

Patriot High School
Cardinal Regiment
2010 SCSBOA 2A CHAMPIONS

2011/2012

Information Packet
Handbook

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WELCOME to the Patriot High School Band and Colorguard!

We would like to welcome you to our family, the Patriot Cardinal Regiment (PCR).

This group is an important one on campus, and around the community. It is a competitor at competitions, spirit group at athletic events, entertainment at half time, and anything else that is needed when called upon. It is also one of the largest “clubs” on campus. Most importantly it is a group of students who come together for the common goal of performing fantastic shows for our audiences.

Your director, instructional staff, administrators, past members, and parents have worked countless hours to bring you everything you need to a part of a successful group. All that's missing is YOU! The dedicated, talented, and hard-working band, colorguard, or drumline member.

If you have not been a part of a group like this, you may not know of the amount of work and dedication that your membership will require. You will need to attend **all** required practices and all mandatory performances but we guarantee that you will have a great time, meet new people, and have a once in a lifetime experience. The experiences you'll have, places you'll see, and friends you will meet will last you a lifetime. But, in order for us to continue our tradition of excellence at Patriot, it will take long hours of practice, hard work, sacrifice, and more discipline than you know you have!

About the Patriot Cardinal Regiment

Your Director

My name is Ray Moreno. This is my 8th year teaching and my fourth year at Patriot. I am experienced in Marching Band (Field and Street), Concert Band, Jazz, Drumline, and drum corps. My educational objective is to teach students about responsibility, hard work, dedication, pride, and discipline using music and the arts as a means.

Philosophy and Goals

The goal of Patriot Cardinal Regiment is to produce quality performances for our audiences and to provide students with the best possible education and experience. We also want to provide students with the opportunities to participate in various types of groups. Classical, jazz, marching, drumline, colorguard, small ensembles, and of course marching band.

Being involved in our program gives students the opportunity to express themselves using music and movement. It provides students with some of the top instructors in Southern California, and it gives students the opportunity to travel all over southern California (and beyond), performing in front of thousands of people each year.

The group also stresses teamwork, time management, academic achievement, and maintaining health with proper diet and exercise as well as teaching students how to “perform” under all circumstances

The Patriot Cardinal Regiment is a wonderful place for students to grow and flourish, not only as performers but also as responsible young adults.

Activities

This year we will be participating in many different activities. In the first semester, the Patriot Marching Band will be performing in field tournaments, parades, home football games, and community performances. During second semester the groups split up and we offer Concert Band, Winter Drumline, Winter Colorguard, Latin Jazz Band, Pep Band, and Chamber Ensembles. The PCR also participate in other activities including fundraising, potlucks, and parent performances.

Competition

Although we attend many competitions each year, our goal is always to have the best possible performance. If that performance should win awards, then so be it, but our first priority is to live up to our potential and put out the best performances. Students should always show respect to all other groups and cheer and congratulate other groups after they perform. PCR members are always courteous and respectful. We are gracious when we lose and we are humble when we win.

School Spirit

The group is one of the largest and most visible on campus. It is important to remember that we are a spirit group and must assist in promoting school spirit.

Standards of Behavior

Discipline

Discipline is one of the most important characteristics a successful performance group can have. Because of the size and level of this group, it is important that discipline be exercised from the beginning.

Self-discipline is the best form of discipline. All PCR members must demonstrate self-discipline by practicing their individual parts, coming to rehearsals prepared, and by being well behaved.

****Special note: Mr. Moreno and the instructional staff are not babysitters! Students are expected to act as mature young adults. Because of the size of the group students will be expected to be trusted. Any students who cannot be trusted may be asked not to be in the program.**

Commitment

It is no secret that in music and elsewhere, the groups that work the hardest and the smartest, are the groups that are the most successful. Your commitment to this group will dictate the overall success. By committing to the group you are committing to being at ALL rehearsals and performances. Missing just one person from a rehearsal or performance affects the entire group.

Students are more than free to join other clubs or sports but they must maintain their commitment to the band, drumline, and colorguard as well.

