



Building a Foundation for Musical Excellence



FROM THE PODIUM



Camp, Fall and Beyond!!!

In case you did not attend either Capsule night or the first Pioneer Band Association meeting you missed my comments about the start of the year. Band Camp was stupendous! If you did not attend the annual concert at Interlochen you missed a special time in the life of your child. Please make plans to attend next summer you won't want to miss it.

Fall has begun at Pioneer High School and there is a plethora of activities happening in all phases of life here. It is important that, as a family, you keep an eye on all your calendars (especially the Bands calendar) so that a student doesn't miss important activities, practices, performances, or picnics. Speaking of picnics, this year our annual picnic was on Sunday September 18th. The reason it was on a Sunday is because of all the U of M home-games this fall. In case you were unable to attend, let me say that our annual picnic is possibly the best way to meet the directors, your children's band-mates and other band parents. It is amazing what you will find out just talking to other parents. You may find out, not everyone at school has an iphone, or school dances *do not end* at 2:00 a.m., or a black BMW is not the class of 2013's official car. So please make the effort to attend other band events, we would love to see and meet you there.

On Friday October 21st the Pioneer Concert and Symphony Bands will combine and perform a spectacular halftime. As part of that performance, we will be recognizing the class of 2012 **and** their parents. If you are the parent of a child in the class of 2012, please plan on attending the game. You will be asked to join your child on the football field and be recognized for your support of your child's journey with the Bands of Pioneer.

On Monday, October 10th the Pioneer Symphony, Concert, Jazz Bands **and** parents, guardians have a NYC tour informational and commitment meeting. The latest update of our tour to the "Big Apple" will be available along with information about trip insurance, performance places and times, and much more. This important meeting is for parents AND students so please plan on attending. A representative from Education Tour Inc. will be there to answer

Sept/Oct 2011 Issue

What is Inside _____

Page 1 From the Podium/
David Leach, Director

Page 2 From the Podium/
Nancy Waring,
Associate Director

Page 3 Messages and Events

Page 4 PTO Thrift Shop Ad

Page 5 Volunteers Needed



your questions. Should you have a specific concern about this year's tour here would be a great time to ask.

I look forward to seeing and getting to know you all this year. Thanks again for encouraging your child to participate in music at Pioneer High School.

All the best,

David A. Leach, Director of Bands

FROM THE PODIUM



I am really looking forward to working with this year's Varsity Band. I have been very impressed with the students so far. They have wonderful attitudes and are helpful and eager to learn. We're currently working on a brief marching band unit. Although the Varsity Band students won't march in any games I feel that it's important that they get a taste of what they will do if they want to move up to Concert and Symphony Band. It was great to see them supporting the marching band at Wagongate! While the students are outside marching our band

librarians are preparing their music and folders so we can hit the ground running.

We will be starting our inside concert rehearsals soon. Each student should be making sure that they are doing their nightly half hour of practice. They have also been told that they need to have their full names and contact information on their instruments (both inside and outside), even if they are using one of our school instruments. Luggage tags work well for this. Students have been advised to never leave their instrument in their hall lockers. We have a storage area in the band room for this purpose.

Chair tryouts will be in late October or November. All students will play scales plus the most difficult areas of their concert pieces. All wind players will audition on the first parts for their instrument. Percussion will have additional requirements. There is only one chair tryout during the year so make sure that your child is practicing ahead.

Although I direct the Varsity Band I also work with every other band group at Pioneer. If you have any questions or concerns along the way please get in touch with me. The best way is via email (waring@aaps.k12.mi.us) or use the link on the www.aapioneerbands.org webpage.

Welcome to the Pioneer Band family!

Nancy Waring, Associate Director of Bands



Messages and Events

Website News:

During the summer, the Band website underwent its first significant update. With the help and suggestions of parents, students and directors, I shepherded the home page through months of revisions. What you see today on the web is Home Page version 15.1. It's a big improvement over my version 1.0. So, thank you to everyone who assisted, and to those who have complimented the new look. Ultimately, I want band students and their families to use the website routinely. If everyone takes it for granted, that is the greatest compliment of all.

Its aapioneerbands.org

The Band's Facebook page is just a few weeks old, but it already contains a wealth of content. If you were unable to attend Band Camp Sunday in August, you can find videos of the 2011 Interlochen concert, the Marching Demonstration, and the Drumline performance. And there's a video of something few parents ever see: Conga Night. It's amazing.

There are also more than sixty Band Camp photographs on Facebook. But hey, there's always room for more. I invite any parents who snapped a photo on Band Camp Sunday, Football Fridays, Band Picnic or any other event to share their pictures on Facebook. Let me know if you need instructions.

It's facebook.com/aapioneerbands

Barton Polot

Webmaster, Pioneer Band Association
Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Bands
webmaster@aapioneerbands.org

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**Volunteers Still Needed to Lead
Events and Programs**

We are still looking for parents to take charge of a couple more PBA events/programs. None of these positions require a lot of time, but doing any one of them would be a great service to our kids! They are:

PTO Thrift Shop Liaison— work with Thrift Shop to enable PBA to secure a share of the money raised through Thrift Shop sales.

Zippy Car Wash Coordinator— work with Zippy Car Wash to coordinate sales of car wash tickets, a portion of the proceeds of which go to PBA.

If you are interested in any of these positions -- or even if you are potentially interested and have questions -- please contact

David Baum, 734-662-9095 or ordbaum@umich.edu.

Thanks in advance for considering all of these opportunities. With your help, we can keep the Pioneer Bands one of the best music programs in the country!

PBA Notes Has Gone GREEN!!!
Our goal is to reduce our paper output and reduce the cost of mailing PBA Notes newsletter.
You will find our 4 color bi-monthly newsletter on our website www.aapioneerbands.org.
While online you may print the pages as you need, eg. Calendar, special article, etc..
IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A MAIL SUBSCRIPTION
please contact:
Gloria Wilson, President: 734-975-0081
or president@aapioneerbands.org
or PBA Editor: newsletter@aapioneerbands.org

2010-11 PBA Contacts

David A. Leach
Director of Bands
734-996-3210
director@aapioneerbands.org
Nancy Waring
Associate Director of Bands
734-996-3210
asstdirector@aapioneerbands.org

2010-11 OFFICERS

Marianne Blasing, PRESIDENT
734-678-9928

president@aapioneerbands.org

David Baum

734-662-9095

Kathy Shipan

734-996-2999

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

vicepresident@aapioneerbands.org

Carol Flannagan

734-665-2170

Paulette Schonsheck

734-669-0007

CO-TREASURERS

treasurer@aapioneerbands.org

Bill & Jan Maxbauer

CO-SECRETARIES

734-996-0303

secretary@aapioneerbands.org

Gloria Wilson

PAST-PRESIDENT

734-975-0081

pastpresident@aapioneerbands.org

Daryl Hurst, HISTORIAN

734-663-6306

darylhurst@comcast.net

Barton Polot, WEBMASTER

734-741-4250

webmaster@aapioneerbands.org

PBA NOTES

Lauretta Codrington,

Newsletter Editor

734-276-7786 (cell)

codgie2@hotmail.com