



# 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 a 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 trip to New York and the upcoming trip to China 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 one of our treasurers or our bookkeeper..

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 2009-2010 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**

**Pioneer Band Association, Inc. Pioneer High School 601 West Stadium Blvd Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

### Welcome Issue Aug 2009

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#### PBA NOTES

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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 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 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 Music Department has been honored by the Grammy Foundation as The 2006 National GRAMMY Signature School, the most outstanding high school music department in the nation. The department was also awarded Grammy Gold Signature School awards, one of the top seven high school music departments, in 2004 and 2005, and Grammy Signature School awards, one of the top fifty high school music departments, in 2002 and 2003. 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 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 High School.

## FROM THE PODIUM

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I am hopeful that you all have enjoyed a lovely summer. Things are already in high gear for the bands of Pioneer. We are looking forward with great anticipation to another musically diverse and challenging year! The two Pioneer Drum Lines (Conga & Ashiko) are already in full swing and from the sound of things it will be as good as ever. Coaches (from Pioneer's past) have spent a lot of their summer helping this current crop of percussionists understand Pioneer's traditions of style, and proficiency. The Pioneer Symphony Flag Rank is also spending time preparing for a special performance at Interlochen.

Please remember all-band registration takes place Monday, August 10th, Band Camp runs from August 11th through the 17th. Please plan on joining us **Sunday August 16th** 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*

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### 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 October
- **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 2009-2010 Band Calendar for specific dates, times and participating groups for each activity.

### Uniforms

Symphony Band and Concert Band will receive Marching Band uniforms, which 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 October
- 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 returned by Thursday, September 10th, 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 **2009-2010 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 2009-2010 PBA meeting dates are:

- **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**  
**Welcome to our new members**
- **Tuesday, Oct 13, 2009 (Tour Meet.)**
- **Tuesday, November 10, 2009**
- **Tuesday, December 8, 2009**
- **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**
- **Tuesday, February 9, 2010**
- **Tuesday, March 9, 2010 (Tour Meet.)**
- **Tuesday, April 13, 2010**  
**Annual Meeting & Elections**
- **NO May Meeting (Band Banquet)**
- **Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

*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

Please submit materials for publication in our newsletter to:

Kathy Toy-Nao  
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](http://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 2009-2010 Registration Form. E-mail addresses change often; keep us up to date at

**[mail@aapioneerbands.org](mailto: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. Copies are available on our website and copies were made available at registration for new Pioneer band families.

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. It is available on the website and every family NEW to the band program will get one at registration (August 10, 2009).

## SAVE THE DATE!

**The Fifth Annual Pioneer Band Gala & Auction** will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2010, starting at 5:00 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:

**Janene Centurion [danjan22@hotmail.com](mailto:danjan22@hotmail.com), or  
Ann Curtis [accurtis1@gmail.com](mailto:accurtis1@gmail.com).**

**PTO THRIFT SHOP NEWS:**

Please remember to donate, shop, and volunteer at the PTO Thrift Shop. Now is a good time to volunteer to earn money to satisfy the \$100 annual fundraising fee per family for the coming year (or complete this year's fee). During this summer, it is a great way for students to fill their extra time. If you haven't heard, students/families can no longer work toward an individual trip or camp fee. However, all money earned at the shop will go to benefit the band program. So it is still a great way to fundraise. Tired of candy sales or washing cars? Try a shift at the Thrift Shop; it might just be your thing!

There are now three shifts per day, Monday through Saturday, two hours each. To volunteer, go to the shop located at:

**PTO Thrift Shop**  
2280 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor

Sign up in the book which is in the work area. If you haven't previously volunteered at the shop, you will need to complete an orientation session. The session is 1.5 hours long and will count toward your volunteer hours. Students 14 years old and up, must also have a work permit. You can get one from the office at Pioneer or at the Thrift Shop.



Questions? Call or email:

Mary Topham at 827-0316, or at  
MaryTopham@comcast.net.

*Help support Pioneer Bands !*

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009**

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 2009**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	GROUP
7 Fri	9 am – 3 pm	Band Camp Preparations	B-Wing	Mr. Leach
10 Mon	9 am – noon	Band REGISTRATION DAY ALL BAND STUDENTS	B-Wing	ALL BANDS
11 Tue	8:00 am	Report for Band Camp Departure	B-Wing	CAMPERS
16 Sun	1:30 pm	Band Camp Sunday @ Interlochen	Interlochen	CAMPERS & PBA Camp Committee
17 Mon	2 pm	Return from Band Camp	B-Wing	CAMPERS
29 Sat	8 pm	PiHi Football at EMU	EMU	Pep Band

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	GROUP
3 Thu	7 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs DEXTER	Hollway Field	Drumline
4 Fri & 7 Mon		NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY		
8 Tue		FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL		
9 Wed	12:30-2:30 PM	MARCHING UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION	B-126	SB PBA Uniform Team
9 Wed	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB PBA Hydration Team
10 Thu	12:30-3 pm	Marching Uniform Distribution	B-126	SB PBA Uniform Team
10 Thu	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB PBA Hydration Team
11 Fri	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs SALINE Game Time 7:00 pm WAGONGATE	Practice Field Hollway Field	WAGONGATE SB PBA Escort Team PBA Uniform Team
15 Tue	ALL DAY	Candy Sale Begins	B-126	ALL FAMILIES
15 Tue	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB PBA Hydration Team
15 Tue	7:30 pm	Pioneer Band Association Meeting	B-126	ALL BAND PARENTS
16 Wed	3:30-5:30 pm	Marching Drill	Practice Field	SB PBA Hydration Team
17 Thu	4:30-10 pm	HOME FOOTBALL GAME vs SAGINAW Arthur Hill Game Time 7:00 pm	Practice Field Hollway Field	SB PBA Escort Team PBA Uniform Team
28 Mon	ALL DAY	Deadline for MSBOA All State B/O Applications to State Office	MSBOA State Office	ALL BAND STUDENTS
29 Tue	ALL DAY	Candy Sale Ends	B-126	ALL FAMILIES

