

# Pope Band Notes

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

3001 Hembree Rd. Marietta GA 30062

- The Middle School Edition -

## FROM THE DIRECTORS PODIUM

As you look ahead to high school and your involvement with band, here are a few things to consider.

1. Yes, you can do band and have a rigorous academic schedule. Students across the country do it every year. We have had numerous valedictorians, salutatorians, National Merit Scholars, and top academic achievers in the band.
2. You can do other activities. Band students also participate in sports, clubs, church activities, scouts, and a variety of other things. You have to organize your schedule, but it is possible.
3. Finances should not dictate your participation. Yes, there is cost involved, just like with every other activity (sports, cheerleading, etc.), but we also have fundraising and scholarship opportunities available.
4. Time is only a factor if you try and do too many activities at once. Band practices three days per week and attends football games on Fridays. On four Saturdays between August and November, we have either a contest or a rehearsal (four out of the 12 Saturdays during football season). Most in-season sports practice/play 6 days per week for their entire season.

As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, you have invested 3 years in a musical activity that can last a lifetime. You have begun the development of skills and understanding that can continue to grow. The next phase takes those skills and expands them to include many more opportunities and the higher levels of achievement that make band even more fun. Here are more key points:

1. You will develop lasting friendships, ease the transition into high school, and have an activity filled with top quality peers.
2. If you continue in band, you will have something tangible to put on your college applications and into your resume as opposed to having a long list of activities in which you joined, but didn't really have a high level of involvement.
3. You have leadership development opportunities at a higher level than most other high school situations.
4. You have access to college scholarships, even if you are not a

## DATES TO KNOW

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

### OCTOBER

- 17: Pope Winter Guard Auditions 5–7:30 p.m.
- 18: Food Trucks 5 p.m.  
Community Show 7 p.m.
- 20: Chick-fil-A Restaurant Night
- 21: vs. Chattahoochee HS (Senior Night)\*
- 27: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30
- 28: @ Centennial HS\*

### NOVEMBER

- 1: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30  
PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 4: @ Northview HS\*
- 7: JV Winter Guard Auditions 7–9 p.m.
- 8: NO SCHOOL
- 10: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30  
Hawaii Parent/Student Meeting 6–7 p.m.,  
Pope Band Room
- 11: Veterans Day Parade
- 15: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30  
**PBPA General Meeting 7 p.m., Pope Cafeteria**
- 17: Hawaii Parade Rehearsal 3:45–5:30
- 21–25: NO SCHOOL
- 21–28: Hawaii Trip
- 30: Showcase Rehearsal 2:15–4:30

### DECEMBER

- 6: Symphonic and Concert Bands Concert
- 7: Showcase Rehearsal 2:15–4:30
- 8: Showcase Rehearsal 3:30–6:00
- 9: Fine Arts Showcase
- 10: District/All State 1<sup>st</sup> Round Auditions
- 13: PBPA Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 22–30: NO SCHOOL

### JANUARY

- 2–4: NO SCHOOL
- 7: All State Final Auditions  
Recycling Day 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

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

Visit us at: [www.PopeBand.com](http://www.PopeBand.com)

music major. Rarely will you see a financial return from participation in a community sports team or a dance studio. (nothing wrong with those if that's your passion, but we are talking return on investment now!) We see tens of thousands of dollars per year in money for musicians who play in college.

This is a time in your life when you will get ONE OPPORTUNITY to be a part of this group. You can play sports in community groups throughout your adult life. You can pursue many other activities after high school. The high school band experience is limited to your next four years. If you miss it, it's gone forever.

Finally, our experience is that those who get the most benefit and have the best time are those who are more engaged and involved. Join the marching band (we have two versions to fit people's schedules) as well as signing up for band class. The students who do this stay involved longer, have more fun, and make more memories. 25 years from now, your grade point average won't mean a thing to your life...but your memories and friendships will continue!

