**.
- ♪ All students & families are encouraged to attend Pioneer football games to watch and cheer the Marching Band (and the team, too!). **See Calendar for dates**.
- ♪ Parents help with traffic control to be sure the Marching Band gets to and from Hollway Field safely.
- ♪ All students and families are invited to attend the annual **Band Family Picnic** on the Pioneer lawn to meet others and socialize in an informal setting.

OCTOBER:

- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ All students begin to prepare for District XII Solo and Ensemble Festival by identifying ensemble groups, music, and accompanist.
- ♪ Families are asked to participate in the Popcorn Sale fundraiser.
- ♪ Concert Band members pick up marching uniforms.

OCTOBER – CONT.:

- ♪ Seniors and their parents attend the combined **Symphony & Concert Band Marching performance for Senior Recognition Night**.
- ♪ All students are **required** to register for and participate in District Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- ♪ All Concert Band marching uniforms are returned at the end of their game performance.
- ♪ Symphony Band Marching Band uniforms are turned in at the end of the football season

NOVEMBER:

- ♪ All students audition for chair placement within their respective ensembles. Concert season chair placement lists are posted when all auditions are completed.
- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Senior Students apply to audition for Concerto Concert.

DECEMBER:

- ♪ Symphony Band, Concert Band and Varsity Band members receive their concert uniforms.
- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Students attend the Band Bowling Party.
- ♪ All students and families participate in or are invited to attend Winter Concert (Varsity, Concert, Symphony and Jazz Bands) in Schreiber Auditorium.
- ♪ Pioneer Band Gala Planning is in full swing

JANUARY:

- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Students and families are invited to attend the Jazz Band Concert.

IMPORTANT: OUR CALENDAR IS ON OUR [WEBSITE](#). CHANGES CAN OCCUR SO CHECK REGULARLY, WATCH OUR NEWSLETTER AND LISTEN FOR CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015-16 PBA FAMILY PARTICIPATION

JANUARY (CONTINUED):

- ♪ Students participate in District XII Solo and Ensemble Festival, at Livonia Franklin High School. Performance times and room assignments will be posted in the band room.
- ♪ End of Semester Final Exams for students.

FEBRUARY:

- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ Auditions for Pioneer Bands placements for the 2015-16 school year begin.

MARCH:

- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Symphony and Concert Band students and families participate in MSBOA District Band Festival (usually held at Pioneer High School.)
- ♪ Parents volunteer to assist at the MSBOA District Band Festival concession stand/fundraiser.
- ♪ Parents and Community Members are encouraged to attend the amazing **Pioneer Band Gala**.
- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ Symphony and Concert Band students attend special evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Students and families participate in **State Solo and Ensemble Festival**, if applicable. Performance Times are posted 1-2 weeks before festival.
- ♪ All students and families participate in **Bands In Review Concerts** (This event also includes other Ann Arbor High School and Middle School bands.)
- ♪ Orchestra Wind Students and Senior Soloists participate in and families attend the Concerto Concert.

APRIL:

- ♪ Students attend evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ Parents are encouraged to attend the PBA ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS.
- ♪ On alternate years, the Symphony and Concert bands may participate in festivals or tours outside of Ann Arbor. In the past decade the bands have traveled to Orlando, Chicago, Toronto, New York, and other major cities—and traveled to China, and Austria & Germany! There are additional fees and additional fund raising requirements during tour years. **2016 IS A TOUR YEAR.**
- ♪ Audition results and band placements for the 2015-16 school year are posted.
- ♪ All students and families are encouraged to attend the Bandquet & Awards Night. Parent volunteers are also needed.



MAY:

- ♪ Students attend special evening band rehearsals, as scheduled.
- ♪ All students and parent volunteers participate in the **Car Wash fundraiser**.
- ♪ Register for summer Band Camp and pay fees.
- ♪ All students and families participate in and attend **Picnic Pops**. This event also includes other Ann Arbor High School and Middle School bands and orchestras. Parent volunteers are also needed for fundraising activities.
- ♪ Jazz Band students participate in the Jazz Band Summit.

