

Pioneer Band Association

NOTES

Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

Welcome to the Pioneer Band Association

The Band Program at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School has a rich history, a vibrant present and a promising future. As part of the Pioneer Music Department, the Pioneer Bands share the honor of being named the 2006 National GRAMMY Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation, an honor which exemplifies the quality of our music program at Pioneer as the top public high school music program in the nation.

The Pioneer Band Association was formed over 20 years ago as a parent booster club for the bands. It 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 band program. With Pioneer's large student population, membership in the PBA is a great way to keep the school experience personal, especially for 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 Band Association pledges to

- support the band program with supplemental financial aid and with the donation of volunteer time and talents
- encourage excellence in musicianship
- encourage and nurture the social growth and friendships of both students and parents
- work to foster responsibility, pride, school spirit and good sportsmanship

To do this, we are heavily involved with performance, social and fundraising activities, and generally helping any way we can. The Pioneer Band Association uses the funds it raises to help meet the high costs of instruments, supplies, and expenses of improving and exhibiting our band program. Every band student and family is expected to participate actively in several fund raising events each year to continue our current level of support for the Pioneer Bands. Funding for special events, such as the recent trips to Florida and Austria, require an extra special effort.

The Pioneer Band Association is a 501(c)3 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 PBA 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 its membership. We ask for the active commitment of everyone involved: students, parents and staff. If everyone gives a little, your band student gains a lot. This is your chance to get involved in your child's life and make a BIG difference to the Pioneer Bands. We are always looking for people to assist in various activities throughout the school year. Students and parents are asked to fill out the 2006-2007 Registration Form included with the Band Camp issue of the newsletter or contact one of the PBA Officers.

Don't WAIT:

- Volunteer to help with one or more of the committees
- Attend Pioneer Band Association meetings
- Participate in all of our Pioneer Band activities to support our students

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The Bands

The Pioneer Band Program is made up of four major and distinct performing ensembles, plus various other opportunities for students to play as part of smaller ensembles:

Varsity Band

Students of the Varsity Band work on developing their musical skills within their instrument family of brass or woodwinds. The ensemble comes together as a complete band several times a year to further develop their group skills and to participate in school concerts.

Concert Band

Students in the Concert Band have demonstrated an advanced level of musical ability. The ensemble concentrates on concert performance throughout the year, participating in all regular school concerts and festivals. The Concert Band also works on marching fundamentals in the fall, joining the regular Marching Band on the field at the Homecoming Game.

Symphony Band

Students in the Symphony Band consistently achieve a superior level of performance. In the fall, the Symphony Band serves as **The Marching Band** and performs at home football games. The remainder of the year is focused on concert rehearsals, preparing the ensemble for adjudication at band festivals and performance at public concerts.

Jazz Band

Students in this ensemble study and rehearse a variety of jazz styles, including classic arrangements and improvisation. The Jazz Band presents several concerts throughout the year.

Auditions

Participation in the Pioneer Bands is **by audition only**. All incoming freshmen audition at their middle school each spring and are assigned to the appropriate band. Chair placement is by audition in the Fall. Audition music is provided by Mr. Leach.



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, and attended master classes in conducting with Professor Elizabeth A.H. Green. He 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 and has been a member of the organization since 1988. He is a member of the Music Educators National Conference. He is a member of the Ann Arbor First United Methodist Church, where he is a member of the Music Committee. 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 2005-06 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District XII Teacher of the Year. He is a proud member of the 2006 National GRAMMY Signature School Award-winning Pioneer Music Department, the top high school music program in the nation.



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, and Beijing and Tianjin, China. During her tenure the Pioneer High School Music Department has been chosen two times by the Grammy Foundation as a Grammy Signature School (2001, 2003) and two times as a Grammy Signature School Gold (2004, 2005). 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 (1971) and a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance (1972). She has performed as principal flutist and soloist with several orchestras in southeast Michigan. Before her appointment at Pioneer High School she was substitute flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At present she is the flutist with the Intrada Woodwind Quintet and freelances with area orchestras when time permits.

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 other thirty 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 High School.

