

**PLUM BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLUM SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



**MARCHING BAND
2023-2024**

"A Tradition of Pride and Excellence"

Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Plum Senior High School Marching Band and the high school music program! Our program has a long-standing tradition of accomplishment and success, and we are happy to welcome you to be a member of our family!

This evening we will discuss the most pertinent information pertaining to the upcoming season. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Loy with any questions that may come up along the way!

Also.. as this school year comes to a close, remember that all instrumentalists must have **“Concert Band”** or **“Symphonic Band”** in their schedule before the last day of school.

- Staff / Student Leadership
- Communication / Who Do I ask?
- Calendar & Attendance
- Being Prepared - What do I need?
- Uniforms
- Instruments
- Music Preparation
- In the Stands
- Travel Guidelines
- Cell Phone Policy
- Plum Music Boosters
- Checklist of Forms

Looking forward to a great season!

Mrs. Bethany Loy
PHS Band Director
loyb@pbsd.net
www.plumband.com



Staff and Leadership

- Band Director:
 - Mrs. Bethany Loy loyb@pbsd.net
- Assistant Band Directors:
 - Mr. Noah Kilgus kilgusn@pbsd.net
 - Ms. Meaghan Masayko masaykom@pbsd.net
- Silks Sponsors:
 - Ms. Suellen Wiles wiless@pbsd.net
 - Ms. Danielle Mink minkd@pbsd.net
- Dance Team Sponsors:
 - Mrs. Jenny Festa festaj@pbsd.net
 - Mrs. Laura DelVecchio delvecchiol@pbsd.net
- Majorette Sponsor:
 - Mrs. Jessica Clark clarkj@pbsd.net

Student Leadership

- Drum Majors: Gabe Powell, Grace Dopico, Madilyn Shingle
- President & VP: Joey Frank & Davin Bauer
- Managers:

Trenton Bednez	Ayla Belin
Naomi Casey	Damian Collier
Robert Fillar	Becca Griffin
Devin Murphy	Zander Piper
Caedmon Powell	Mario Racchini
- Section Leaders:

○ Flute	AJ Kim & Ayla Belin
○ Clarinet	Ethan Grindle
○ Saxophone	Mario Racchini & Zander Piper
○ Trumpet	Joey Frank
○ Trombone	Ethan Stecker
○ Low Brass	Isabella Surace
○ Percussion	Noah DeLuce & Breanna Honsperger
- Visual Ensemble Captains:

○ Dance Team Captain:	Hannah Dunn
○ Silks Captain:	Angelina Elliott
○ Majorette Captains:	Meredith Ahrens & McKenna Conley

Communication - Stay Connected & Informed

- **Marching Band 2023** Google Classroom page will be a primary location for information. (Code is **o5ficzk** to join)
 - Only students are able to join the Google Classroom as a student (not parents)
 - Parents, you must be sure that your email is up to date on Sapphire, because that's the email address that will automatically be associated with your child's Google Classroom account. *If you're not sure your email is correct, you can email me to let me know and I can send an invite to the email address you prefer.*
- Sign up for Notifications from the Plum Music Boosters via the PBSB App:
 - The Plum Music Boosters send out important announcements via the PBSB App, so please sign up for those notifications! [Here's how to sign up!](#)
- www.PlumBand.com: PlumBand.com is a central hub for all things Plum Band! Anything a student could possibly need can be found on PlumBand.com, like: Calendar, Announcements, Forms, Private Lesson Info, Music, Drill Sheets, Video/Audio, etc...
- **Facebook**: The Plum Band has an official Facebook page. Like this page for updates, media, and other fun posts! <https://www.facebook.com/PlumSeniorHighSchoolBands/>
 - Also, please follow the "Plum High Music Boosters" page! This is managed by the Plum High Music Boosters and will include updates about fundraisers, good things happening in the department, and more!
- **Twitter**: The Plum Band has an official Twitter account. Follow this account for po and pictures! <https://twitter.com/PlumBand> (@PlumBand)
- **Student Email**: All students receive a Gmail address through the school. It is important that students check their school email frequently! *Students may only communicate with staff members via their @pbsd.net email address.*
- plummusicboosters.org: Visit this page for all things Plum Music Boosters! Parent participation is essential to help the band program run as smoothly as possible.

