

**Port St. Lucie High School Band**  
The Pride of Port St. Lucie

**Band Handbook**  
**2015-2016**



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## **Welcome from the Director:**

Welcome to an exciting new year with the bands at Port St. Lucie High School. Changes are occurring in the band and will continue to do so in the future. This year we must build a solid foundation to build upon in the future. I would like to challenge each of you to make the Port St. Lucie High School Band Program the best that it can be and the best that it ever has been. This handbook is designed to be a guide for operating procedures of the Port St. Lucie High School Band Program.

Each member and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) should carefully read all of the sections of this handbook. This year will certainly bring new procedures and new expectations. Just because a procedure has been in place in previous years does not automatically mean that it will be the same this year. This handbook will attempt to clearly define the expectations of each band member and highlight the vision for the future of the program. Become familiar with these procedures, as most answers for many common questions can be found here. I am looking forward to a great year of making music with each of you.

Michelle Warshany  
Director of Bands

## Contacting the Band Director

The best way to contact the band director is via email at michelle.warshany@stlucieschools.org. This will usually produce the fastest response because I am not always in the band office to take calls. You may also reach me by calling the band office phone 772-337-6771 ext. 8127.

I will make every effort to respond within 48 hours during regular school days. Any messages sent Friday evening, Saturday, or Sunday will be answered the following Monday. When on designated school breaks, messages will be answered as soon as possible but may not be within 48 hours.

If you would like to speak with me, please request a time in advance to have a conference via phone or in person. The end of rehearsals, football games and festivals/competitions, and the school day are very busy times and not an appropriate time to have a conference.

## Performance Ensembles

### Marching Band

The marching band is composed of members from the Symphonic and Concert Bands, the Percussion Ensemble, and the Color Guard. **All students enrolled in these ensembles are required to participate in marching band.** Students must speak with the director prior to band camp about any conflict. The marching band is a musical unit organized to provide education and entertainment for football games, pep rallies, band festivals, parades and concerts. This group is an important part of the instrumental music education program. Membership requires TOTAL DEDICATION, MAXIMUM EFFORT and COMPLETE INVOLVEMENT in all aspects of marching, playing and performance.

### Symphonic and Concert Bands

The Symphonic and Concert Bands are the core of the Port St. Lucie High School Band Program. The Symphonic and Concert Bands are comprised of all brass, woodwind, and percussion players in the band program. The repertoire of the ensembles is extensive. The Symphonic and Concert Bands have classes that meet throughout the entire year and perform several concerts and festivals each year. After football season, afternoon rehearsals may be required. A schedule will be posted. All students enrolled in band are part of the Symphonic or Concert Band. Freshmen band members, beginners, and students wishing to learn a second instrument comprise the freshman Concert Band. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors make up the Symphonic Band.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

Percussion ensemble is open to all percussionists. This class is to provide tailored instruction on a detailed level to percussionists. The focus of this class is to expose students to a variety of styles of percussion ensemble literature.

### **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band is open to all members of the band program, by audition. Instruction in jazz idioms and literature of the twentieth century are studied. The Jazz Band is a co-curricular class that has some afterschool rehearsals. See the calendar for specific rehearsal dates/times. Any student may audition for the Jazz Band, but they must play a traditional jazz instrument (trumpet, trombone, sax, piano, bass, vibraphone, guitar, and percussion) in the ensemble.

### **Color Guard (Auxiliary)**

The Guard is open to membership by audition with flags and rifles. The Color Guard is an integral part of the Marching Band and performs with the marching band throughout the year. After the fall season ends, the Color Guard develops indoor routines to exhibit at various events.

## **Code of Conduct**

It is expected that members of the PSLHS band will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. In addition to the guidelines outlined in this handbook, students are expected to follow all school rules, policies, and procedures.

Students are seen as band members in many activities that they attend or participate in at the school or in the community. Any band member that casts discredit on the band by their actions at school or in the community may be subject to dismissal from the band program in addition to disciplinary action from the school.