FROM THE PODIUM

I hope all of you are enjoying this amazing summer here in Ann Arbor!! Over the summer we have been busy preparing for the year ahead and are looking forward to another incredible year for the bands of Pioneer High School! A few highlights for the year ahead: AAPS is re-surfacing the marching/soccer field near Pioneer and as a result we are in the process of finding a suitable marching practice field near the band room. Although this year might present a challenge, future years promise to have the smoothest, best draining, and most level marching practice field in the state (eat your heart out U of M!!!).

In January, the Pioneer Symphony Band has been accepted as a performance ensemble at the third annual Michigan Music Conference (formally known as the Mid-Western Conference). We will perform at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids Michigan. The conference takes place from Thursday, January 24th through Saturday, January 26, 2008, (<http://www.michiganmusicconference.org/index.html>). I have not been informed as to the exact date and time of our performance, but as soon as I know I will pass it along. The Pioneer Symphony Band has performed (or been a clinic ensemble) at this conference several times over the years. This is our first trip across the state to Grand Rapids. We have been selected as a representative of the top bands, orchestras and choirs in the State of Michigan. This just in!!!! Matthew Tropman, the USMC "President's Own" band alumni (and Pioneer Symphony Band alumni) will be our featured guest euphonium soloist. This is an exciting addition to our conference concert, connecting current band members with our illustrious past. In addition the Director of Bands at Michigan State University, Kevin Sedatole has agreed to honor the Pioneer Symphony Band and guest conduct one selection during our conference performance!!

Please remember all-band registration takes place Monday, August 13th, Band Camp runs August 14th through the 20th. Plan to join us Sunday August 19th for our annual Band Camp concert and marching demonstration at the beautiful Interlochen Center for the Arts, you will not believe your ears or eyes!!!

All the best,

David A. Leach, *Director of Bands*

Classroom Activities

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

As with any public school classroom activity, parents are encouraged to read through curriculum guides, attend capsule night and communicate effectively with the instructor. It is the parents' responsibility to maintain a reasonable and effective relationship with both their student and the teacher to maximize the benefits of the educational experience.

While the Pioneer Band Association is an advocate for the band program, it is neither a remedy for personal or family problems with classroom activities, nor a vehicle for evaluating the instructors or the teaching plan.

Fundraising Activities

Pioneer Band Association fundraising provides revenue to cover expenses to support band activities. Some activities are focused on individual events (for example tour events), while others fund ongoing expenses for equipment, music, and other PBA sponsored activities. This year's fundraising activities include:

- **PTSO Thrift Shop** (see back page)
- **Car Wash** in September
- **Candy Sale** in September
- **Band Gala** in February
- **Band Festival Concession** in March
- **Picnic Pops** in May

Band Camp

All Pioneer High School Band students are invited and encouraged to attend the annual Band Camp at Interlochen in August. See our Band Camp Bulletin Issue for further details about this experience.

Performance Activities

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. This year's performance activities include:

- **MARCHING BAND** pre-game and half-time shows at all home football games. PBA volunteers provide a safe escort to and from the game for the band as they march to the stadium.
- **JAZZ BAND CONCERT** in January
- **DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL** in January
- **WINTER BANDS CONCERT** in February
- **BAND FESTIVAL** in March, held at Pioneer. Band Association volunteers run a food concession.
- **BANDS IN REVIEW** in March
- **STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL** in March
- **PICNIC POPS CONCERT** in May
- **JAZZ BAND SUMMIT** in May

Further details on each performance will be explained in the classroom, at PBA meetings and in future communications. See the 2007-2008 Band Calendar for specific dates, times and participating groups for each activity.

Uniforms

All Pioneer High School Band students receive a uniform for marching and concert seasons. Marching Band uniforms are coat, pants, hat, and black shoes. Symphony Band, Concert Band and Varsity Band concert uniforms consist of black tuxedos for men, black dresses for women. All Students are required to provide their own black shoes, and some males are required to provide their own white dress shirts. All uniforms are fitted and distributed during the appropriate marching or concert season. PBA members are in charge of the Uniform Team, and help is needed for distribution. Forms are sent home in the summer requesting measurements for each band student so the appropriate uniform can be found. These forms are turned in at the time of band camp registration.

