

# Pope Band Notes

[www.popeband.com](http://www.popeband.com)

3001 Hembree Rd. Marietta GA 30062

## FROM THE DIRECTORS PODIUM

As we move ever closer to the end of first semester, I wanted to share some observations and ask for your support. Each year, we start off with a brand new 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. Some are excited, some are apprehensive, some are shy, and some are ready for a new challenge. As the transition into high school band progresses, we see some encouraging as well as some discouraging signs from our students.

Those who engage, who are active in more than just the daily band class, and who participate in a variety of our opportunities thrive. They build immediate friendships with other students of all grade levels, they experience many new things related to music, and they seem to get a great deal of enjoyment from the process. Along the way, they might have those “life changing” moments that will be fantastic memories forever.

Those who are hesitant, who only do band class (and MAYBE one more music activity), still find enjoyment, but it takes longer. The relationships don't seem to grow as rapidly and they take a bit longer to assimilate into the group. They aren't doing anything wrong or bad... they are just operating at a very moderate level and only experiencing a few opportunities that might or might not bring them great feelings of accomplishment. Some of these students will be more active later, and typically regret that they didn't engage sooner.

The third group are those who are resistant. They come in telling us that they don't like band, didn't want to be here, and don't want to do anything except the minimal amount of classwork. Not surprisingly, they do not seem to enjoy themselves and rarely benefit from the opportunities that surround them. They make few friends and miss out on the musical “extras” that their peers are enjoying. These rarely stay in band for four years.

Here is the reality: It's the SAME BAND PROGRAM. It isn't any better or worse than the members themselves. There are students here every day who find it to be the best experience of their lives while the student sitting next to them finds it to be boring and dull. Let me reiterate...IT'S THE SAME BAND PROGRAM!!!

Obviously, the key ingredient is the attitude of the member. Those who engage, grab the opportunities, participate in varied parts of the band, and develop their skills and talents always come out ahead. They build the memories, they build the friendships, and they take part in activities that they never imagined possible. This week, for example, most of our students got to participate in a televised pep rally for our football team.

## DATES TO KNOW

*Check PopeBand.com  
for the full band calendar.*

### NOVEMBER

- 14: PBPA General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20–24: No School
- 29: Showcase Rehearsal 2:30–4:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 5: Winter Concert (Symphonic & Concert Bands, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion Ensemble, HTMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band) 7 p.m., HTMS Theater
- 6: Showcase Rehearsal 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- 7: Showcase Rehearsal 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- 8: Showcase 7:30 p.m., Lassiter Concert Hall
- 9: District Honor Band Auditions, Marietta HS
- 12: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 13: Spirit Day at Willy's
- 21–29: No School

### JANUARY

- 1–3: No School
- 6: All-State Final Auditions
- 9: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 15: No School
- 20: Symphonic Camp Sectionals
- 27: Recycling Day 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 3: Symphonic Camp
- 6: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 9–11: District Honor Band
- 19–23: No School

### MARCH

- 1–3: All-State Band
- 6: Pre-LGPE Concert
- 13: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 15–17: LGPE, Lassiter Concert Hall
- 28–31: Wind Symphony, NYC Trip
- 30: Wind Symphony Performance, Carnegie Hall

### APRIL

- 2–6: No School
- 10: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.

We encouraged all students to participate, but some chose to sit out and avoid performing. The gym was electric... energy high.... Band got amazing responses from the student body, and was on TV in every segment. For some of our students, however, the experience was lost due to lack of participation.

Here's where YOU can help out. Encourage your student to do more than the minimum. Encourage them to try something new in the band program. Encourage them to attend just ONE extra after school music event. Encourage them to engage beyond the minimum possible. They only get one shot at high school band participation. After their four years, they can't go back and get those experiences anywhere else. Give your student the chance to have a positive, memorable, and valuable music experience!

## SHOWCASE OF THE ARTS

Please join us for an evening of holiday music at the annual **Showcase of the Arts** which will feature the Wind Symphony (students in 4<sup>th</sup> period band class), Mastery Orchestra, Chorus and the Drama Department. This year's performance will be **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Lassiter Concert Hall**. TICKETS WILL ONLY BE SOLD ONLINE (and are \$10 each)! *No tickets will be sold at the door for this event*. Please visit [www.PopeBand.com](http://www.PopeBand.com) to purchase your tickets. If you would like to send a **SHOUT-OUT** to your favorite band, chorus, orchestra or drama student, click on this link: [Shout-out Order Form](#) and complete all of the information. Shout-outs cost \$10 and will appear in the Showcase programs. Please send cash or check made out to the PBPA and place your payment in the lockbox in the band room by November 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you at this special event celebrating the Fine Arts Department at Pope.