Students who are repeatedly disciplined by the school authorities are subject to dismissal from the band program.

## **Band Expectations**

1. No talking while the director is working.
2. Cut off immediately. Playing beyond the
3. Respect all property and students. Keep areas clean and do not touch equipment that is not yours. Do not bring food or beverages besides water into the band room.
4. Come to rehearsals and events prepared and on time.
5. Due to the amount of hard work and dedication band students put forth; being allowed in the band room is considered a privilege and not available to non-band students.

Please contact the director directly if there are any questions or if further clarification is needed.

### **The Band Room and Band Facilities**

It is important to keep our band facilities in good condition. Taking care of the facility will prevent needless repair expenses, but more importantly, will aid us in rehearsing more effectively. It is important that every band member take responsibility in keeping and clean and safe environment.

Students may keep equipment in the band storage rooms in his/her assigned area. Although every effort is made to keep a safe and secure area for equipment, use of storage rooms is at the risk of the student, and the Port St. Lucie Band will not take responsibility for loss or damage. It is strongly recommended that students keep serial numbers and appraisals at their home and parental insurance policies include the musical instruments.

Students may not touch equipment or instruments, unless it was assigned to them. Winds and auxiliary members may not touch percussion equipment, use percussion equipment as a table, or enter the percussion closet, unless permitted to do so by the director or a staff member. Winds and percussion may not touch or use auxiliary equipment or enter the auxiliary closet, unless permitted to do so by the director or a staff member.

There is to be no food, gum, or drink in the rehearsal area except water.

### **Stadium Etiquette and Procedures**

1. The band will march into each game in an orderly and dignified manner.
2. March into stands, REMAIN STANDING until drum major or the director seats you.
3. Only uniformed band members, staff, and chaperones may sit in the band section.
4. The band will play as a group and ONLY when directed. No noodling, ad-libbing or soloing!
5. With the exception of hats, students will remain in complete uniform at all times. (The director may alter the level of uniform dress as appropriate.)
6. Swearing and smoking while in uniform and with the band is not appropriate at any time.
7. The band will sit in a uniform block.
8. Always pay attention to the Director, Drum Major, and the Section Leaders for music selection, instructions, etc.
9. When cheering or playing the band may stand, but at other times members are to remain seated.
10. When playing in the stands, the band will stand at attention and everyone must watch the drum majors. Any general effect added to stands tunes must be approved by Miss Warshany prior to it being used.

11. Students are responsible for all of their music, equipment and instrument while in the stands. **NEVER LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN YOUR SEAT!** Remember flip folders and lyres for the stands.
12. As spectators, the band and chaperones are there to support the PSLHS football team and to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Everyone sitting in the band area will cheer appropriately for the athletes and behave courteously to others in the stands.
13. A chaperone must accompany a student to the restroom. (These trips will be limited)
14. Third quarter break is a privilege. Students may not wander around the stadium. Students that abuse the third quarter privilege will lose it.
15. **DO NOT** go to the other side of the field without authorized permission.
16. **YOU MUST** be in your seat ready to play at the **BEGINNING of FOURTH QUARTER**
17. Do not walk on seats, use the aisles only.
18. To expedite matters and quell chaos, only the band members, director, chaperones and invited guests will be allowed in the Band Room before or after games or trips. (Please make arrangements to meet your ride in the front student parking lot or specified pick-up area.)
19. Students should make arrangements in advance to be picked up following games, festivals, or other marching band activities. "I'll call you when I'm done" is not making arrangements in advance. The Band Room phone is for emergency purposes only.
20. Students are to wait for their ride in the front student parking lot. This is the only area with supervision.

