

Pfightin' Panther Band 101

How to be an awesome adult for your band student

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Resources

School Skyward (to see student grades): <http://www.pfisd.net/skyward>

Band Website: <https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/>

Band Calendar: <https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/calendar>

Band Scholarship Foundation Website: <https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/foundation>

Band Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PflugervilleHighSchoolPfightinPantherBand>

- You do not have to have a Facebook account to view

Band Boosters Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PflugervilleHighBandBoosters/>

- This is a Facebook group. You need a Facebook account and to join the group to see all contents.

Band Boosters Instagram: pfbandboosters

Band Scholarship Foundation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Scholarship-Foundation-ofthe-Pflugerville-Panther-Band-206426106047453/>

- You do not have to have a Facebook account to view

Band Boosters Remind 101: For parents to get updates

From text: Text @phsbng22 to 81010 *this code may change yearly

From Remind app: Choose "Join a Class" and enter @phsbng22

Charms - www.charmsoffice.com - school code = PflugervilleHSB, enter student ID

Charms Calendar - <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/calendar.asp?s=PflugerHSB>

Band Booster Email Addresses:

Booster President & General Info	pantherband.info@gmail.com
Boosters Vice President & Volunteer Coordinator	pantherband.volunteer@gmail.com
Boosters Treasurer	pantherband.money@gmail.com
Boosters Secretary	pantherband.secretary@gmail.com
Boosters Communications Committee	pantherband.comms@gmail.com

Director Email Addresses:

Mr. Wilson: Head Director	od.wilson@pfisd.net
Mr. Wagner: Woodwinds	darrell.wagner@pfisd.net
Mr. Hanrahan: Brass	michael.hanrahan@pfisd.net
Mr. McClendon: Percussion	tyler.mcclendon@pfisd.net
Mr. Albright: Guard	kyle.albright@pfisd.net

Hot Tips

For the most part, band and guard are considered one unit and are often referred to as “band”. Band and guard participate in all events together in the fall and Winter Guard performs separately beginning in January.

Plan to attend as many band boosters and band scholarship foundation meetings as possible. This is a great way to meet other parents and learn about upcoming events as well as ask questions.

Physicals are required for Band - schedule it this summer. Use UIL physical forms - [here](#)
Join the Band Boosters Remind (info on page 3)

Sync your calendar with the band Charms calendar - <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/calendar.asp?s=PflugersHSB>

Register at Charms - www.charmsoffice.com

- School code = PflugervilleHSB, password is student ID
- The first time it will ask you to change your password. Siblings can be linked.

Sample Calendar

July	Summer band camp starts end of July with 3 half days Color guard and Drumline will have a 1 week camp earlier in July
August	Summer band in late July until school starts. Band picture day in full uniform Band picnic and pool party, when possible Scrimmage Football games begin
September	Band will transition from polo shirts to PHS marching uniforms Marching Contests start
October	Pfestival of Bands Marching Contests are in full swing
November	Marching season ends Region music and scale testing in band classes to confirm class placement Region Orchestra auditions
December	Region Band auditions (required for Wind Ensemble - optional for everyone else) Holiday concert
January	Musical - a portion of the band may prepare and play with the musical
February	Winter concert - attire is nice/business UIL solo and ensemble competition
March	UIL Concert band
April	Spring trip
May	Band Banquet Concerto competition and spring concert Spring Camp with incoming freshmen Sneak preview of the fall show New student auditions with band directors for fall class placement
June	Graduation School instruments should return/check out instruments at PHS

Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities

The band boosters and scholarship foundation have multiple fundraisers throughout the summer and fall months. Every parent should plan on volunteering for 3 events. The band cannot perform or compete at their best without the help of volunteers!

The band boosters and foundation raise money to pay for equipment, offset the parent costs and overall support the band especially during marching season. The band boosters, through years of fundraising were able to purchase a 2nd equipment trailer, add a hydraulic lift to it and then redo the wraps for the two trailers. Scholarship Foundation annually awards approximately \$15,000 in scholarships for higher education and band needs.