## SPIRIT DAY AT WILLY'S WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

The holidays are fast approaching and December will be busy as always! Why not take a break one night from cooking and head out to dinner and support the band at the same time? It's a win-win! **Willy's is hosting us on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> ALL Day! (11 a.m.–10 p.m.)** Please make sure to show them the [flyer](#) on your phone (or printed out) and share it with friends and family. Too busy to dine in? You can get it to go! They have salads, burritos, tacos, quesadillas and more. Plus delicious chicken tortilla soup which is perfect for cold December weather! **20% of all sales will go directly to the band** so please come and bring some friends.

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE "APPLES FOR ALL" FUNDRAISER!!

A big thank you for your support of the "Apples for All" fundraiser! Volunteers came together on a rainy and cold Saturday to make this fundraiser a huge success! The apples were crisp and delicious and the homemade pies were as tasty as always. Thank you!!!

## 50/50 RAFFLE AND MARLOW'S GIFT CARD WINNERS



Thanks to all that participated in our raffle at XPLOSION! Our lucky winner for the 50/50 cash raffle was Lyndi Yalen and she won a whopping \$480, with another \$480 going to the band! New this year, audience members that purchased 15 or more tickets were also entered into a drawing to win a \$100 gift card donated by Marlow's Tavern. That winner was Kip Lackey. Look for more raffles next year.

## CAR WASH

We held a car wash on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> for the Wind Symphony to help cover Carnegie Hall trip expenses. Kudos to all the students that came out to wash cars and wave signs—especially those seniors that arrived after the lock-in! The weather wasn't perfect, but enthusiasm was great and about \$400 was raised. Look for more fundraising ideas at the trip meeting on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Any ideas are appreciated!

## DEAD BAND RUNNING 5K—THANK YOU!



Thanks so much for your support on the first Dead Band Running 5K! Despite some really nasty weather we had a great turnout, tons of fun, and some really fast runners. Our own sophomore saxophone player, Aristotle Lilly-Ladas, won first place overall!

Thanks also to our sponsors:

[Perfectly Posh by Holly Maddox](#),  
[Chick-fil-A Sprayberry/Lassiter](#), [Ed Voyles](#),  
[Kumon of Roswell-Shallowford Corners](#), [EmployTest](#),  
[Charter Bank](#), [Stevi B's](#), [School of Rock East Cobb](#),

[Academic Solutions](#), and [DMC Home Improvement](#).

We still have a few run shirts left for sale. If you are interested, please email Jody Neja at [jodyneja@yahoo.com](mailto:jodyneja@yahoo.com).

Planning is already under way on Dead Band Running II. It's going to be even bigger and better!

## COMMUNITY SHOW AND FOOD TRUCKS A RECORD TURNOUT!!!

The AWARD WINNING competition show, Balance, and the Lady Gaga halftime show have been performed for the last time this season. A record crowd turned out and joined the band for a wonderful night of music and food! Thank you to our food trucks—[Mac the Cheese Truck](#), [Boss Lady's Grillers](#), [Tex's Tacos](#), and [Little Blue Ice Cream Truck](#)—for sharing their profits with the band and helping us raise over \$2,700 for the night. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped advertise the show and to those who helped out during the evening's event. There was great weather and an incredible performance by our band.



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## SENIOR WEEK APPRECIATION

Thank you to all our fabulous senior parents for making this year's senior week a great success! From the awesome morning breakfasts and wonderful gifts for the seniors, to the potluck dinner full of delicious food, to the Friday night recognition of the seniors and our fun filled lock-in on Saturday night. A special shout out to Unity North Atlanta Church for hosting our lock-in!! And a huge thank you to our Directors, PBPA board and all of our parents. What you do for our kids will stay with them for a lifetime!!! Congratulations to our seniors!

GOOD BETTER BEST!

## XPLOSION! A GREAT SUCCESS!



We hope you were able to catch one, if not both, performances of XPLOSION! this past Saturday! The kids and directors did another AMAZING job of putting together this one-of-a-kind show! Congratulations to all who participated and a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped out! We can never pull off a show like this without the help of so many. If you would like to purchase a DVD, CD or both and were not able to at the show, just click on this [link](#) to complete the order form. Send in your form and payment to the white lock box by the end of the month. DVDs and CDs will be available in December.

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