## **Band Camp**

1. **ALWAYS** eat something and hydrate before outside rehearsals. Foods high in carbohydrates, such as cereal, bread, etc. are best. Fruit is also good. Try to avoid dairy products and meat (especially fried). Drinks that have caffeine or carbonation should also be avoided.
2. **ALWAYS** wear plenty of sunscreen and a hat. You should wear loose-fitting clothes that are lightly colored. Light colors reflect heat, while dark colors absorb heat. You will be much hotter if you wear dark clothing!
3. Do **NOT** wear denim, sweat pants, or flip flops.
4. You **MUST** wear athletic shoes with comfortable socks.
5. You will be given plenty of water breaks. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EACH!** If you drink a little water often, you will be in good shape. Always have a container of water with you on the field. Incoming freshmen will be supplied with a water container. Returning students can use the water container they were provided their incoming year. Additional water containers will not be provided if lost. Drink only water or sports drinks such as Gatorade. Carbonated, sugary drinks may make you sick to your stomach.

6. If you begin to feel dizzy or nauseated, DO NOT WAIT. Get to a drum major, staff member, or the director for assistance. If you are careful and take the proper precautions, the heat will not become a problem for you.

## Instruments

1. Each student using a school-owned instrument is required to sign-out that instrument with the director. No student will play an instrument that is not signed-out to them and only percussion students are allowed to use percussion equipment. Students are expected to provide their own accessories for the instrument.
2. The school instrument must be returned at the end of the school year in the same condition in which it was issued. Any damage to an instrument that is beyond normal use (not playable, major dents, or improperly cared for) will be considered the student's responsibility to fix.
3. Woodwind instruments need to be swabbed immediately after rehearsal, disassembled, and put correctly into their case; brass instruments should be given a bath once per month; percussionists are responsible for keeping their drum sticks and mallets in good repair and storing them properly in their lockers, storage closets, and/or cabinet drawers, along with other equipment (tambourines, cymbals, etc.) after each rehearsal.

## Attire

### Marching Band Uniforms

Students will be assigned a uniform with a specific number during band camp for the use of one school year. The uniform consists of bibbers, jacket, shako, and plume. Students will also received a carrying case for their shako and a garment bag. Annual inspection of the uniforms will be held to determine damage or loss. Uniforms MUST be turned in at the end of the year. Do NOT write your name in the uniform or place tape in any part of the uniform. Damage and loss will be charged to the student. See table below for item cost.

Uniform Item	Cost
Jacket	\$172.46
Bibbers	\$72.10
Shako	\$39.63
Shako Carrying Case	\$6.69
Garment Bag	\$11.59

Band shoes may be purchased for \$40.00. Students are required to wear these shoes at all festivals, competitions, and parades. Students must wear calf high black socks with their shoes.

It is of high importance for the band to present a dignified professional image during public events. Our school has gone to great expense and effort to provide the band with professional style uniforms and it is only appropriate that the personal grooming and appearance of individual members appropriately match and blend into the quality and professional image of our performance uniforms and dress. It is for this reason that we have adopted the following polices:

- While it is strongly recommended that there be NO visible jewelry worn, in the event where a student has piercings that may not be reasonably removable, very small studs that DO NOT call attention to the individual (either by size or color) will be allowed;
- NO visible bracelets and rings that either call attention to the individual or might interfere with the playing of the instrument will be allowed;
- Hair
  - Black Hair elastics– Clips must match hair color
  - A natural color
  - Must fit neatly into hat or must be tied out of face. All hair that reaches the collar of the uniform must be tied up and fit into the hat
  - Hair style for color guard must look uniform

### **Marching Band Rehearsals**

Students are expected to be in uniform at every after school rehearsal. The shirt color is specified below. The shirt may not be ripped, see through, low cut, and within school dress code. A show shirt will be provided as part of the band fees. Students are required to wear black athletic shorts. One pair will be provided as part of the camp fees. Students can purchase additional pairs of black athletic shorts but they must match the style of the one provided. Any changes to the rehearsal uniform will be announced.

Monday	Wednesday	Other Days
White Shirt	Red Shirt	Show Shirt

### **Concert**

Students will be assigned a concert uniform. Males will be assigned pants, jacket, cumber bun, and bowtie. Females will be assigned a dress. Damage and loss will be charged to the student. See below for item cost.