Attendance

100% Attendance is required for the group, this is very important to having a successful program. The group will work hard at every rehearsal and if someone is not there to learn, then we must re-learn and re-rehearse. This is a terrible waste of time, and is not accepted.

In order to be excused from a performance, you must notify the Director at least two weeks in advance, in writing. It is up to the Director's discretion as to whether the excuse is accepted. Exceptions are sudden illness or a death in the immediate family and notification must be in writing. Doctor's appointments should be made at times that do not conflict with rehearsals, so they do not constitute an excuse. The schedule will be updated regularly. Please make sure you have the most up to date schedule. You can get these by having your student bring a hard copy from the bandroom, checking out the band website at www.pcrbb.com, or by e-mail Mr. Moreno at pcrband@gmail.com. *** The calendar **will** change. It is impossible to plan a schedule with 100% accuracy 8 months in advance. We will do our best to be as accurate as possible but please stay informed with the latest schedule. Reasons the calendar might change include a change in school facility usage by the school or district, bad weather, director or instructor sickness or last minute changes in schedules. We do our best to respect parent and student time but please be patient as we try and work around 80 different families and a school that does not have enough facilities to meet the needs of all campus groups.

Students who have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal may be asked not to perform at the next show. Students who have numerous unexcused absences from rehearsals or an unexcused absence from a performance may be asked to not be involved in the program for the remainder of the year. **Informing the director does not constitute an excused absence.** An excused absence needs to be approved beforehand by Mr. Moreno.

Examples of unacceptable absences are: vacation, homework, punishment, sports games or practices, another club meeting, etc. (in the summer we ask that all students be at the two week band camp at the end of July, beginning of August). We understand that students and their families have lives too and we are fairly flexible as long as there is communication.

Code of Conduct

1. All members will maintain a 2.0 grade point average. Students will not be kicked out of the program if they do not meet the GPA but they will be placed on academic probation within the program.
2. Truancy, fighting, or any discipline problem is unacceptable for a Patriot Band and Colorguard member.
3. Uniforms, equipment, bandroom, and the school facilities will be treated with respect, pride, and care at all times. All parts of your uniform and equipment will be kept neat, clean and in complete order. No one from outside of the group is allowed to wear any part of your uniform. No one will play an instrument or tamper with equipment that is not issued to them.
4. No eating, drinking, or chewing in the bandroom, in rehearsal, or while in uniform.
5. Smoking, drinking of alcohol or abuse of any drugs will not be tolerated. There are no warnings; the first offense may result in immediate removal from the program.
6. No public use of profanity is allowed.
7. No excessive talking during rehearsal.
8. If you take something out, move it, or borrow it, put it back.
9. If it is not yours, don't touch it.

10. When in uniform or in the band room area, there will be no public display of affection. (P.D.A). This includes hanging out by the band room during lunch.
11. The Patriot Band and Colorguard members will uphold the highest standards of **dignity, work ethic, respect, and honesty.**
12. Please keep drama outside of rehearsal and performances.

All rules and regulations will be strictly enforced and the Director will deal with any infractions.

Infractions can be dealt with by administrative referral, performance probation/suspension, and denial of letter and/or removal from performance group.

Academics

Class Schedule

All students are required to register for two classes. The classes are as follows:

Concert Band/Marching Band: Intermediate brass and woodwind players

Symphonic Band/Marching Band: Advanced brass and woodwind players

Drumline/Marching Band: All battery and pit percussionists.

Colorguard/Marching Band: All colorguard members.

*All students have to register for their regular class as well as the 7th period marching band class. The 7th period marching band class gives students academic credit for after school rehearsals. Students may also be eligible to receive exemption from P.E. if they take four years of marching band AND pass the state physical fitness test.

For first semester we mainly focus on marching band music and second semester we focus on concert band music, winter drumline, winter colorguard, and latin jazz.

Grading

Students will receive a grade for their participation. Grades will be awarded based on a point system. Points will be earned by after school rehearsals, playing tests, written class work, written homework, notes, and other projects, and assignments. The marching band class (7th period) will base its grade heavily on attendance to after school practices and performances.