Who Do I Ask?

During the course of the season, it is natural that questions will arise. It is not necessary to run to Mrs. Loy with every question or issue that you may have! The Plum Band has a number of qualified and empowered student leaders and staff members who will be able to help you out. If you have a question about something, please consult the following "Pyramid of Leadership", to find out who you should ask first!

1. Ask your section leader
2. Ask one of the drum majors
3. Ask one of the staff members (visual ensemble coaches, assistant directors)
4. Ask Mrs. Loy

Calendar

The calendar of events is located on www.PlumBand.com. It's a live Google Calendar that shows any schedule changes as soon as they happen. Please double check to make sure you are available for ALL rehearsals and performances. Instrumentalists will receive points (in the gradebook) for all the time they dedicate to after school rehearsals and performances. Points will be earned for both rehearsals and performances.

In order for us to perform at our highest potential, **it is absolutely imperative that students are present for ALL rehearsals and performances!** If you have any conflicts that can absolutely not be avoided, please let Mrs. Loy know NOW. **PARENTS, PLEASE:** Please look ahead to the Band Camp calendar and reschedule any well-checks, routine orthodontist appointments, etc., that interfere with these rehearsals.

Excused absences may include: severe illness, funeral, wedding, etc.

Unexcused absences may include: work, routine doctor or dentist appointments, spectator at music concerts or sporting events, homework/studying, *being tired*, college visits/fairs, skipping rehearsal, or any other conflict not communicated with the band director in advance

Attendance Policy:

- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.
- Absences must be communicated with Mrs. Loy ahead of time.

*If there are any unavoidable conflicts, please notify Mrs. Loy **immediately**.*

In order for our rehearsals to be productive, everyone must be present. Every individual's presence is essential to cleaning drill, rehearsing music, etc. Any time you miss, the whole band suffers. **Therefore, there will be no early dismissal from Band Camp or Monday/Wednesday practices unless approved by the Band Director.**

Students who miss rehearsal (unexcused absences) without contacting the Band Director ahead of time will not receive points for that rehearsal. **Repeated unexcused absences may result in ineligibility to perform.**

Being Prepared for Band Camp, Rehearsals, and Performances

Band Camp is by far one of the most memorable aspects of being in Marching Band. Band Camp is a time for hard work and learning, but also for friendship and camaraderie! Marching band camp will be held August 2-15 this year (Rookie Camp is July 31-August 1), and is run by the band director, band staff, and student leadership. Band camp is *mandatory for all members*. Camp will conclude on the final Friday with a Family and Friends Preview Performance.

What do students need for band camp?

- Instrument (required)
- Lyre and Flip folder*, plus extra “flipfolio” pages (required)
- Music (required)
- Lunch - Plan to pack your lunch; or, [school lunches will be offered for \\$4.50 per day](#).
- Water in a water bottle or sports bottle, for drinking during outside rehearsal (required)
- Pencil for marking music (required)
- Tennis shoes or other athletic footwear (required)
 - **NO SANDALS, FLIP FLOPS, or CROCS**
- Drill Sheets, which will be provided at camp (required)
- Earplugs (recommended for all, HIGHLY recommended for **percussionists**)
- Hat (recommended)
- Sunglasses (recommended)
- Sunscreen (recommended)

Materials for Band Camp, Rehearsals, and Performances

*Lyre and Flip Folder

Every instrumental student must have a lyre (instrument-specific) and flip folder (generic) in order to securely attach your music to your instrument while marching. Lyres and flip folders can be purchased at local music stores such as Johnstonbaugh or Volkweins, or online. If you have questions about lyres or flip folders, please talk to an employee of a local music store or ask your section leader (or Mrs. Loy).