Below are some examples for volunteering

- Concessions
 - Football Concessions both for Varsity at the Pfield home games and Kuempel Stadium for Junior Varsity games
 - We need people to get concessions rolling before the game, work during the game and cleanup after the game
 - You do not have to work a whole football game (unless you want to!)
 - Students can also volunteer at the JV games since the band does not play at those
- Bingo nights
 - One Friday a month July to December, when possible
 - Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Foundation
 - Volunteer or come and play.
- Parent chaperone on football games and competitions
 - Pit/Field crew at games and competitions.
- Help get equipment on and off the field and loaded onto the trailers
- Concessions at COTA or later events at the Pfield such as soccer or marching contests
- Pet Clinic held in Fall, Spring and Summer
- Mattress fundraiser held in September

Spirit Nights - noted in the Facebook page. Go eat dinner on the date specified and let the restaurant know it is for band and band will get some of the proceeds.

Amazon Smile - make the band the beneficiary - **Pflugerville High School Band Boosters**.

Band website (<https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/>) - get info on Boosters, Foundation, the calendar, news & info as well as volunteering. You can even order some merch!

If you are not able to sign up via Charms or sign up genius you can send an email to: pantherband.volunteer@gmail.com – and we will get you signed up!

Boosters keeps track of volunteer hours and is certified to award Presidential Service Award medals. You can find information on that program [here](#). We have several bronze and silver medal award winners and even a gold medal recipient!

Marching Season Overview

In mid July the band will send out information to order the following:

- Marching shoes (the boosters have a set of shoes to try on to determine size to order)
- Band polo shirt
- Compression shorts
- Compression shirt.
- Gloves (buy an extra set!)
- Competition uniform
- Optional items can also be purchased including practice shirts & shorts, bags, water jugs and pride merchandise

The band purchases these items and distributes items to students as they are delivered to the band hall. If there are financial considerations about this payment please contact the band boosters.

Other necessary purchases:

- On your own, you may be required to purchase black uniform shorts. The band will wear the band polo shirt and black shorts with sneakers for the first few games in August as well as the scrimmage game. The black shorts cannot be athletic or cargo shorts.
- Purchase a ½ gallon or 1 gallon water jug for your student. There are water breaks during outside marching, but no water fountains. Students are responsible for bringing their own water to summer band camp and all events. (½ gallon Igloo water jugs can be purchased at Academy for approx \$10):
- Purchase some light color shirts for summer band camp. Also needed is a hat, sunscreen and maybe a fanny pack. If not purchasing practice clothes through band, consider buying grey shirt and blue athletic shorts.
- On your own purchase white socks and for girls athletic bras if they don't have them already.
- Brass players must always wear gloves at all times. This is to protect the finish on the instrument.

Summer Band

Summer band will start at the end of July until school starts. Please have your students at camp BEFORE start time (8am or 5pm depending on the day/schedule). Students should commute this phrase to memory as they will hear it constantly from the directors:

TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME, TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE

During summer band camp students will be measured for uniforms and will have one day for band pictures.

The band will have time inside, if possible, but most of the time will be spent outdoors so make sure your student brings a hat, ½ gallon labelled water bottle filled with ice and water, sunscreen, snacks and wears light colored clothing.

The band will learn just a portion of the show and may have their first performance at a scrimmage game marching into the Kuempel stadium and playing in the stands (no show). They will perform the portions of the show that are ready at the first football game halftime.

Band Pictures

Toward the start of school, the band will take full band, sectional and individual pictures. You DO NOT have to purchase pictures, but there are many options/packages you can purchase.

If you have more than one student in band, you have the option for a “buddy photo” where your students are photographed together. Students are also photographed in sections and can choose to be photographed with a friend or in a group.

There is also the opportunity to purchase a full band picture separately. The full band picture (called panoramic) and the individual pictures are two separate photographers and are separate checks. Make sure your child knows which check goes to which photographer.

Marching Season

Keep an eye on the schedule on charms and for updates via remind on when evening rehearsals are scheduled as opposed to before school, or zero hour, rehearsals are scheduled. Monday evenings rehearsals are open to the public in Kuempel Stadium and parents are welcome to watch anytime. Occasionally informal parent meeting will happen in the stands during these rehearsals.

School and Band

Keep an eye on student’s grades and/or show them how. If you do not have an account in Skyward – create one. It is the best way to keep on top of grades, missing grades, what the school has as your student’s attendance, gpa, etc. Skyward on pfisd.net at <http://www.pfisd.net/skyward>. All classes have tutorials for students before or after school on specific days to ask questions or get help.