Band/Colorguard Letter

A band or colorguard letter will be rewarded after the following criteria have been met:

4 semesters of no D's or F's in ANY class

4 semesters of all A's or B's in all band classes.

Must be current on all band fees.

Turn in completed application and \$5.00 letter fee.

Cannot have 2 or more unexcused absences in any year.

The Students

Student Leadership

There are certain leadership positions available for students to hold while in the Patriot Band and Colorguard. Being a student leader requires more of a time commitment than regular members, as well as going above and beyond the norm for the good of the group.

They must possess a 2.0 GPA, have marched in the group for at least 1 year, and have strong communication and leadership skills. They also need to be early to every rehearsal and performance, be one of the last to leave, demonstrate the highest level of musicianship throughout the year, and complete an application by the due date.

The student leadership positions are as follows:

Street Drum Major- This person is usually the best at spinning and possesses strong leadership abilities. The street drum major may be the same person as the field drum major. This student may be asked to start parade rehearsals and lead in parade basics. This person is also the representative during parade awards ceremonies. Being a student mediator in conflicts, and maintaining discipline throughout the group.

Field Drum Major- This person will work directly with the director and the staff. Duties include taking roll, stretching the group, leading the group in warm-up and marching basics, being a student mediator in conflicts, and maintaining discipline throughout the group. This person is also the representative at awards ceremonies during field tournaments.

Section Leaders/Percussion Captain/Colorguard Captain- these students are responsible for their individual sections learning the music, drill, or work. They are responsible for helping all students in their section to be prepared as well as reporting any problem within the section to the director. They are responsible for running section rehearsals as needed, as well as giving memorization tests to section members. They are also the first to help if someone in their section should have trouble finding transportation or a ride home.

Each section in the band and colorguard will also have a specific job which the section leaders and drum majors will oversee and make sure gets done.

There will also be leadership meetings throughout the year, which all band and colorguard leaders are expected to attend.

Auditions

The Patriot Cardinal Regiment may hold auditions for certain sections. Depending on the size and talent level there may be auditions involved in joining and being accepted into the Cardinal Regiment. These sections may include the drumline, the colorguard, and latin jazz band. Please understand that if there is an audition that students may be cut or asked to be in another section that is smaller or isn't as strong. We will try and put every student where they want to be but it is impossible to have all students play the instrument they want to play and to play the part they want to play. On a football team not all players can be the starting quarterback. In a musical group not all musicians can always play the parts they want to play.

Travel Regulations

1. Departure and arrival times will be posted in advance both with written copies given to the students as well as on the band website www.pcrbb.com. We will try and be as accurate as possible but cannot control the flow of traffic or awards ceremonies that run late. If you have a specific question on travel times please contact Mr. Moreno, otherwise the itinerary will usually be set 3-7 days before the performance. For performances in which we take a bus, all students are required to ride the bus to and from the performance. This includes fun activities such as the LA County Fair and Disneyland.
2. **Arrive early** so you have enough time to get your equipment and help load. The last thing you want to do is to be frantic on the day of a performance.
3. Remain in seats at all times while the bus is moving.
4. No Inappropriate language or noise.
5. No audible audio players, etc. permitted at anytime. (no speakers)
6. We wear travel uniforms while traveling.
7. When two busses are used boys travel on bus one and girls travel on bus 2.
8. No public displays of affection will be tolerated, especially when traveling. You represent our band, school, and city
9. Parents/Guardians please plan ahead to make sure students have a ride home after competitions, football games, and rehearsals. We will do our best to make sure rehearsals end on time, but give your students time to have final announcements, clean up, and put equipment away (usually an extra 15-30 minutes). On days of competitions the best bet for an accurate pick up is to have students contact you on their way home

Section Seating

Each section player will be assigned a part and a seat, in order of proficiency, and will be assigned by the Director.

If a person would like to improve his/her seat or assigned part that that person may “challenge” the person immediately above his/her seat. The music to be played will be picked by the director. In the event of a tie the seat will be awarded to the upperclassmen.