I recommend that you bring your instrument to the music store when buying a lyre, and make sure it fits before you leave the store! I also suggest you buy some extra pages for your flip folder to make sure you have enough space for all the music you receive. Johnstonbaugh's has an online music store where you can purchase these marching accessories:
<https://www.johnstonbaughs.com/c-1329-marching-accessories.aspx>

Drill Sheets

Drill sheets are issued during band camp - make sure you have them at **every** rehearsal! Being prepared will ensure that we have a productive rehearsal! If you lose your copy, you can find your drill sheets on PlumBand.com to print yourself another one - ask a section leader if you need help!

Music

Bring all music to every rehearsal - pregame, halftime, the march, and stands tunes! If you lose something, ask your section leader to help you replace it. (Stands Tunes and Pre-game music can be printed from www.PlumBand.com)

Tuners (Optional)

It is highly recommended that students purchase a tuner. Tuners are available in physical form (Ex: Korg tuners) or as apps for a phone. Our recommended app is *Tonal Energy*. *Tonal Energy* is available on both Apple and Android devices. (Also - if a "clip on" tuner works for your instrument, you may want one of those! Ask your section leader what they recommend is best for your instrument!)

Hearing Protection

As musicians, hearing is one of our most valuable assets. It is recommended to purchase earplugs as a precaution to preserve our precious hearing! Options include generic styrofoam earplugs or those specifically designed with musicians in mind. ALL musicians can benefit from the use of earplugs, ESPECIALLY **percussionists!** Some suggestions for purchasing musicians earplugs are provided below:

- High Fidelity Concert Earplugs: https://www.amazon.com/Musicians-Plugs_24dB-Technology-Protection-Festivals/dp/B07GYXJZRY/ref=sr_1_3?crid=2CPY0NGKKP6TB&keywords=musicians%2Bear%2Bplugs&qid=1556976928&s=gateway&sprefix=musician%2Caps%2C153&sr=8-3&th=1
- Etymotic High Fidelity Earplugs: https://www.amazon.com/Etymotic-Fidelity-Earplugs-ETY-Plugs-Standard/dp/B0044DEESS/ref=sr_1_7?crid=2CPY0NGKKP6TB&keywords=musicians+ear+plugs&qid=1556976928&s=gateway&sprefix=musician%2Caps%2C153&sr=8-7
- Audiomate High Fidelity Earplugs: https://www.amazon.com/Audiomate-High-Fidelity-Interchangeable-Comfortable-Attenuating/dp/B079J55W51/ref=pd_sim_121_5/134-6965545-4451355?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B079J55W51&pd_rd_r=31ac58ae-8535-11e9-97ac-510cb5876d74&pd_rd_w=67Q1Y&pd_rd_wg=3SxF3&pf_rd_p=90485860-83e9-4fd9-b838-b28a9b7fda30&pf_rd_r=71BX279HT70GAY4QER0Z&pvc=1&refRID=71BX279HT70GAY4QER0Z

Uniforms

All band members will be issued a full school-owned uniform for the season. These uniforms are high quality and very expensive; it's your responsibility to keep all of these items in excellent condition so we have them for years to come. Please notify a member of the staff *immediately* if you have any issues with your uniform.

When you're in uniform, you're representing the Plum High School Mustang Marching Band, the Music Department, and the School District. We must always look and act our very best!

Band Uniform (instrumentalists) parts include:

- uniform jacket
- pants (bibs)
- shako (hat) and hat box
- garment bag

Additional Required Items (not provided by the school):

- Shoes and Gloves*
- Black Socks - Must be high enough to cover ankles when marching ("no-show" or "ankle" socks are NOT sufficient)
- Shorts/Pants - Athletic shorts are recommended (jeans may NOT be worn under uniform pants)
- "Show Shirt" - See Below in Music Booster Membership

Uniform Guidelines:

- Absolutely no food or drink while in uniform (only water)
- When in uniform, instrumentalists must always have bibs up on shoulders, black socks, and appropriate shoes on.
- Wear current year "Show Shirt" underneath uniform
- Any pants worn under uniform pants must not be visible (legging-type is best; absolutely no jeans may be worn under the uniform pants)
- Unnatural hair colors may not be visible while performing; it must be covered up, under your hat, or sprayed a natural color during performances.
- Long hair must be tucked into your shako (hat) so it's not visible while performing.