### ADDIE'S JOURNEY

Our daughter, Addie, had been playing trumpet in the Hightower band program all three years of middle school. She was presented with the band opportunities at Pope and had decided to pursue marching band along with concert band. She attended the Rookie Camp in the spring and was excited about marching in the fall. However, as the time for band camp was drawing near, Addie began to rethink her decision to join marching band. She was concerned about the large time commitment that is part of being involved in competition marching band. We stress commitment to her, so she stated she would try it this year, but wasn't certain that she would stick with it for the remaining three years of high school.

July arrived and with it band camp. Addie arrived home after her first 12 hour day and instead of being tired, she was happy and excited. She stated that she was "called out" for marching well and that Mr. Rudolph already knew her by name because he asked it of her so that he could compliment her. Every day of band camp Addie woke excited and could not wait to return. She would talk about all the friends she was making from every grade and sections of the band. Addie stated to us that she wanted to be drum major just like her dad. During band camp she became friends with some of the Pope drum majors, asking them what she needed to do to achieve that title.

Addie began her freshman year at Pope already having a place to belong and friends throughout the high school. She was successfully learning to juggle her homework with her band schedule. Addie also

knew that she was expected to come to practices with all of her required materials as well as her music memorized. Addie took it upon herself to make sure she had everything she needed each practice without any prompting from either her dad or I. She also saw the opportunity in concert band to play French horn since there were no French horn players in first year concert band. She approached the band directors and asked if she could switch instruments. After some discussion, it was decided that she would give it a try. That night she practiced with her dad for over two hours. She now practices on her own, without any prompting from us. Addie is so excited playing another instrument.

One evening, I sat at competition practice just observing and as I watched my daughter march with pride and purpose, I overflowed with pride myself. We have never seen Addie put 100%+++ of herself into any activity like she has competition marching band. As I told her that evening how proud I was of her, she stated that she felt it was making her a better student (she was achieving all A's and one high B in her first nine weeks of high school) and she didn't mind the criticism on the field during practice because she felt it made her a better marching musician. We could also see that it was making her a more responsible young woman in all areas of her life, not just in relation to band.

Addie continues to strive to succeed in school and band. She continues to say that she wants to be drum major before she graduates. And we continue to be proud of our Pope marching trumpet player.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE NIGHT—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

8<sup>th</sup> grade band night at the football game was last Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a huge turnout with 52 students from Hightower Trail, 42 students from Dodgen and 4 students from High Meadows! They had a combined rehearsal on Tuesday evening, first at Hightower Trail (along with pizza for dinner) and then at Pope on the field with the marching band. On Friday, they performed the Star Spangled Banner along with the Pope Band to open the game, played the fight song and cheers in the stands, and played the Queen show in formation at halftime, along with the entire marching band! Friday also featured a performance by the JV Drumline featuring 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists from Hightower Trail, Dodgen and High Meadows schools. All participants were given a Pope Band T-shirt to wear as their uniform. It was a great, immersive experience for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they got a taste of what it is like to be in marching band at Pope! Speaking of “taste,” the PBPA did a spectacular job providing dinner for their guests as well as the entire marching band! The Pope band looks forward to these students joining their ranks next year!

## WINTER GUARD AUDITIONS

If you love to perform, compete, travel and meet new friends, Winter Guard might be for you! No experience is necessary. **Varsity auditions are Monday, Oct. 17, 5–7:30 pm. JV auditions are Monday, Nov. 7, 7–9 pm.** Meet in the band room at the start time to learn more! For questions, please contact Bobby Jones at [bobby.jones@cobbk12.org](mailto:bobby.jones@cobbk12.org).

## PINE STRAW FUNDRAISER

**Order your pine straw now for delivery on Oct. 28 or Nov. 4. Deadlines are one week before delivery.** Flyers are on the band website under Support Us – [Pine Straw](#). Our new supplier is a Pope band alumni! For questions, contact Sherri Welch at [swelch27@hotmail.com](mailto:swelch27@hotmail.com).