Social Activities

Several activities are planned each year to build friendships and esprit de corps among our band students and families. This year's social activities include:

- **A Band Picnic** at Allmendinger Park in September
- **A Bowling Party** in January
- **A Band GALA** in February
- **A Band Banquet** in May
- **A Senior Luncheon** in June

Further details on each social activity will be explained in the classroom, at PBA meetings and in future communications. See the Band Calendar for specific dates, times and participating groups for each activity.

Registration Form

Your participation is vital to the success of the Pioneer Band Program. In order to facilitate the administration and communication of your support activities, we ask that each parent, student and friend of the Pioneer Band Association fill out the Parent/Guardian Information Form (pages 2 & 3 of the Registration Form). This provides not only basic personal data, but also a way for members to volunteer for various host or helper roles in our organization. Descriptions for these roles can be found in detail on our website.

Completed forms should be return by Thursday, September 6th, during the first week of school.

Calendar

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. You will find the announced dates on the **2007-2008 Performance Calendar** provided to your student at Band Camp Registration or during the first week of school, and an acknowledgement slip needs to be signed by all students and parents and returned. The Calendar includes all PBA meetings and special events. Included with this Welcome Issue is a comprehensive Calendar of Activities for posting to your refrigerator, bulletin board or other favorite location. Additional copies may be requested for family and friends.

Meetings

Pioneer Band Association meetings are a great way to meet fellow parents, the officers & the directors, find out more about upcoming events and participate in the official business of the Association. Meetings are held from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Pioneer Band room (B126). The 2007-2008 PBA meeting dates are:

- **Tuesday, September 11, 2007**
Welcome to our new members
- **Tuesday, October 11, 2007**
- **Tuesday, November 13, 2007**
- **Tuesday, December 11, 2007**
- **Tuesday, January 8, 2008**
- **Tuesday, February 12, 2008**
- **Tuesday, March 11, 2008**
- **Tuesday, April 15, 2008**
Annual Meeting & Elections
- **NO May Meeting (Band Banquet)**
- **Tuesday, June 10, 2008**

In addition, several committee meetings have been scheduled.

Newsletter

The Pioneer Band Association will publish seven issues of Notes:

- Band Camp Issues #1, #2, #3
- Welcome Issue
- September-October Issue
- November-December Issue
- January-February Issue
- March-April Issue
- May-June Issue

Feel free to submit materials for publication in our newsletter to:

Kathy Toy-Nao
3533 River Pines Drive
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734-222-3714
newsletter@aapioneerbands.org

Website

The Pioneer Band Association maintains our very own website, allowing us to make information available to our members and friends on the internet. Visit us at:

www.aapioneerbands.org

Directory

The Band Directory contains band rosters and band member information, in addition to important information regarding the band's activities and calendar. It is normally published in September.

E-mail

The Pioneer Band Association uses e-mail as an effective and efficient way to disseminate last-minute announcements and take surveys. If you use e-mail, be sure to provide your address on the 2007-2008 Registration Form. E-mail addresses change often; keep us up to date at

mail@aapioneerbands.org.

We also use our e-mail system to quickly spread news and messages about important events. We may use a manual system, which uses a pyramid list of member names requiring one person to pass along the message to the next name(s) under them. This will depend on the response we get on our Registration Forms!

PBA Administration

Our organization is governed by the Bylaws of the Pioneer Band Association. The bylaws were reviewed and revised this past year to meet our current situation and needs. Copies are available upon request.

Our current Officers manage the ongoing administration of the Association. Any questions or concerns that you feel have not been adequately addressed in the newsletter, at meetings, on our website, or in other communications should be directed to one of the officers.

Handbook

The Pioneer Bands Handbook covers a wide variety of subjects and provides valuable information to every Band Student and Family, and is distributed at Registration (August 13, 2007).

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fourth Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2008, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton, Ann Arbor. The Band Gala & Auction is not only a major fundraiser, but it is also an opportunity to celebrate and highlight our award-winning program. This adult-oriented event features a large silent auction, a live auction with professional auctioneer, a buffet-style hors d'oeuvre reception, and performances representing our band program. It is a fun and entertaining evening and open to the entire community. Please save the date and pass the word on. Tickets will be available in November for \$30 per person.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Pioneer Band Gala & Auction. We need immediate assistance with the Donations and Publicity Committees. Donations involves contacting local businesses for auction item donations or to purchase advertising in our program. We send out over 300 letters to area businesses but need help following up. Publicity involves getting the word out about our event to the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Karen Field, Gala Chair, at 769-1060 or klfield14@aol.com**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

BE AWARE THAT CHANGES WILL PROBABLY OCCUR. WATCH THE WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER, AND CLASSROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DATE CHANGES.

