

# Penncrest High School “Roaring Lions” Marching Band

134 Barren Road Media, PA 19063 610-627-6325  
JohnKuhar@gmail.com [www.penncrestband.org](http://www.penncrestband.org)

August 14, 2024

Dear Band Members and Parents,

On behalf of the Roaring Lions Staff, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2024 marching season! I am proud to be leading this incredible band in my new role as marching band director, and I am joined by an elite staff who is eager to help make the band the best it can be. This year promises to be one of growth, excitement, and musical achievement as we continue to build on our legacy of excellence. We can't wait to see you at band camp, which kicks off on August 19th. Please take the time to read through this letter carefully, as it will provide you with all the details you need to ensure a smooth and successful start to the season. Here's to another year of pride, precision, and power with the Roaring Lions!

## What you Need to Know for Band Camp:

**Mandatory Activity:** All marching activities are mandatory for all band members unless otherwise specified. Plan to attend band camp in its entirety. See further guidelines on page two.

**Location:** Band Camp will be held at Penncrest. Daily specifics will be on the band room board.

**Paperwork:** Bring your completed medical form to the first day of Band Camp, or send electronically to [JohnKuhar@gmail.com](mailto:JohnKuhar@gmail.com) (Please do not use your school email, I will not receive it.) Returning members do not need a new form unless your medical situation has changed. Forms can be downloaded at [www.penncrestband.org](http://www.penncrestband.org). We must have your completed medical form in order for you to participate in band camp.

**Phone Apps:** Marching arts are rapidly evolving. We utilize three phone apps in our band program, Schoology/Powerschool, UDB App, and the Band App. Instructions for signing up for UDB and Band App can be found in the Marching Band Schoology page.

**Pre-Band Camp Preparation:** Start getting up early and being physically active outdoors if you are not already. Have your school songs memorized and be able to play the show music. If you are driving to camp, please do not park in the numbered spots that are reserved for Penncrest staff. Begin hydrating 48 hours before camp.

**Early = On Time:** Arrive for camp days at least 15 minutes before practice begins. This gives you time to swing by the band room and make it to the attendance block before the whistle blows. Put on your sunscreen before you leave the house so it has time to work into your skin.

**Parent drop-off and pickup:** Parents can drop off and pick up their children in the bus lane outside of the band room. We do our very best to start and end our practice at the scheduled time, however due to the distance we need to walk to return, amount of equipment, and individual walking pace, your departure times may vary.

**Snacks/Lunch:** All students are responsible for bringing their own non-refrigerated lunch to the Saturday Band Camp. It is also recommended that you pack yourself a healthy snack on the other Band Camp days. Healthy choices that will refuel you are: energy and granola bars, fruit, nuts, sandwiches with lean meat or peanut butter, and pretzels in addition to your drink. See our Healthy Snacking guidelines in Schoology.

**What to Wear:** Comfortable, light athletic clothing and comfortable athletic shoes. RTM dress code is in effect during camps; please follow all guidelines. Wear sunglasses and a hat or visor to protect you from the sun. Above all else, wear SUNSCREEN and apply it before you leave the house. Check forecasts as sometimes temperatures are cool in the morning, and we will march in the rain.

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**What to Bring:** Your instrument and equipment, including a lyre and flip folder containing all your music. Make sure your phone or device has the Schoology/Powerschool App, UDB App, and Band App installed. Bring two dot markers that are unique to you (your section leader will provide suggestions). A gallon water jug filled with ice and water or a sports drink is essential—everyone must have water. Pack any necessary medical supplies, such as inhalers, EpiPens, and allergy medication, which you can keep in your pocket or in a fanny pack. Don't forget sunscreen for reapplication throughout the day. You will receive a name tag on day one—wear it until you are instructed otherwise.

**If You Are Playing a Fall Sport:** Let your coach know you're in band and let me know the sport you play no later than August 20th. Athletes will split their time between sports and band each day, except for Monday 8/19 when rookies will be required to be in band the entire day. Expect to split your time during the evening practices. Talk to other band members that will be playing the same sport to work out schedules and carpooling. See page two of the calendar for more information on working out conflicts. The key is flexibility and communication.