Pflugerville works on the A/B day schedule. Your student will go to 4 classes on A day and 4 different classes on B day. (Band is on both A and B day for most students, but does depend on schedule). This can be different and a little overwhelming for Freshman students/ parents as this is new. It is easy for the students to think “I have plenty of time to get my work done” and misjudge the time needed to get it all done.

It is helpful for the students to determine every day after school:

- What new homework do I have and when is it due?
- What is due tomorrow and do I have it done?

If possible, it is easiest to do homework on the same day it is assigned as that day’s teaching is still fresh in their minds. Also, if the student does need help with an assignment this gives them plenty of time to find a tutorial time to attend for assistance before the assignment is due or ask another band student who is taking the same class or has taken the class a previous year to assist.

Lockers

Each student will get an instrument locker in the band hall as well as a book locker near the band hall. The band hall is a separate entrance from the school and the directors will unlock the hallway before school. Students may get their locker information during the summer band.

Freshman Orientation

All freshmen students will get a chance to attend orientation. Athletics and band will go at a later time when there is no band practice. Details on will come directly from the school regarding these dates and times.

Sectionals

In marching season sectionals might be once a week if a section leader requires it. During the concert season, the directors will pick times for sectionals usually starting in January before or after school.

Private Lessons

If your student does not already have a tutor, the band has instructors available for all instruments. Lessons are paid for by the student but are provided at the school. At times private lessons are offered at no charge to the student. They can be before school, during band class or after school. Private lesson instructors also help students with region music and solo preparation.

If your student already has a private lesson tutor they are NOT required to use the school provided tutors. If you have questions or concerns, please discuss with one of the directors and they can help you determine the best option for your student.

Football Games

The band will attend every football game, both home and away games, if possible. For August and September, the show will be performed at halftime. By October, for home games, the show may be performed after the football game is over so that there is time to perform the entire show. At each football game the band plays in the stands and at the start of the halftime the band will play for the PHS dancers. Parents, friends, and family members are strongly encouraged to come support the band at the games as spectators or volunteers. It takes an army to get the band onto and off of the field.

Season Football tickets for home games go on sale mid August. Information will be posted through the [PHS athletics web-site](#). Purchase tickets and sit with other band parents or volunteer and be on the sidelines for the best seats in the house! You can also purchase tickets at the stadium for each game.

Game days can be hectic days.

- Check that students have their instrument, band shoes, clean gloves, socks, compression shorts and, water jug and shirt.
- "In Uniform" means no makeup and no jewelry. An inspection will be done prior to going on the field. Students will be checked for gloves, shoes, socks, reeds, mouthpieces, water jugs, etc.
- Brass players will be asked to clean their instruments prior to big games and contests. Their section leader will provide details of what is expected.

If you did not purchase the game day meals make sure your student brings something to eat after school. Students will not be able to leave campus on game days.

Even for games at the Pfield the band takes school buses from the school to the Pfield. For games the band does not leave until all the equipment is loaded into our 2 trailers and everyone is on the bus. One of the booster parents will send information via Remind on when the band is expected to be arriving back at the school. Once students arrive back at the band hall they will check in their uniform and then can be picked up.

One of the football games will be middle school night where the 7th and 8th graders from Pflugerville Middle and Parkcrest come and sit with the band in the stadium and might go on the field with them.

For the Homecoming game the halftime will be used to present the Homecoming court and the band will perform their show after the game is over.

One of the last home games will be Senior night where all the parents of Seniors and their child take pictures together. For concessions we should make sure to support these parents so they can enjoy this game.

After the last football game which is usually the last competition also the band has a candlelight ceremony that closes out the marching season. On that evening, the students will be leaving a little later than usual from the band hall. Parents are invited to join in silence on the balcony of the band hall and watch. It is usually a very emotional event.

Note that all football games and marching competitions require a clear bag, if any bag is brought to the stadium. Buy one from our online store - <https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/online-store> and support the band.

For each student a band sibling will be matched (another band student in another grade). These band siblings can bring a drink or snack for their sibling for football games.

Marching Contests

Competitions start at the end of September and go through the beginning of November with the show evolving every week. Many will be local in Austin. Parents, friends, and family members are strongly encouraged to come support the band at the games as spectators or volunteers. It takes an army to get the band onto and off of the field.

These competitions will be usually on Saturday with a prelim performance. If the band does well they advance to finals. Our Central Texas area has a very strong set of marching bands and for some of these competitions, especially Bands of America, advancing to the finals will be challenging. The band will also get a show uniform to wear by October for competitions.