The Staff

A staff member is an adult who is contracted by the booster club and/or the school district to assist the Director in teaching a specialized squad or section. At this time, our staff includes:

Battery Percussion Instructors (2)

Pit Percussion Instructors (2)

Marching Instructors (2)

Colorguard Instructors (1)

Drill Writer (1)

Instructors are needed with championship groups and will be treated with respect due to their positions. Staff size may change depending on financial status of the group.

Equipment

Uniforms

All uniforms must be properly cared for and respected at all times! When not in use the uniform is to be hung properly on the hanger and put in the garment bag.

When in uniform, students must always have the uniform buttoned up and zippered. Uniforms are never to be worn unbuttoned or open. Uniforms may not be unzipped, unbuttoned, or taken off until given permission by the director or an instructor.

*If you put anything in your uniform pocket, please take it out after the performance!

*If you put anything in your garment bag, please take it out after the performance! We should not find any extra items left in the garment bags.

The shako shall *never* be worn the wrong way. When not in use it belongs in its protective shako case. During warm-up the shako may be placed on the floor.

The uniform is a direct reflection of the group and is the most visual part of who we are. Do not disrespect yourselves, do not disrespect the uniform. Students whose uniforms are not put away properly may have to run laps and or do push-ups.

Instruments/Rifles/Sabres/Flags

All instruments, rifles, sabres, and flags should only be used by the person who they are checked out to. It is up to each student to keep track of their own equipment and **make sure they are the only ones to use it or handle** it. Only percussion players should play the percussion equipment and only colorguard members should handle the colorguard equipment. Rifles and sabers should NEVER be carried around campus during school hours. Doing this may result in suspension from the program as well as school (it can be considered a weapon).

**School owned equipment should only be used by those who check it out.*

Finances

Costs

The Patriot Band and Colorguard takes about \$40,000 a year to run. We receive very little financial support from the school and district, and in these tough economic times we are receiving less and less each year. Our budget is maintained in two ways: 1) by donations to the program 2) and by fundraising.

As a California public school we cannot charge fees to be involved in the program but it is the responsibility of the students and parents to offset the cost of the program by actively participating in fundraising as well as collecting donations. **IF ENOUGH FUNDS CANNOT BE RAISED THEN WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS OR OTHER PERFORMANCES.** We must have funds in our account before the beginning of the season starts in order for us to plan accordingly for what we can afford to do. This pertains to marching band, drumline, and colorguard.

Anticipated cost for individual programs can be broken down as follows.

Fall Marching Band- \$22,000

Winter Colorguard - \$5000

Winter Drumline- \$12,000

Misc. Programs (Latin Jazz, Concert Band, Chamber Groups, Pep Band)- \$2000

Other items that students need to purchase (please see order form)

Band-Marching Shoes, black socks, white t-shirt, black t-shirt, gloves, black pants, band t-shirt, band jacket.

Drumline-Same as band but also drum sticks, mallets, heads, and anything associated with the upkeep of your drum. (This is new for this year as all battery players need to be responsible for their own heads and all mallet players need to purchase their own mallets.)

Colorguard-Dance Shoes, gloves, uniforms for the show, rifle, saber, flag. (This new this year as well as colorguard members will have to purchase their own equipment including rifles, sabers, and flag silks).

** If a student cannot afford to pay for these items then several fundraisers will be offered to help offset the cost of these items or some used items may be available to borrow (such as marching shoes, mallets, rifles)

Rehearsal Dress

Band

For marching band rehearsals, all students should wear tennis shoes or band shoes (no boots, flip-flops, or vans). They should also have clothing that is appropriate for the weather (cool, light clothing for the summer, warm workable clothing for the winter). It is recommended that students bring sun protection (sun block, hats, etc.) for outside rehearsals.

Students should wear a white t-shirt for after school rehearsals, and a black shirt for Monday night rehearsals. Wearing the same color shirts allows the marching instructors to see the "forms" better.

*Students also must bring their own jug of water to every rehearsal. Students should not share water because by doing so, germs and sickness can spread quickly, and one sick student can easily turn into 4 or 5 sick students. Please encourage your students to eat a healthy breakfast each day before rehearsals. Every year we have students who get extremely sick because they do not eat breakfast.