## COMMUNITY SHOW AND FOOD TRUCKS



**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** is our **Community Show** where the band will perform both their competition show **The Key of Z**, as well as their rockin' halftime show with songs by **Queen**. Close up your kitchens and join us for dinner before hand with **Food Trucks**, beginning at 5 pm. The [Toasted Cheese Truck](#), [Cousins Maine Lobster](#), [Tex's Tacos](#) and [Little Blue Ice Cream Truck](#) will be the featured food for the evening. The show will start at 7 pm in Pope's football stadium. It is a wonderful evening to celebrate the band and all they have accomplished this season and to enjoy some time with our band family. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors and spread the word to our eager middle school musicians and families as well. General admission is \$5. **Please note that food trucks will open at 4:30 pm for the band students so they can eat before changing into uniforms and getting ready for yearbook pictures and the show!**

## SPIRIT NIGHT AT



Take out or dine in at the **Chick-fil-A** at 3046 Shallowford Rd on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** and support the band! Tell all of your friends, families and neighbors and post on your social media! A portion of proceeds from the **ENTIRE DAY** will benefit the band, just please remember to tell them you are with the Pope Band when you place your order!

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night—Thursday October 20

## BECOME A BAND BUDDY!

At last week's amazing concert, we rolled out the new **Band Buddy Program**. In each concert program, there was a Band Buddy card. If you are interested in growing your support for our band program, please complete the card (or download one [here](#)) and send in your donation to the white lock box in the band room (alternatively, you can send your donation to Pope High School Band, 3001 Hembree Rd, Marietta, GA 30062, Attn: PBPA – Band Buddy Program). Checks should be made payable to PBPA. All donors will be listed in subsequent concert programs for the remainder of the school year. It is through your generous donations that **so much more is made possible**, beyond what Cobb County and our tax dollars are able to provide, for our talented musicians. Thank you for your support!

## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



Have a Kroger Plus card? Link it to PBPA to earn money for the Pope Band!

Kroger has a "Community Rewards" program wherein it gives rebates to approved organizations based on purchases made with the Kroger Plus card. We just recently had PBPA approved as a community organization that can receive these rebates!

Here is how you can connect your Kroger card with PBPA so that we can start earning funds:

1. Get a Kroger Plus card from the customer service desk or register at Kroger.
2. With card in hand, register online at [kroger.com](http://kroger.com) (If you are new to online, you must click "Create an Account" on the right. Check your email and click on the link to activate your account.)
3. Click on "Community" then go to "Kroger Community Rewards." Look over the information, including contact information and favorite store. On the bottom under "Community Rewards" click on ENROLL NOW.
4. Enter 66474 or search "Pope" to find POPE BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION.

Enroll, and you are done! Please tell friends and family!

Questions? Please contact Leslie Ann Dunn at [dunnhorn@gmail.com](mailto:dunnhorn@gmail.com).

## "APPLES FOR ALL"

The "Apples for All" Fundraiser is here! Order forms, selling instructions, etc. can be found on the band website.

Please consider ordering for yourself and talk with your family, friends and neighbors to ask them if they would also like to purchase and enjoy the fresh crop of North Georgia Apples and fresh fried pies we have available.

**Forms and money are due Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.** Please put them in the white box marked "Apple Sales". Pick-up will be Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at Tritt Elementary School under the covered play area from 12–1 p.m. for Student orders and 1–4 p.m. for Student/Community orders.

Please contact us with any questions: Sheba Justin ([justinsheba@gmail.com](mailto:justinsheba@gmail.com)) or Kathy Wood ([kwood.pbpa@gmail.com](mailto:kwood.pbpa@gmail.com)). Thank you for supporting the Pope Band!!!

## CHAPERONING SUPPLIES

Thank you so very much to the band families who have donated to our fund to replace our failing coolers and replenish our stock of water and Gatorade! It's not too late to contribute, and we are still in need of funds! If you would like to help out, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Chaperone Fund" and place it in the white box in the band room. Again, many, many thanks for your help!