Uniform Item	Cost
Dress	\$53.00
Tuxedo Pants/Jacket	\$96.00
Tie	\$8.00
Cumber bun	\$20.00



## Cell Phones

All school policies regarding cell phones apply to all band situations. Students may use cellphones in band situations outside the normal school day as follows

- During breaks
- Free time
- Other times as approved by director or chaperones

Cell Phones may not be used and must be turned off and out of sight in the following circumstances. Students may not keep cellphones on stands during rehearsals. Students may not have use of nor have possession of cell phones as follows:

- Any rehearsal or performance situation
- Sectionals
- Any formal or special concert, lecture, tour, or special meeting situation

Cell phone use and possession will be restricted for the group or for individuals when used irresponsibly or when the use of or possession of cell phones distracts from legitimate band activities or compromises the safety of the group or individuals.

## Attendance

All members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Due to the fact that band is a performance-based class, rehearsals and performances are an integral part of the curriculum, and naturally part of the grading process.

### Scheduling

Most major performances and rehearsals are scheduled at the beginning of the school year and the calendar is available on the band website. Scheduling updates are provided as soon as the information becomes available.

Two weeks' notice is considered adequate for mandatory attendance. Band members and parents are asked to make sacrifices for the good of the band.

Remember:

**The band is a team without substitutes;  
THE BAND NEEDS ALL OF ITS MEMBERS ALL OF THE TIME.**

### Excused and Unexcused Absences for Rehearsals and Performances

Death in the family, observance of a religious holiday, required court appearance, emergency beyond the control of the student or parent, and serious illness with a doctor's note are excused absences from band functions. Doctor's notes and court documentation must be submitted within three days of the absence in order for it to be considered excused. 14 days notice is required to be excused from an event due

to observance of a religious holiday. Work is not considered an excused absence. Inform your employer accordingly. Vacations are not considered an excused absence so be sure to plan accordingly. Absences for school related events will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Appointments or personal problems will be reviewed by the director on an individual basis. Do your best to try to make appointments on days when there are no rehearsals. Check your calendar. Forms for excused absences will be available to fill out. Requests for an excused absence should be submitted at least seven days prior to the intended absence. Without prior notice, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Excessive and unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the program. The drill and music continually changes during marching band season based upon judge's critiques. If a rehearsal is missed, he/she will not know adjustments made to the performance. Absence at a competition creates inconsistencies in the drill and points may possibly be taken off the band's overall score. Students work very hard to achieve a high caliber performance at every event. The result depends on the commitment of all students to the program.

### **Absence from Performance**

Performances are essential to the success of the band. Even one student being absent can turn a potentially fine performance into a mediocre event. Absences must be approved by the director in advance. Any absence from a performance that is not brought to the director's attention for 21 days prior to the performance will be considered unexcused.

### **Tardiness**

Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals. Students must be ready with their instruments, music, pencil, proper dress, and any other materials needed for rehearsals. Arrive early to give yourself enough time to set up. *To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late.* If a student is late three times, it will count as one unexcused absence. Any person arriving late for a performance will receive a double tardy.

### **Fair Share**

Fair Share is the way in which the band budget is fairly distributed among all band students, so that the band's financial obligations can be met. Fair Share is an obligation that must be met by all band students; however, parents are not expected to pay their student's Fair Share directly. Rather, students are encouraged to participate in the many fundraisers offered throughout the year to meet their Fair Share obligation. Band fundraisers all have varying profit percentages that go toward the student's Fair Share bill.

It's important to fundraise in advance of bills due. Portions of the Fair Share band fees will be due throughout the year. Fundraise early to meet the billing deadlines so that you don't have a balance due.

We won't set minimums for individual fundraisers (for instance, "each student must sell 12 cheesecakes to meet their quota"), but we will let you decide how much you'll sell for each fundraiser. Some students are "natural born salesmen" and have more resources that lend themselves to selling. Other students don't and would rather pay outright than to sell products.