(SB=Symphony Band CB=Concert Band VB=Varsity Band JB=Jazz Band PBA=Pioneer Band Association)

AUGUST 2007

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | GROUP |
|----------|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 10th Fri | 9 am – 3 pm | Band Camp Preparations | B-Wing | ALL |
| 13th Mon | 9 am – 3 pm | Band REGISTRATION DAY ALL BAND STUDENTS | B-Wing | ALL BANDS |
| 14th Tue | 7 am | Depart for Band Camp | B-Wing | CAMPERS |
| 19th Sun | 1:30 pm | Band Camp Sunday @ Interlochen | Interlochen | CAMPERS & PBA Band Camp Cmte |
| 20th Mon | 2 pm | Return from Band Camp | B-Wing | CAMPERS |
| 31st Fri | | NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY WEEKEND | | |

SEPTEMBER 2007

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | GROUP |
|-----------|----------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 3rd Mon | | NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY | | |
| 4th Tue | | FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL | | |
| 6th Thu | 2-4 pm | Marching Uniform Distribution | B-126 | SB & PBA Uniform Team |
| 11th Tue | 2-4 pm | Marching Uniform Distribution | B-126 | SB & PBA Uniform Team |
| 11th Tue | ALL DAY | Candy Sale Begins | B-126 | ALL FAMILIES |
| 11th Tue | 7:30 pm | Pioneer Band Association Meeting | B-126 | ALL BAND PARENTS |
| 12th Wed | 3:30-5:30 pm | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 13th Thu | 3:30-5:30 pm | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 14th Fri | 4:30-10 pm | HOME FOOTBALL GAME WAGONGATE vs Lincoln Game Time 7:30 pm | Practice Field Hollyway Field | WAGONGATE SB Escort Team Uniform Team |
| 19th Wed | 3:30-5:30 | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 20th Thur | 3:30-5:30 pm | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 21st Fri | 6th hr-7:30 pm | HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs Adrian GAME TIME 4:00 pm | Practice Field Hollway Field | SB PBA Escort Team PBA Uniform Team PBA Hospitality Team |
| 26th Wed | 3:30-5:30 pm | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 27th Thu | 3:30-5:30 pm | Marching Drill | Practice Field | SB & Hydration Team |
| 28th Fri | 4:30-10 pm | HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs Tecumseh HOMECOMING Alumni Band @ Pregame & Halftime | Practice Field Hollway Field | SB PBA Escort Team PBA Uniform Team Alumni Band |



Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence

From our new PTO Thrift Shop liaison:

Reminders from the PTO Thrift Shop:

It is not too late to work at the Thrift Shop this summer. Sign-ups are now done on a rolling calendar for a month at a time. This means that on today's date, that same date for the next month opens for sign-ups. Example: Today is July 13th, so the shifts for August 13th are available. This is great, no-hassle way to sign-up. No lotteries to remember or request slips to turn in. Just stop by the shop and sign up! You can always call the thrift shop for cancellations for that day if you are looking for something to do and earn money for the band program or your band trip at the same time.

You can still earn credit for Band Camp 2007. You can also start earning credit toward Band Camp 2008 or the Concert and Symphony Band trips for the 2007-2008 school year. Remember that the first 4 hours worked will go toward the general Band program. Be sure to sign in on the correct sheet when you work your shift.

Any hours worked from now until August 31st will be paid out the beginning of September. If you are working for Band Camp 2007, you will have already paid for Band Camp by that time. However, you will be reimbursed whatever money you earn, up to the amount you have paid for Band Camp.

The PTO thrift Shop is located at 2280 South Industrial Highway. Check out their web site: www.A2ptothriftshop.org for hours and other information.

Hope you are enjoying your summer!

Mary Topham,
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