**Bring your best attitude!** This IS NOT boot camp. This IS going to be the most fun you have ever had working hard. Take it one step at a time, follow instructions, and help each other. You can do this, and we will help you.

## CONFLICTS WITH BAND AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

All band activities are mandatory for every band member. Every band member occupies a unique spot in the show. There is no JV, there is no bench, every one of you is a starter on the Varsity squad. No one can do what you do, and without you, the band is incomplete and won't perform its best. To that end, band members are to arrange their personal schedules so as not to conflict with the schedule. Things like senior portraits, medical appointments, jobs, and vacations should be scheduled so as not to interfere. Activities and occasions that we excuse for include: weddings, funerals, emergencies, college visits, religious observances, SAT and similar standardized testing, and conflicting Penncrest activity as outlined in the Co-Curricular Agreement.

For an absence to be excused, the band office needs written notification at least one week in advance, describing the specific nature of the request. If our request falls under the above list, it will be excused. If you are missing a graded activity, you will still need to make up the grade by taking an additional playing test.

Unexcused absences from activities will result in no credit towards a band member's grade. Repeated absences can result in a reduced role with the band, up to and including dismissal from the group. Band members who are unable to attend band camp in its entirety are not guaranteed to perform until they learn their assignments sufficiently. If your school sport and band practice schedule conflict, you will split your time in a way that is agreed upon by both your coach and your band director. You will not miss a game or performance for a practice.

The key to avoiding and working out conflicts is COMMUNICATION. Band members are expected to handle this responsibility and honor their commitments to all organizations. Give as much advance notice as possible, as early as possible, and ask for excusals as seldom as possible. Requests for excusal must be submitted at least one week in advance to be considered and must include the specific reason for the request.

If you have any questions, need some encouragement, or just want to tell us how great of a job we are doing, please contact the band office at [JohnKuhar@gmail.com](mailto:JohnKuhar@gmail.com). We are here to help! Band is a Preparation for Life, and we are looking forward to helping you be as prepared as possible! Let's have a great year.

**John Paul Kuhar**  
**Marching Band Director, Penncrest High School**

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## Band Camp Schedule

(Full schedule is on the Google calendar at [www.penncrestband.org](http://www.penncrestband.org) )

*Please note that there have been adjustments to the Calendar since Spring Training*

| WEEK 1  |            |   |                          |
|---|------------|---|--------------------------|
| Monday, August 19<br><b>**Rookie athletes are requested to spend the first day with no sports split</b> | 4PM-8PM    | All band members will report at 4PM<br>Bring your phone with UDB app & two dot markers<br>First Half of uniform fitting makeups at 2:30PM | Practice Field           |
| Tuesday, August 20  | 4PM-8PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL<br>Sport Splits begin<br>2nd half of uniform fitting makeups at 2:30pm  | Practice Field           |
| Wednesday, August 21  | 7:30AM-9AM | Report to band room IN UNIFORM (No shako, gauntlets, or gloves). Hair can be worn down.<br>Performance for RTM staff                      | Band Room/<br>Auditorium |
|   | 4PM-8PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
| Thursday, August 22   | 4PM-8PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
| Friday, August 23   | 4PM-6PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
|   | 6PM        | <b>Pep band for first Home Game</b>   | Stadium                  |
| Saturday, August 24   | 9AM-5PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL, Picture Day  | Practice Field           |
| WEEK 2  |            |   |                          |
| Monday, August 26   | 4PM-8PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
| Tuesday, August 27  | 4PM-8PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
| Wednesday, August 28  | 4PM-7PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
|   | 5:45PM     | Parent Meeting  | Library                  |
|   | 7:00PM     | <b>Parent Preview Performance. All are invited to see our first show!</b>   | Stadium                  |
| Thursday, August 29   | 4PM-6PM    | FULL BAND REHEARSAL   | Practice Field           |
|   | 7PM        | <b>Home game vs. Strath Haven: First time performing halftime in uniform</b>  | Stadium                  |
| Friday, August 30   | 8AM-12PM   | FULL BAND REHEARSAL, last day of Band Camp  | Practice Field           |