The last big competition is Bands of America San Antonio which is one of the biggest competitions in the nation. This competition has 2 days of prelims before finals on Saturday. Our band usually does the prelims on Friday. In the final game or marching competition, the band does a candlelight ceremony in the band hall after they return and parents are invited to join as silent spectators in the balcony of the band hall. See later for more detail on games, competitions and band pictures.

Competitions are listed on the band calendar. There will be 3 to 5 competitions, most on Saturdays. Parents and guardians will get details on when and where the band is performing so we can support the band. Everyone is also welcome to drive to out of town competitions and support the band. For competitions, the band boosters will try to provide snacks and meals to the students at no additional cost.

The show evolves over the entire marching season. What you see in the first game is just a small part of the show as each week the director adds new parts and choreography. For the first competitions the band will probably only perform the first 3 parts and by end of season the band will have 5 to 6 parts and add more even to the very last performance.

For competition days make sure your student keeps track of their band uniform (shoes, socks, gloves, etc.)

- Label their shoes on the inside as markings on the bottoms can be seen by judges.
- If your student is missing a shoe/shoes, have them check Lost and Found.
- Check that socks and compression shirts/shorts are getting washed every week.
- For away contests, meals are provided when possible but students are allowed to purchase snacks from available concession stands. Sometimes the band stops at a rest stop for a bathroom break and students can buy snacks.

Parents, family, friends are all always invited to the competitions! It is very exciting to watch the band on the field! Those not volunteering try to sit together at the competitions to cheer on the band – or you can get a field view by volunteering as chaperone/pit crew. If the competition is out of town and you don't want to drive or can't drive and you want to go – just ask another parent. There are always parents driving to the out of town competitions and are more than willing to offer you a ride.

Many parents buy the band booster shirt in the [online store](#) and wear it to band events and for volunteering.

State UIL Marching Contest is every other year. Region Marching Contest is first, and if the band advances, they go to Area Marching Contest. If they advance from that, they go to the State Marching Contest in San Antonio in November. Info on UIL Region 26 can be found here: <https://www.uilmusicregion26.com>

The band also competes in Bands of America which is separate from UIL and some other competitions outside of UIL and Bands of America. Info on BoA can be found here: <https://marching.musicforall.org/schedule/>

Also note that the drumline participates in one or two additional competitions in the fall. Details on dates will come from the director.

Alternates

Each marching season a small group of students, many of them freshmen will be chosen as an alternate. During band camp all students will try their best to be primary marchers and some of those will have alternates learning the same show. At the first 9 weeks of the grading period if any student is not passing all their classes they will not be allowed to march and alternates will take over for the remainder of the season. Alternates are vital to the program and all play an important role on and off the field. They will still play in the stands during football games and during the PHS dancer performance. During the show they will help move props in for the show on and the field.

If your student is an alternate, tell them not to be discouraged and to work hard to challenge and win a spot if they want to. It is easy for them to feel disappointment but the marching show could not be at its best without someone willing to jump in when and where needed, helping the band to march without holes.

After Marching Season

Region Band Auditions

All the students are given region music to work on during marching season with music provided during the summer. This music is challenging. Some bands will only have to play a portion of this music while the wind ensemble band will play all and be required to audition although all students are encouraged to try out. Region Orchestra tryouts are typically in November while Region Band Tryouts are typically in December.

Each student will be asked to play all or part of their regions music. Some incoming freshmen may find this music difficult, but it makes all students perform better by working on challenging music. Region tryouts are held in November. The students who make region may be able to audition for Area/District and a small set of those students might advance to state auditions. Instruments with large attendance (flute, clarinet for example) might have tryouts over two days. Other instruments will have tryouts over one day. Band Directors will provide dates/times. If your student advances, Area Band tryouts are typically a week later.

Solo and Ensemble

In November each student may receive a solo and/or ensemble music to work on. Some solos may also use an accompanist whom the school provides for a small fee. Students will work on this music, performing the music in February at the UIL solo and ensemble competition and later for the concerto competition.

Concert Season

Concert season starts immediately after marching season. The band will start the season off with a holiday concert in December. In February, they perform a winter concert and later in May, a spring concert. Dress is nice or business for these concerts and parents, friends and family are invited to come to each performance and admission is always free.