Other important items to remember are hats, sunglasses, and dot books.

Colorguard:

Colorguard members are required to dress out for class during the school day. There are dressing rooms available where members may dress. For marching rehearsals, all colorguard

members should wear tennis shoes or dance shoes. They should also have clothing that is appropriate for the weather. It is recommended that students bring sun protection (sun block, hats, etc) for outside rehearsals.

Winter Colorguard/Winter Drumline

Winterguard and Winter Drumline are extra activities in the spring. Auditions for these groups are usually in December and are open to all band, colorguard, and drumline members. Each group usually practices 2-3 times per week and has about 5 performances. Students involved in these groups must fundraise a separate fee from the fall. These groups will be active depending on the members ability to fundraise and receive donations for these groups. If we cannot afford these groups and we will not have a competitive drumline or winterguard.

The amount needed will be as follows:

Winter Drumline \$12,000

Winterguard \$5,000

Parent Responsibilities

As the Patriot Band and Colorguard is a large undertaking, parent support is imperative. There are many jobs needed, from equipment truck drivers, to seamstresses, from equipment loaders to grant writers, and there is a job you will enjoy. We require that all students have one representative (adult) be a part of the team and work at least four (activities) during the school year. Sign-ups are on a first come, first serve basis and are done at the mandatory parent meeting in May, or by contacting the booster president. These events are huge fundraisers, which offset the cost of the general budget and keep the fair share fees as low as possible. It is extremely important that every student has an adult work these events.. These activities are:

1. Helping to cook and serve food for band camp for 1 day, August 17-28
2. Patriot Field Tournament *mandatory event
3. Holiday Gift-wrapping, see schedule
4. Golf Tournament Saturday TBA Spring
5. Colorguard or Drumline Show (possible)

Parents are also expected to assist the students in any way possible to be the best band/colorguard member possible. This includes:

1. Support your son/daughter in their chosen activities
2. Insure proper arrival and pick-up for rehearsals/performances.
3. Maintain student owned equipment.
4. Assist the member in maintaining a positive attitude towards hard work.
5. Help the student understand the importance of dependability, commitment, and responsibility.

Using Band as a Punishment

As a director I fully support your disciplinary decisions as parents/guardians. However, due to collective group effort that is marching band, **we ask you to not use our program as a punishment**. Denying your student to participate in rehearsals or performances is not only a punishment for them, but also the entire Cardinal Regiment. If students are absent from rehearsal or performance because of punishment, they may be asked to leave the program.

Student Dismissal Times

Students will be given a schedule usually 3-4 months before scheduled practices and performances. Please know that we will do everything we can to make sure the schedule is as accurate as possible but dates and times may change. Often times there are circumstances which we cannot control which may make us change the schedule. Also, in regards to practice times, the start of the practice is when students are ready to play and begin practicing; it is not when students should be arriving to the Patriot parking lot. The end of practice time is what time practice is over, it is not what time students will be in your cars going home. Please allow up to 30 minutes after practice for students to get final announcements, put away instruments, clean their area, and walk to the parking lot.

Booster Organization

This is a very important part of our group's success. The Patriot Band Boosters are a group of supportive parents and adults who support the band and colorguard program by helping to raise the funds necessary for a successful program, as well as providing the group with any additional needs that would promote the group's success.

Anyone may attend a Patriot Band Booster Meeting and membership is free of charge. All that we ask is that all parent volunteers and helpers maintain a positive attitude. We appreciate all parent/guardian help, but we also want to make sure that everyone involved has a positive experience. No one wants to go to a meeting where there is negativity, and ill-feelings. The Booster meetings are usually the 1st Thursday of the month at 6PM.

The Patriot Band Booster Board (Executive Board) is a smaller group of parents. The responsibilities of the Band Booster organization are divided up among the board so that no one person is stuck doing all the work.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Patriot Band and Colorguard

For up to date information and the most current calendar of events please visit:

www.pcrbb.com