As a band, we will offer fundraisers that will allow you - if you choose - to fundraise 100 percent of your band fees. Check out our website for upcoming and ongoing fundraisers and plan ahead how much you'll want to sell/fundraise and how much you'll want to pay toward your bill.

**Please note** that if fair share band fees are not paid in full by graduation, a hold will be placed on the student's high school diploma.

## **Parental Involvement**

Parental support is critical in order for the band to be successful in all its activities, and to acquire funds for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and staff that contribute to our success. Your participation is truly appreciated, and every parent is always invited to any band function. Miss Warshany welcomes your input and your thoughts on how we can achieve our common goals together.

While the Port St. Lucie High School Band receives some support from the district and the school, the program is mostly self-supporting and has several fundraisers each year. Part of the profits from fundraisers support the overall program needs, while part is credited to individual students to help them meet their Fair Share obligation.

**Parents are encouraged to do their best to support the goals, policies, procedures and decisions of your child's Band Director. Often these are in place for a specific reason, which may not be instantly understood, but is for the common good of all band members. Please feel free to contact Miss Warshany should you have any questions.**

Help your child to learn to be punctual, and do your best to help them arrive on time for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. It is impossible to adequately rehearse with people late or missing from any scheduled event. Please help them understand the importance of starting on time.

Become involved! Attend all concerts and performances, volunteer on a committee, "pop in" at rehearsals to see what is happening with the band, and enthusiastically cheer your band every chance you get. They may never tell you, but your kids love

this and come to depend on it. They work very hard to make the best possible product, so let them know how much you appreciate what you do.

## **Upgrades Mouthpieces**

If upgrading an instrument is not a possibility, one of the easiest and most inexpensive ways to upgrade an instrument is by purchasing a better mouthpiece or ligature. Provided are a list of recommendations.

### **Clarinet**

Van Doren 5 RV Lyre Mouthpiece

DEG Barrels

Rovner Ligatures

### **Saxophone**

Selmer C\*

### **Trumpet**

Bach 3C or 1.5C

### **Horn**

Schilke 29 or 30

### **Trombone**

Bach 5G or 4G

Schilke 51 or 51D

### **Tuba**

Helleberg 120s

Bach 18

Perantucci PT-50

## **Instruments (Intermediate and Professional Models)**

Piccolo        Yamaha YPC62

Flute         Yamaha 684H

Clarinet     Buffet R-13

Oboe         Loree or Fox 400

Bassoon     Fox Renard 220 or 222

Saxophone   Old Selmer Mark VI or Yamaha Custom

Trumpet     Bach Stradivarious or Yamaha Xeno

Horn         Paxman M20 or Holton 179

Trombone    Bach 42B, Bach 42BO, Edwards, or Conn 88-H

Euphonium   Yamaha 321-S or Wilson

Tuba         St. Petersburg or Miraphone 191 or 187

### **Director's Statement**

The band director will have final say on any issue related to the PSLHS Band. The policies laid forth in this manual will be enforced. Under extremely rare circumstances, however, the director may find it necessary to alter the policy for the best interest of the student. Be aware that every effort will be made to avoid this circumstance if possible.

## **Conclusion**

It is the hope of the school, director, students, and parents that we maintain as fine an organization as possible. This can be accomplished only by everyone taking a sincere interest in the band. Only through hard work and cooperation can we develop a band in which we can all be proud. There are no magic formulas or guarantees, but by following this handbook thoroughly, living up to the standards and procedures described herein, and using good judgment, you will have done a great deal towards promoting and developing a fine band program. This is **YOUR BAND** and it will be **SUPERIOR** only through **YOUR EFFORTS**.

BAND HANDBOOK  
STUDENT VERIFICATION

I have read the Band Handbook and agree to adhere to the policies, rules and regulations established therein. I agree to discuss any questions or concerns that I may have with the director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name(printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Do not separate)

BAND HANDBOOK  
PARENT/GUARDIAN VERIFICATION

I have read this band handbook and understand these policies, rules and regulations will be in effect for the current school year. I will forward all questions directly to the director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name(printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date