

May 8, 2025

Students and Parents:

Believe it or not, it's that time of year again! Another marching season is fast approaching, and preparations are already well underway. Our directors, Band Booster board, and dedicated volunteers are working as hard as ever to ensure that this season is as successful as the last, but we need your help to start us off on the right foot.

Just like athletes, marching band members must put in hours of preparation before performances, which makes the summer months absolutely crucial to the success of the fall competition season. For this reason, we require attendance at weekly summer sectionals and a six-day band camp to be held **July 20th- July 25th at Ferris State University in Big Rapids**. Band camp alone allows for over twenty-five hours of quality practice time that otherwise would have to occur over the course of a month during the school year.

We hold camp "off-campus" because students learn best and most enjoy the experience away from the stress of school and work. In-between these un-interrupted blocks of practice time are scheduled activities and down time that help band members—especially freshmen—relax and bond with each other. Fostering a sense of pride, community, and cohesion is one of the most important aspects of the experience. While students often find band camp physically and mentally challenging, most say it is their favorite part of participating in band.

The fee for band camp this year will be **\$475/student**, which includes room and board, all meals, and logistics for Ferris State facilities. Families sending more than one student to camp will receive a discount of \$25/student (i.e. \$450/student for two, and \$425/student for three). Additionally, freshman students must purchase marching shoes and gloves for \$40 before the beginning of the fall semester.

Enclosed in this letter is an information sheet and tentative Band Camp schedule. We ask that you review it carefully, and fill out the required forms attached. Completed forms and payments must be turned in to Mr. Harder, Mr. Willson, or Mr. Huitema by the due dates listed below. If you would like to pay **in full** by credit card prior to **June 11th** or **June 26th** (3% fee), please notify Melissa McGeehan at 231-330-2596 no later than **June 1st**. **Venmo** is also available at @PetoskeyBand-Boosters. (Venmo via credit card has a 3% processing fee).

June 11	1st payment of \$150
June 26	2nd payment of \$175
July 10	3rd payment of \$150

Please make checks payable to: Petoskey Band Boosters, and include your student's name on the memo line. **Payments can be received in full at any time.** Please make sure payments match the payment schedule, or combine full payments (significantly easier book-keeping than a collection of random deposits). Students utilizing the Oleson's grocery receipt program (procedure outlined on the Petoskey Bands' website) must collect and submit receipts to Mr. Harder, Mr. Willson, or Mr. Huitema by July 1st for processing.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the Petoskey Band Program. We are incredibly excited to see what this upcoming year will bring, and cannot wait to get started!

Sincerely,
Duane Willson, Tom Harder, and Taylor Huitema

Band Camp Info Sheet

July 20-25, 2025

1. **July 4th 5:15pm** – Meet at PHS for Fourth of July parade. Wear marching t-shirt and khaki pants or shorts.
2. **July 16th (Wednesday) 6:30-9:00pm** – Mandatory practice and band camp check in. All payments and all forms must be turned in by this date. All parents must attend a short band camp meeting at **6:00pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Harder at (231) 348-2278.
3. **Sunday, July 20th @ 11am** – meet at PHS to board the buses. Bring your luggage and instruments.
4. All students will be transported to FSU by school bus. Parents are welcome to attend the Friday evening performance beginning at 6:30pm. Buses will leave FSU by 8:00pm. Those students traveling home with their parents or guardians and **not** on the bus must submit a written note signed by a parent or guardian **before** leaving for band camp!
5. **Students will only be allowed to load one small suitcase on the trailer and one backpack on the bus.**
6. **Checklist** (continued on next page):
 - _____ Pillow(s)
 - _____ Sleeping bag, blanket(s), or sheets
 - _____ Towels, soap, and other toiletries
 - _____ Black plastic folder
 - _____ Music
 - _____ Lyre
 - _____ Casual clothing suitable to march in
 - Must adhere to school dress code. You will be asked to change if clothing is inappropriate. If you have to ask, then they probably are.
 - _____ Jacket and rain gear
 - _____ Instrument and accessories
 - _____ Swimwear
 - _____ Sleepwear
 - _____ Two or more pairs of comfortable shoes. **Clogs and sandals are not permitted.**
 - _____ 5+ pair of socks. **Socks are required** to avoid blisters.
 - _____ Small fan, optional
 - _____ **Sun screen**, at least 30spf, and chap stick or another suitable substitute
 - _____ Marching band t-shirt and khaki shorts for Friday performance
 - _____ Sense of humor and enthusiasm
 - _____ Pride!

You may NOT bring TV's, amps, video game consoles, or laptops!

7. **Basic Camp Rules:**
 - a. ALL school regulations will be adhered to concerning smoking, alcohol, drugs, etc.
 - b. No foul language
 - c. All students must remain within the dormitory and assigned areas unless given specific permission by the camp director. Bed checks will be done at 10:30 p.m. every night.
 - d. Any student who cannot abide by camp regulations will be sent home at parent/guardian's expense.

8. Tentative Camp Schedule:

6:30 a.m. Wake Up
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:15 a.m. Warm Up
8:30 a.m. Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Recreation
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Sectionals
2:00 p.m. Rehearsal
4:00 p.m. Recreation
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Rehearsal
9:00 p.m. Evening activities
10:00 p.m. In rooms
10:30 p.m. Room checks
11:00 p.m. Lights out and quiet

9. Telephone number for emergency use only: (616) 592-5000 (Public Safety). You will also be given chaperone #'s at the meeting on July 16.
10. Upon arrival at camp, wait for instructions as to your dormitory assignment.
11. Parents are welcome to visit at any time. On the last evening of camp (July 25th) at 6:30 pm, we will be giving a final run through performance of the entire show, weather permitting. Please feel free to join us for this performance. Students are free to ride home with parents as long as the directors have a note on file.

Roommate Requests & Bus Lists will be done at summer sectionals and 4th of July Meeting/Performance. Summer Sectional times will be announced in class, sent out via email, and posted on the band website!

www.petoskeybands.org