## Family Financial Information Frequently Asked Questions

### ***I pay my taxes for public education. Why am I being asked to pay more?***

The Pioneer Band Association (PBA) was incorporated in 1985 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit booster club to support the band program at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. The PBA serves as a conduit for the fees associated with the many program, social and special activities carried on by the bands. The PBA also carries on fundraising activities to provide supplemental instruction, equipment and other services not covered in the regular tax-supported school budget.

### ***Isn't it enough that I volunteer my time and talents to the PBA?***

Your participation as a volunteer in our band program activities is a priceless gift that deserves our deepest appreciation. Our mission, by its very nature, includes financial support and therefore we also solicit and appreciate the funding you can provide to help carry out our programs and activities.

### ***How do I find out what money I owe and when?***

The various program and activity fees, and fundraising expectations, for the school year are outlined in the 4-page Financial Information for Pioneer Band Families document. As fees become due and fundraising activities are made available, you will receive a variety of communications, including direct invoicing, e-mails, postings on our website, articles in our newsletter, and verbal communications at PBA membership meetings. The directors will also communicate to your student in the band room.

### ***What items and expenses can I expect to be invoiced for?***

- Band Camp Fee
- Annual Program Fee (\$25)
- boxes taken by your student for the Candy Sale fundraiser
- tickets taken by your student for the Bands in Review concert
- Band Tour fees
- Gala and Band Banquet tickets you order online
- Donation offers you make online

### ***What items and expenses will I not be invoiced for?***

- Solo & Ensemble fees (individual payment must accompany each event application)
- Car Wash pledges you solicit (you are responsible to collect and submit those)
- Donations (unless you fill out an online form)
- Apparel items you purchase

### ***How do I make payments?***

We offer several options for making payments, knowing that each family has its own comfort level when it comes to handling their finances. We accept cash, check and debit/credit card payments. We accept payments through the band room, through the mail, and through a secured online connection. You can also provide debit/credit card information to our bookkeeper to keep on file for using whenever you authorize a charge. See the Payment Options sheet for more information. Do I have to submit a Payment Form with each payment? No. Our goal is to avoid confusion over which student or family is making the payment, what the payment is for, and how a payment is to be applied. Online payments are generally clear in these matters, but you can avoid potential confusion with payments turned into the band room or sent in the mail by including a Payment Form. (Solo & Ensemble payments must accompany each event application, so a Payment Form is not needed.) You may also submit a Payment Form to inform our bookkeeper about how your family wishes to be sent invoices and make payments.

### ***I don't want to be invoiced by e-mail or do online financial transactions. Can I be invoiced by mail?***

Yes. Simply submit a Payment Form indicating that you wish to be invoiced by U. S. Mail. A return envelope will be provided with each invoice.

### ***Can I pay online with my debit or credit card?***

Yes. Submit a Payment Form indicating that you wish to be invoiced by e-mail. Invoices will be attached to each e-mail and a link to our secure payment site will be included. You can make payment with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover, and you can set up an online account where you can view your payment history.

### ***Can I just have you charge my debit or credit card instead of being invoiced?***

Yes. Submit a Payment Form with your debit/credit card information for our bookkeeper to keep on file. You can then authorize payments to be made on that card's account as they come due.

### ***Is the \$100 Annual Direct Fundraising Expectation mandatory?***

No. Fundraising is always a discretionary option, but we do budget for each family to contribute \$100 in direct fundraising as a way to fulfill our mission as a booster club. Some families are able to contribute more while others find this expectation a challenge.

### ***What is the easiest way to accomplish the direct fundraising expectation?***

Every family's perception of what is "easy" is different. That's why we offer so many fundraising options. If you were to choose to participate in just one fundraising activity, here's what it would take to meet the \$100 expectation for each of our direct fundraising options:

- sell 4 boxes of candy (\$25 fundraising credit per box), or
- collect \$100.00 in Car Wash pledges (for instance, if we wash 400 cars, get 5 people to pledge an average of 5 cents per car), or
- work 12.5 hours at the PTO Thrift Shop, or
- make a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to the PBA

### ***Can my PBA fundraising be used to offset my student's fees?***

No. IRS regulations prohibit the fundraising activities of the Pioneer Band Association to benefit students individually.

### ***What if my family is in financial distress?***

Many fundraising activities don't require out-of-pocket expenses. The following scenario meets the \$100 fundraising expectation: sell 2 boxes of candy (\$50 fundraising credit), solicit just 1 person to pledge .05 per car and help us wash 400 cars (\$20 fundraising credit), and work 3.75 hours at the PTO Thrift Shop (\$30 fundraising credit).

If program and activity fees are a problem, talk to Mr. Leach or Ms. Waring. Your situation will be held in confidence. Assistance and scholarships may be available. Our goal is to ensure that all students are able to enjoy a high quality band experience.



*Enjoy the rest of your summer!*