JUNE:

- ♪ Senior Luncheon for graduating senior students.
- ♪ Parents are invited to attend the PBA meeting.
- ♪ End of school year – final exams for students.
- ♪ Symphony Band performs for Commencement Ceremonies every other year (odd-numbered years)

IMPORTANT: OUR CALENDAR IS ON OUR [WEBSITE](#). CHANGES CAN OCCUR SO CHECK REGULARLY, WATCH OUR NEWSLETTER AND LISTEN FOR CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS.



The Finale

2015-16 PIONEER BANDS CONTACT INFORMATION

DIRECTOR OF BANDS

David A. Leach

Pioneer High School
601 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-996-3210
director@aapioneerbands.org
Fax: (734) 997-1248

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Nancy Waring

Pioneer High School
601 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-996-3210
asstdirector@aapioneerbands.org

WEBSITE

www.aapioneerbands.org

PBA E-MAIL CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

aapioneerbands@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

vicepresident@aapioneerbands.org

TREASURER

treasurer@aapioneerbands.org

SECRETARY

secretary@aapioneerbands.org

NEWSLETTER

newsletter@aapioneerbands.org

WEBMASTER

webmaster@aapioneerbands.org

2015-16 PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL CONTACTS:

**AAPS SCHOOL CLOSING HOTLINE:
994-8684**

Pioneer Website

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/pioneer.home> (links to departments, staff, calendars, etc.)

Athletic Department Website

<http://aapioneerathletics.com>

AAPS Website

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/aaps.home>

AAPS Transportation Information 994-2330

***Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA)
Information 996-0400***

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OFFICEPHONE

Athletic Director	994-2151
Attendance Office	994-2135
Band Office	996-3210
Book Depository	994-2186
Building Services/Rentals	994-1905x527
<i>Mysti Plummer (leave a message)</i>	
Career Center	994-2116
Choir Office	994-2189
Counseling (9, 10, 11, 12)	994-4434
Food Services/Chartwells	994-2265
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INDEX

Advocacy Committee.....	25	Blue Lake International Exchange Program	23
Albritton Scholarship.....	18	Bowling Party.....	16
Alma Mater	41	Bowling Party Committee.....	26
Alumni Band Reunion Committee.....	25	Calendar	10
Apparel Sale Committee.....	27	Car Wash	34
April Events	35	Car Wash Committee.....	28
Armstrong Award.....	18	Chair Auditions.....	20
Associate Director of Bands	4	Classroom Activities	14
Auditions.....	6, 20	Committee Activities	25
Auditions and Practice	20	Communication and Information Sharing	11
Awards		Concert Award.....	18
Albritton Music Award.....	18	Concert Band	12, 35
Armstrong Award.....	18	Concerto Concert.....	35
Best New Marcher Award.....	18	Concerts	14
Best New Musician Award.....	18	David A. Leach	3
Best Old Marcher Award.....	18	Deadlines	7
Best Old Musician Award.....	18	December Events.....	34
Concert Award.....	18	Director of Bands	4
Gilmore Award.....	18	DIRECTORS.....	3
Herman Award.....	18	Directory	11
Marching Band Varsity Honors.....	21	District Band Festival	14
Sousa Award.....	18	Drum Major.....	17
Symphony Award.....	18	Drum Major Auditions.....	13
Varsity Award.....	18	E-Mail	11
Awards & Honors for Band Students	18	Enrichment Committee.....	26
Band & Sports.....	21	Enrollment Form	7
Band Calendar.....	3, 10	Evening Rehearsals.....	35
Band Camp.....	6, 13, 16	Event Photography/Videography Committee.....	26
Counselors.....	13	Family Participation.....	34
Deadlines	7	April Events	35
Drum Major Auditions.....	13	December Events.....	34
Enrollment Form	7	February Events	35
Sunday Concert	34	July/August Events.....	34
Band Camp Health Information Form	7	June Events	35
Band Camp Sunday.....	17, 26, 27	March Events	35
Band Camp Sunday Committee.....	26	May Events	35
Band Festival Concessions Committee.....	28	November Events	34
Band Gala & Auction Committee.....	28	September Events.....	34
Band Librarian.....	17	February Events	35
Band Parents.....	3	Fight Song	41
Band Picnic.....	16	Final Exams.....	35
Band Picnic Committee.....	26	Flag Captain.....	17
Band President.....	17	Food Concession Merchandise Sales Committee... 28	
Band Registration.....	6, 35	Football Games.....	34
Band Registration Committee.....	26	Form	
Band Registration Day	6	Band Camp Enrollment	7
Band Secretary.....	17	Band Registration Form	7
BAND TOURS & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES	15	Health Information	7
Band Treasurer.....	17	School Instrument Card	7
Band, Sports & Physical Conditioning.....	21	Freshmen	
Bandquet & Awards Night Committee.....	26	Auditions.....	12, 20
Bands In Review.....	14, 35	Auditions.....	6
Best New Marcher Award.....	18	FUNDING COMMITTEE	27, 28
Best New Musician Award.....	18	Fundraising Activities	25, 29
Best Old Marcher Award.....	18	Picnic Pops.....	29
Best Old Musician Award.....	18		
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	23		