Winter Guard

All students are encouraged to audition for winter guard. The PHS Winter Guard program has advanced to WGI Nationals multiple times and is one of the strongest and most awarded guard in the state. Auditions will be held at the end of the fall semester. Winter guard travels to perform and compete locally, state wide and nationally. While highly competitive, some of the best student experiences and stories come from Winter Guard.

Musical

In January a small set of the band may play in the orchestra for the high school musical performances held at the end of January by the PHS Theater Department. Support the band and our other fine arts students by coming to see the musical!

UIL Concert Contest

UIL Concert competitions will start in March. They require the student purchases a white tuxedo shirt and tuxedo tie for men and black dress shoes for all. Dresses for and tuxedo jackets will be provided by the band. Parents, family and friends are welcome to attend these contests and support the bands.

Spring Trip

Each year, the students are offered the opportunity to travel on an educational band trip. Typically out-of-state trips are on odd years and in-state trips are on even years. The trip is optional. It is paid for by each student/chaperone attending. Parents must register by October and make a deposit for this trip in the fall. There is a possibility for scholarships for students.

Concerto Competition

Each year, when at all possible, the band has a concerto competition with the winners receiving scholarships for band or other educational opportunities. These winners may play at the spring concert.

Leadership Camp

Each spring there is a one-week camp for students to develop skills to become leaders in all aspects of life, not just band and guard. Students who want to audition for a leadership position (secretary, library staff, uniform staff, social officer, motivational speaker, section leader, wind/brass horn sergeant, drum major) will need to attend the camp.

If your student is chosen for a band leadership position, they will attend a leadership camp in the summer prior to the next Summer Band camp. Details are provided in the Leadership Application Packet.

Senior Scholarships

If your student is a senior they have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship for higher education. The scholarship can be to any institute of higher education and the student does not need to be a music major or minor to receive the scholarship. Application packets will be available mid-spring semester and band directors will provide further information. Scholarship recipients are noted at the spring band concert.

Spring Band Camp

Band students returning in the fall and incoming Freshmen will attend. This will be 4-5 days of rehearsal after school. Students will meet their new leaders and learn/ refresh their marching skills. The fall band show will be announced. There will be a band parent meeting on the final evening to provide info about the next marching season and preview the music played by the students. Incoming freshman brass players need to bring gloves and will be provided instruments to play if they play school instruments.

Band Banquet

Band Banquet is not just for the kids! Parents are encouraged to attend! A meal will be served and awards from directors and students. A slideshow of the past years events will be shown and it will end with a dance. It's great fun and a wonderful way to send off senior parents and relive great moments made supporting the band and creating long lasting friendships.

Spring Concert

The end of the school year! There will be a concert by each band, concerto winners announced, Senior Scholarships awarded, and a send off for our band Seniors! Bring your own tissues.

Final Note for Parents/Guardians/Band Student Supporters

- Please join us at volunteer opportunities. We always have a great time working together supporting the band. We really do make lifetime friendships with each other and grow close by working hard to support our students.
- Join us at games in the stands during the game or on the field moving equipment or just for watching the show.
- Buy a band booster shirt or baseball hat and wear it to games, competitions and volunteering. It makes it easy for your student to see you in the stands and can bring a sense of belonging to the group.

<https://www.pflugervillepantherband.com/online-store>

- Join us for band booster meetings. Some are social events and some will be at the high school or held virtually. You'll meet other parents. We would love to meet you.
- Support your child and help them stay on top of schoolwork and practicing their music and scales. (Scales will be one way they will be tested during the year)
- Even if volunteering seems intimidating to you, experienced band parents will help and answer any questions especially at first events like concessions. We were all new to this at one point and know how it feels the first time.
- Marching season can be intense especially in October, sometimes causing anxiety in students wanting to do their best and upset when they make mistakes. The band season intensity eases up significantly starting in November.
- Parents are welcome to come and watch the band during any marching practice, but on Monday nights parents are encouraged to come to the stadium and watch the band march their show. You will not be the only parent there watching the band – promise. The kids love to see parents in the stands!

Thank you for reading this document.

Band Parent Chant

(call and answer)

WE ARE

PANTHER BAND!

WE GUARD

WITH PRIDE!

WE MARCH

WITH PRIDE!

WE ARE

PANTHER BAND PRIDE!