Uniform Care:

- Keep all uniform parts clean, including shoes and gloves.
 - If your uniform gets dirty, please have it dry-cleaned mid-season
 - Mud can be removed by allowing to dry then brushing off the dirt
 - Instrumentalists' uniforms are DRY CLEAN ONLY.

- Visual Ensemble Uniforms are to be Professionally HAND WASHED only.
- Pants should be hemmed to the appropriate length - NEVER CUT the pant length
- Let your uniform air dry before storing it in a garment bag
 - Leave your hat box OPEN to let your hat dry before closing it up for the weekend!
 - Uniforms should never be placed in a dryer
 - Do not use an iron on uniforms
- Properly HANG uniform in garment bag for travel and storage
- Do NOT place shoes, socks, or shako box in garment bag

Uniform Return:

At the conclusion of the season, please have your uniform professionally cleaned and return by Thanksgiving break. Please attach the dry cleaning receipt to the uniform when returning it.

***Shoes and Gloves**

Shoes and Gloves will be ordered using an [online order form](#) this year. Online store will be open May 23-July 24th. One pair of marching band shoes is adequate, but it is recommended to purchase more than one pair of gloves to always have a clean pair during performances. Note that percussionists do not need gloves (shoes only), but all other instrumentalists need shoes and gloves. When choosing a shoe size, note that sizes are available in both Mens and Womens Sizes, and Wides are also available. Shoes are pretty true to size, but when in doubt, I recommend that you size UP.

Instruments

If a student needs a school-owned instrument, let Mrs. Loy know. Please treat *all* instruments and equipment with utmost respect and care! Please note, if a student causes accidental damage to a school-owned instrument (Mrs. Loy, I dropped my saxophone in the stands!), you may be asked to pay repair costs.

Music Preparation

The more familiar you become with your music over the summer, the easier and more fun band camp will be! Recordings of all halftime tunes and the march (Americans We) can be found at www.PlumBand.com. Listen to them to help you learn how they go! Practicing with friends makes it more fun, and be sure to ask your section leaders questions if you have any!

Your goal should be to learn your music the best you can before camp. If you are able to memorize some of it by the start of camp, that's GREAT. (It would be realistic to strive to memorize all of Pregame (Mustang Fanfare, Fight Song, Alma Mater, and Star Spangled

Banner) before camp, and work to learn the show music the best you can.) When we get back to camp, we'll finish learning our music together and work to memorize the music so we can get our noses out of the music and focus on learning drill.

Learning and memorizing our music is an ongoing process that will continue throughout the season. We're always improving and growing; don't let the music overwhelm you! Once you memorize a piece of music, you can "check it off" with a staff member or section leader. This means you'll play it from memory; you can do this online or in person. You can check your music off online via Mrs. Loy's Google Classroom Page over the summer; more details for check-off guidelines may be found there. We'll set some goals here to help guide your progress:

Music Preparation Goals:

- All Instrumentalists -
 - Strive to memorize the march (Americans We) by our first parade performance (Kennywood), which is **Wednesday, August 16th**.
 - Strive to memorize pregame (SSB, Alma Mater, and Fight Song) and the halftime show by our first game, which is **Friday August 25th**).
- Section Leaders -
 - Strive to memorize pregame (Mustang Fanfare, SSB, Alma Mater, and Fight Song), and the first two halftime tunes (Summon Intro, Incredibles, Spiderman) by the first day of full band camp, which is **Wednesday, August 2nd**.
 - Strive to memorize the remainder of the halftime show (Skyfall, Superman) by **Wednesday, August 9th**.