Gilmore Award	18
GRAMMY Award	5
GRAMMY Signature School.....	5
Guide to Proper Practice	20
Handbook Committee	26
Herman Award.....	18
History/Archives Display Committee	25
Hospitality Committee	27
Hydration Team Committee	27
Incoming 9th Grade Families	6
Incoming 9th Grade Opportunities	6
Instrument Needs	8
Instruments Provided	8
Integrity.....	19
Interlochen Center for the Arts	23
Jazz Band	12, 35
July/August Events	34
June Events	35
Leach, David A.	3, 6, 7, 8, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24
Librarian	17
March Events	35
Marching Band	12, 14
physical conditioning	21
Physical Education Waiver	21
Traffic Control Volunteers	34
Varsity Honors	21
Marching Band Committee.....	17
Marching Band Escort Committee.....	26
Marching Band Hydration Committee.....	27
May Events	35
Meetings	
PBA.....	11
Member Opportunities	3
Michigan Week Youth Arts Festival	24
Michigan Youth Ensembles	24
MSBOA District Band Festival	15
<i>Nancy Waring</i>	4
Newsletter	11
Newsletter Editor/Production Team Committee	26
November Events	34
Orientation	
9th Grade Families	6
Outside Performance Opportunities	23
All State Program at Interlochen.....	23
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	23
Blue Lake International Exchange Program	23
Interlochen	23
Michigan Week Youth Arts Festival.....	24
Michigan Youth Ensembles	24
Parents.....	3
PBA.....	5
Committees	
Advocacy	25
Alumni Band Reunion	25
Apparel Sale	27
Band Camp Sunday	26
Band Festival Concessions	28
Band Gala & Auction	28
Band Picnic	26

Band Registration	26
Bandquet & Awards Night	26
Bowling Party	26
Car Wash	28
Enrichment	26
Event Photography/Videography	26
Event Set Up/Take Down	26
Food Concession Merchandise Sales	28
Funding	27, 28
Handbook Production	26
History/Archives Display	25
Marching Band Escort	26
Marching Band Hospitality	27
Marching Band Hydration Team	27
Newsletter Editor/Production Team	26
Picnic Pops	28
Recordings & CD Distribution	28
Refreshments and Food Preparation	27
Senior Class Activities	27
Tour Organization	27
Uniform Team	27
Meeting	11, 35
Meetings.....	34
Officers.....	25
President	25
Secretary	25
Treasurer	25
PBA Notes	11, 26
PBA Officers.....	25
PBA President.....	25
PBA Secretary.....	25
PBA Treasurer	25
Performance Activities	14
Personal Responsibility and Accountability	19
Physical Conditioning.....	21
Physical Education Waiver	21
Picnic Pops	14, 16, 35
Pioneer Band Association	5, 9, 10, 15, 34
Directory	11
E-mail	11
Meetings.....	11
Newsletter	11
Pioneer Band Association Mission	5, 29
Pioneer Band Association Website	11
Pioneer Band Registration Form	7
Pioneer Bands	
Concert Band	12
Jazz Band	12
Marching Band.....	12
Symphony Band	12
Varsity Band	12
Pioneer High School Bands	12
pioneerband.org	11
Practice.....	3, 20
Practice & Physical Conditioning	21
President.....	17
Private Instruction & Accompanists	22
Punctuality and Preparation	19

