

# Pope Band Notes

www.popeband.com

3001 Hembree Rd. Marietta GA 30062

## FROM THE PODIUM

### Tips for making your band experience more “user-friendly”:

1. Communicate (a lot). We send information out through multiple sources. Visit the band website often (weekly). Sign up for any and all band social media outlets (Pope Band Facebook wall, Remind101, Band App, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) Put our events on your calendars. E-mail the band directors with questions/conflicting dates. Open and read emails from PBPA. Attend PBPA meetings. “We didn’t know...” is a difficult statement given the myriad of communications outlets that we utilize.
2. Understand the dynamics of a large group with both curricular and extracurricular components. When we have a rehearsal scheduled after school (for any activity), we will rehearse until the time indicated on the schedule. For example, if we have marching practice until 9:00 p.m., we will wrap up rehearsal and announcements at 9:00. It will take several minutes for your student to walk from the field to the band room, put away their instrument, gather their belongings, probably chat with friends, and get back out to the car. Best estimate would be that they get in the car by 9:20 – 9:25. This does not mean that practice ran overtime. If you have difficulty coping with the time needed to get them back to you after practice, simply alter your calendar to show rehearsal ending at 9:30. Then, when they get to you at 9:25, they appear to be 5 minutes early. (I say this partially in jest, but some folks REALLY get upset when little Pookie isn’t exiting campus at the scheduled ending time of practice!)
3. Understand that there are expenses to participating in this type of activity beyond the obvious costs of instruction and travel. If your student plays a reed instrument, they have to purchase reeds. If they play drums, they will need to buy sticks and mallets. If they damage their instrument, it costs to have it repaired. They will need things like black socks to wear while in uniform. We wish that there was a magic fund to cover all costs, but that just doesn’t exist.
4. We schedule the minimum amount of time that we feel is necessary to prepare for performances. This means that EVERY practice and performance is “mandatory”. Unfortunately, the word “mandatory” has come to mean the same thing to many people as the word “convenient”. We expect all students at all scheduled band activities.

## DATES TO KNOW

Check [PopeBand.com](http://PopeBand.com)  
for the full band calendar.

### AUGUST

- 2: **PBPA General Meeting, Marching Show & Ice Cream Social 7:30 p.m.**
- 5: Friday Night Band (FNB) practice (*includes CMB*) 4–5 p.m.
- 9: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 19: FNB practice (*includes CMB*) 4–5 p.m.
- 25: Suburban Tap Restaurant Night
- 26: vs. Lassiter HS (Hope Wall/TOTY)\*
- 27: Competition Marching Band (CMB) practice 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

- 2: @ Walton HS\*
- 5: NO SCHOOL—No rehearsal
- 6: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 9: @ Johns Creek HS\*
- 10: Recycling Day 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
CMB practice 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
- 16: vs. Cambridge HS (Homecoming)\*
- 17: BOA Powder Springs (CMB)
- 18: Red Sky Restaurant Night
- 20: **PBPA General Meeting 7 p.m., Pope Cafeteria**
- 23: vs. N. Atlanta HS (Matt Hobby)\*
- 26–30: NO SCHOOL—No rehearsal

### OCTOBER

- 6: Fall Concert
- 7: @ Alpharetta HS\*
- 8: McEachern Competition (CMB)
- 10: Cobb Exhibition (CMB)
- 11: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 12: All-State Jazz Auditions
- 14: vs. Dunwoody HS (HoF, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night)\*
- 15: Sprayberry Competition (CMB)
- 17: Winter Guard Auditions 5–7:30 p.m.
- 21: vs. Chattahoochee HS (Senior Night)\*
- 27: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30
- 28: @ Centennial HS\*

\*FNB practices 4–5 p.m. before every game (*includes CMB*)

5. Grades are not based on attendance. Grades are based on achievement.
6. Yes, you can do all of our activities and get good grades, take honors classes, etc. Students across the country do it every day. Some of them continue music in college. All it takes is careful planning and flexibility in scheduling.
7. While there are many “good reasons” to miss scheduled activities, all of them cannot be excused when it comes to attendance awards, varsity letter requirements, or continued participation in our extra activities. If it falls under the parameters of a school district recognized reason for excused absence, then we will honor it...no questions asked. We try to be as flexible as possible with other situations, but it is difficult to excuse family parties, all types of church youth activities, scouting events, etc. We have gone for 3 years without ever having the entire band at a practice or performance. Sometimes, our activity needs to take precedence for a particular performance. Absences from a band performance hurt ALL the other kids. They can't perform at their best with parts missing.
8. We need parent involvement. There are hundreds of little activities that can be done with a minimum time and effort investment. Uniforms need to be inventoried, handed out, collected, and stored. There are many events to chaperone. There is equipment to be moved for performances. You could help with hospitality for an event. Helping display our awards, plaques, trophies, and memorabilia from events is a constant need. Helping assemble packets for registration, trips, etc. might be your thing. Making some phone calls to prospective members can be done in your spare time. Perhaps you can help decorate for the banquet. Like working with media? How about band yearbook, website, or newsletters? Maybe you could be a driver to take kids to speak at the middle schools during recruiting visits. Are you handy with tools? Help out with building props for marching band or helping maintain equipment used all year long. No task too small...all help appreciated!
9. Be careful with social media! This applies to parents as well as students. You can present yourself in a positive manner or in a very negative context. Those who use social media to vent often misrepresent facts and can damage our activity by spreading false information in a public forum. Ironically, the same activity that one individual portrays on Facebook as a negative experience is actually a positive experience for other members...and it is the SAME ACTIVITY!!!
10. Once calendars are published, every effort is made to stick to those schedules. We do not “hold back” events. As soon as things are confirmed, they go on the calendar. Unfortunately, emergencies arise, events get cancelled (or new events get added at the last minute) and these are totally out of our control. For example, the East Cobber Parade is scheduled for a particular Saturday and the weather is horrible. We have to cancel the event. We didn't know that the weather would be bad when we scheduled the event 5 months earlier. Another scenario: the phone rings in the band office. A representative of a TV production company requests 50 band kids to be in a TV commercial shoot and offers the band \$5000 for 4 hours of our time. Of course we want to participate...but we didn't know about it until two weeks ahead of the event. Do we decline because it wasn't on the calendar months ago? As you can see, we are in a fluid situation and must sometimes adjust plans accordingly. We are not trying to mess up your schedule.
11. HAVE FUN. There are many great experiences to be had if you choose to take advantage of them. Our program truly has “something for everyone”.