In The Stands

When we perform in the stands at football games, we must always put our best foot forward so we look and sound our best.

- Be prepared - have your lyre and flip folder with all your music!
- Sit with your sections
- Be ready to play at any moment with a big, confident sound!
 - We only play as a full band - no practicing or "noodling" in the stands
 - Only play **your own instrument**
- The stands are not a place for family/friend visitation - only current members of the band, staff, and chaperones are permitted in the stands.
- Only water - no food or other beverages in the stands (you're in uniform!)
- Bathroom breaks are accompanied by a chaperone and limited to 5 per group.

Travel

For our away performances, all report times are listed on the band calendar. Report time is the time you are expected to arrive at PHS, ready to go.

- Students travel as a team to and from performances on the school provided buses. Should an emergency situation arise wherein a student has to travel to/from with a parent, please **notify Mrs. Loy and provide a note to your bus chaperone signed by a parent/guardian.**
- All students must stay for the entire event.
- When traveling home from an event, bus chaperones will make an announcement for students to call/text their ride to be ready to pick them up at the high school. This will ensure that everyone gets picked up in a safe and timely manner.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are ONLY to be used before rehearsal, during breaks, and on the bus during travel. You may bring your cell phones, but you are not permitted to use cell phones during our rehearsals or performances. You can have it in your pocket, but if you're caught with a cell phone out, Mrs. Loy will hold onto it until the rehearsal or performance has concluded.

Parent Involvement (Plum Music Boosters)

Please [Join the Plum Music Boosters](#) to support our students! Your help and support are essential to the success of our season. Also, [sign up to receive notifications from the Plum Music Boosters](#) through the PBSB app!

Tonight's Checklist

- Scan the QR code to the right to follow along with the 2023 Plum Band Handbook!
- Sign up for **Marching Band 2023 Google Classroom** - join code is **o5ficzk**
 - Parents, you must be sure that your email is up to date on Sapphire (that email address will automatically be associated with your child's Google Classroom account for updates). *If you're not sure your email is correct, email me to let me know; I can send an invite to the email address you prefer.*
- [PBSD Medical Form](#) - Required for All Members
 - Due 1st Day of Band Camp - student should bring it with them to camp
- [Marching Band Shoes and Gloves](#) - Required for instrumentalists (order online this year!)
 - Online store for shoes & gloves will be open 5/23 through 7/24. Pay online when you order; one bulk shipment will arrive before picture day on Aug. 9th.
 - Note that percussionists need shoes, but not gloves.
- [Booster Membership & Volunteer Form](#) - Required for All Members - All membership and volunteer forms are on our new online portal! This year we've combined Plum Music Boosters Membership, 2023 show shirts and costs for refreshments that we provide to all Marching Band/Visual Ensemble Members in one convenient payment. No more begging for donations!



<u>Instrumentalists</u>	<u>Visual Ensemble</u>

- Show Shirts 2023 - Show shirts now included with membership
- Sign up for the PBSD App to receive Music Boosters Info - [Here's how to sign up](#)
- Band Jacket Order Form (optional for instrumentalists and visual ensemble members)
 - For optional wool "Letterman" Jackets
 - This will be available later on in the summer this year - need to switch vendors.
- [Lunch Form](#) (optional) If you choose to buy school lunch during camp, complete this form by July 1, 2023. *For payment, simply supply lunch code on the form.
- [Plum Music Spiritwear Sale](#) (optional)
 - Stock up on Plum Music Gear! Online store is open May 2nd-June 2nd.
 - Pickup items on August 8th, after Band Camp
- [Photo Order Form](#) (optional) **Form will be provided during camp**
 - Bring your completed order form with you on picture day; present order with payment directly to the photographer. *Do not give Mrs. Loy photo orders.*
 - Photos will be taken at 8:30am on Wednesday, August 9th (at band camp)
- [2023 Football Program Ad Form](#) (optional) Due July 31, 2023

If you lose any forms presented here tonight, you can access them online at PlumBand.com: <http://www.PlumBand.com/forms.html>