Purple and White – PHS Alma Mater	41
Push On – PHS Fight Song	41
Recordings & CD Distribution Committee.....	28
Refreshments and Food Preparation Committee.....	27
Registration	
Band Camp Enrollment Form	7
Band Registration Day	6
Band Registration Form	7
Health Information Form	7
Procedure	7
School Instrument Card	7
Respect	19
Scholarships	18
School Instrument Card	7
Secretary	17
Section Leacer.....	17
Senior Class Activities Committee	27
Senior Luncheon	16
September Events	34
Social Activities.....	16
Band Bandquet.....	16
Band Camp.....	16
Band Picnic	16
Bowling Party	16
Picnic Pops.....	16
Senior Luncheon	16
Solo & Ensemble	
Music.....	22
Ratings	22
Rules & Requirements	22
State Festival.....	35
Solo & Ensemble Festival.....	14, 22, 34, 35
Sousa Award.....	18
State Solo & Ensemble Festival.....	14
Student Expectations and Responsibilities	19
Student Leadership	17
Band Librarian	17
Band President	17
Band Secretary	17
Band Treasurer.....	17
Drum Major.....	17
Flag Captain	17
Marching Band Committee	17
Section Leader.....	17
Symphony Award	18
Symphony Band	12, 34
Physical Education Waiver	21

Table of Contents	2
Tour Organizing Committee	27
Transitional Issues From	
Middle School to High School	6
TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES	35
Treasurer	17
Uniform Team Committee	27
Uniforms	9
Marching Band.....	34
Varsity Award.....	18
Varsity Band	12
Volunteerism and Work Ethic.....	19
Waring, Nancy.	3, 4, 7, 21, 36
Website	11
Welcome from the Band Directors.....	3

Visit our Website!



Pioneer High School Bands
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN U.S.A.



The 2011 National
GRAMMY
Signature School

ABOUT 2011 - 2012 *for STUDENTS* *for VISITORS* P B A HISTORY CONTACT



CALENDAR

Today

Sunday, September 25
10:00am Car Wash

Monday, October 3
All-State MSBOA appss due to S

Tuesday, October 4
7:30pm PBA Meeting

Wednesday, October 5
Early Release Day

Wednesday, October 12
3:30pm Marching Drill

Thursday, October 12

WHAT'S NEW

Band members: vote for your choice

Domain

www.aapioneerbands.org

Visit often! Bookmark us today!

Design

We're visitor friendly; friends and alumni are treated as guests. Current families will find easy navigation, lots of links, more information, and more forms.

Possibilities

We'll have better ways to solicit support for our program from friends and alumni. We'll always be up-to-date, plus offer a better look back at the past.

Contact **Bruce Shields** at webmaster@aapioneerbands.org with ideas, comments, and questions.

“Push On”
Pioneer High School
Fight Song

Push on, Ann Arbor, we're here to stay,
Backing you all the way, Rah! Rah! Rah!
Purple for valor, White for the true,
Stand by the school that stands by you.
Push on to victory, fight all the way,
Cheer for your school today. Ann Arbor! (Yell)
Valor and truth will win any fray,
Push on to victory, Ann Arbor! (Yell)

“Purple and White”
Pioneer High School
Alma Mater

Lo, when a king comes forth in glory,
Purple are his robes and white;
White is the sign of truth and honor,
Purple is the sign of might.
Then Hail! All Hail! To the Purple and the White.
To the grand old colors that stand for what is right.
Then Cheer! All Cheer! For the school we love so true.
And though we wander far, Ann Arbor High,
Our hearts will turn back for you.