## WELCOME TO THE 2016–17 SCHOOL YEAR!

School may just be starting, but the Marching Band has already logged over 75 hours of time together since the summer started! As we begin the new school year, we thank those of you who registered your child for Competition Marching Band, Friday Night Band and Band Class with our new online registration. We hope you found the new system and process easier and so much faster! Please note that if you signed on to pay your activity fees in installments, you should be paid up through July 15<sup>th</sup>. Our system CHARMS is up and running for the new school year and all financial information has been updated so please log on and see if you have a balance due. If you need assistance with your log-in, please contact Aimee Worley ([aworley.pbpa@gmail.com](mailto:aworley.pbpa@gmail.com)).

PBPA General Meeting Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Cafeteria

## Join Us for the Kick Off General PBPA Meeting Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please join us on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm for our first general PBPA meeting of the new school year. Beginning at 7 pm, spirit wear will be on sale so come out and get stocked up on parent show shirts, spirit shirts, hats, string bags, etc. Chaperone and E-Team shirts will also be available for order. Please remember to bring a check with you! At 7:30 pm we will get you up to date and informed on everything happening with the band program. Around 8:45, we'll head outside to hear what the band learned at Band Camp. They've already made incredible strides in this year's show, "The Key of Z". Afterwards, we hope you will join us back in the cafeteria for a brief ice cream social. **Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this informative and fun evening with our band families!**

## RESTAURANT NIGHTS ARE BACK!

Save the date! **Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> is our next spirit night.** Invite your friends and family and dine out at **Suburban Tap** on Johnson Ferry. A portion of the proceeds from the *entire day* will be donated back to the band. Just remember to let the folks at Suburban Tap know you're with the Pope Band!

## XPlosion! 2016 DVDs

If you ordered a 2016 XPlosion! DVD, they will be available for pick up at our next General Meeting on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would still like to order a DVD, please print out an order form, which can be found on the band website at [www.PopeBand.com](http://www.PopeBand.com) under Resources – XPlosion! DVDs. Either place your completed order form, along with a check for \$15 made out to PBPA, in the white box in the band room or bring your form to the general meeting on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Karen Anderson ([kbanderson3@gmail.com](mailto:kbanderson3@gmail.com)) to make arrangements to receive your DVD. If you ordered a 2015 XPlosion! DVD, our apologies as we continue to work through technical difficulties with the production. Thank you again for your patience.

## POPE BAND COMMUNICATION—HOW DO I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

1. [www.popeband.com](http://www.popeband.com)—click "Band Calendar" on the "Big Dates" tab  
This calendar can be automatically added to your device or outlook calendar as a "feed." Click on the "+GoogleCalendar" button at the bottom of the calendar OR click on this [link](#) from your applications/device.
2. **Remind Texts—Receive texts from Mr. Rudolph with last minute information!**
  - Only sign up for ONE text group!!! Messages can and will be sent to multiple groups and signing up for only **ONE** group will prevent you from getting duplicate messages when applicable.
  - **Competition Marching Band with FNB:** Parents text the message: @mrrudo to 81010
  - **Friday Night Band Only:** Parents text the message: @fnb to 81010
  - **Band Class Only:** Parents text the message: @coparents to 81010
  - **Students:** Text the message: @popeband to 81010. No parents need to sign up for the student list.
  - If you cannot text to 81010, then text the same text message to the number: [\(678\) 335-5211](tel:6783355211)
  - Also, please take note of how to properly unsubscribe. If you only reply the word "unsubscribe" to the message it comes back to Mr. Rudolph as a response, but does not unsubscribe you from the list. **Unsubscribe** by texting the message: unsubscribe @mrrudo (competition band) or unsubscribe @fnb (Friday night band) or unsubscribe @coparents (concert) or unsubscribe @popeband (students) to 81010.
3. **Pope Band Emails**—Emails directly into your/your student's inbox including a MONTHLY NEWSLETTER! If you are not receiving emails or you want to change your email address, log onto CHARMS. [www.popeband.com](http://www.popeband.com); Tab=Resources; Charms (in dropdown menu); "school code"= popehsband; "student area password" = your password. Questions? Contact Aimee Worley at [aworley.pbpa@gmail.com](mailto:aworley.pbpa@gmail.com).
4. **Pope Band Parents Association (PBPA) General Meetings** which are often on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Pope Cafeteria at 7:00; watch your email for details!
5. **Ask your student!** Mr. Gribble and Mr. Rudolph announce EVERYTHING in Band Class!

FOR ALL THINGS BAND, GO TO:  
[www.PopeBand.com](http://www.PopeBand.com)