

---

# PIONEER MARCHING BAND

A Tradition of Enthusiasm and Excellence

Clare Bands - Thursday, May 12, 2022

---



BANDS

---

## Introduction

The Pioneer Marching Band is the largest, most enthusiastic student organization on the Clare Schools campus. Our students represent the finest qualities of the Clare Bands and Clare Schools experience. With the performance of engaging, age-appropriate music and exciting visual movement, the Pioneer Marching Band is a must-see event at Friday night football contests and any other performance at which they are featured. The Pioneer Marching Band has many ways to involve students through general membership and leadership experiences.



## Top 12 Things You Should Know About the PMB

1. **ALWAYS be on time**, which really means 10-15 minutes early. To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late; to be late is to be forgotten.
2. When in doubt, **stop talking**.
3. **Show respect** to everyone and **listen** to what 'veterans' have to say. They're probably right.
4. **Don't expect to know everything** the first day. Even people who have marched before still have things to learn.
5. Have a **positive attitude**, even when it's tough. Be kind, considerate, and respectful to all.
6. Stay well **rested, fed, and hydrated**.
7. Always **have all your materials** on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.
8. **Know how to work**, but also **know how to relax**. Know that the two NEVER occur at the same time, EVER.
9. **Keep up on your schoolwork**. Take every opportunity to do your homework. On the bus, extra time in class, at appointments — do whatever it takes. Be as productive as possible.
10. You will be called out eventually. **Don't be afraid**. When it happens, just speak up and don't worry about being wrong.
11. **Trust Mr. Lowe, your drum majors, section leaders and rank Lieutenants**. Above everything else, they want you to succeed.
12. You may want to quit. But DON'T! This may be the **most meaningful activity** in which you EVER participate.



## Membership

All students enrolled in High School Band at Clare are members of the Pioneer Marching Band. These students, grades 9-12, are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances during the fall season. Due to the requirements of rehearsals and performances, the Pioneer Marching Band is the curricular offering for the first quarter of the school year of High School Band. The mandatory rehearsals and performances usually include but are not limited to:

- Pre-Band Week Sectionals - Usually mornings during week prior to Band Week
- PMB Band Week - Usually landing where August 1st occurs in the calendar
- Wednesday rehearsals - 2 hours; Evenings in August, September and October
- Class time rehearsals
- All HOME football contests - Usually Friday evenings (occasional Saturdays, see schedule for details)
- Non-competitive Marching Shows - Usually in late September or early October
- MSBOA Marching Showcase - Usually last Wednesday of September
- Cadillac Marching Invitational - Usually first Monday evening of October
- All HOME play-off contests - Usually Friday evenings in November (pep band experience)

### 8th Grade Students

Students enrolled in 8th Grade Band are encouraged to increase their musical aptitude and get a feel for high school activities by joining the Pioneer Marching Band. The following conditions are in place for 8th graders:

- Participating students will be members in full; be assigned a uniform, have charted positions in pregame and halftime, able to fully participate in any PMB activity.
- Attend and participate in a Pre-Band Week Clinic to learn marching fundamentals.
- Attend all of Band Week (no exceptions; equivalent to 8 weeks of in-school rehearsals).
- Attendance at all aforementioned rehearsals and performances.
  - Rehearsals and performances will be assignments for 8th grade band students. These are usually 5 points each.
  - Students will receive 15 points for each fully completed rehearsal or performance; zero points for any rehearsal missed; partial credit is possible.



## Activities

The most visible performing organization on campus, the Pioneer Marching Band engages in a variety of important activities both in performance and preparation for performance. Just as important are several social activities that have become hallmarks of the ensemble.

### **Pre-Band Week Sectionals**

In order to bring our new members up to speed, and give our leadership an opportunity to introduce important fundamentals in small group settings to our all members the week before Band Week will help ensure our time during Band Week is efficient and productive.

### **Band Week**

Customarily landing where August 1st occurs in the calendar, Pioneer Marching Band Week is the singular experience to educate, prepare and excite each member of the Pioneer Marching Band. A single week of rehearsals is the equivalent in real time to nearly the entire season of class time rehearsals. Missing a single day is like missing an entire week of instruction during the school year.

### **Wednesday Rehearsals**

Wednesday rehearsals in August, September and October are held in the evening. This is to ensure continuity from Band Week throughout the performance season, enabling all members of the ensemble - high school students and 8th grade participants - the opportunity for one full rehearsal each week.

### **Non-Competitive Marching Showcases**

In order to improve our performance acumen, we engage in other non-football contest related events in our area.

### **MSBOA Marching Band Showcase**

This event is structured as a non-competitive showcase of marching bands in our MSBOA District. Serving other area bands in the same capacity, it also serves as an important fundraiser early in the school year. We will host this event and welcome six or seven other bands to Brookwood Athletic Complex.

### **Social Events**

In addition to important preparation and performance activities, the Pioneer Marching Band enjoy being together as a group. While not mandatory, these events help galvanize the ensemble as a cohesive unit,

---

making friendships which last beyond our days at school. Some highlights of our season socially have been:

- Capture The Flag - Band Week and another Saturday/Sunday in the Fall
- Homecoming Tailgate
- Michigan's Adventure



## Supplies

The Pioneer Marching Band requires members to be responsible for items issued to them by the program: season music, a music folio, lyre (as appropriate), uniform, gloves and shoes.

Music and folios will be distributed in June to members. At the time of issue, folios will have as much music as will be needed for pregame and halftime shows. Other music may be issued at a later date. Replacement fees for music, folios, and other marching supplies are as follows:

- **Sheet Music: 25¢ per sheet**
- **Music Folio: \$10**
- **Return of Abandoned Folio: \$5**
- **Chart Book: \$5**
- **Season T-Shirt: \$10**
- **Gloves: \$10**
- **Shoes: \$30**



## Leadership

Every student in the Pioneer Marching Band is a leader in some capacity. Whether it is sharing expertise, perspective, or experience, every PMB has something to contribute. Leadership must be encouraged and instilled at every level of experience if our Pioneer Marching Band is to continue to thrive, to bring the very best of the marching arts to our community. There are several roles of defined leadership that members of the Pioneer Marching Band can aspire: Drum Major, Color Guard Captain, Drumline Captain, Section Leader and Rank Lieutenant.

---

## Drum Major

The Drum Major is the most visible, most respected member of the Pioneer Marching Band beyond the Director. His/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Teaching: First and foremost, the Drum Major is a teacher at heart. Charged with the instruction of fundamentals during band week, remediation of newer or younger members, developing new techniques or maneuvering skills, the Drum Major is responsible for ensuring that the at-large membership grasps and executes the primary marching concepts of the Pioneer Marching Band. A combination of pursuit of excellence and patience is necessary to be successful.
2. Communicating: The Drum Major of the Pioneer Marching Band is the student spiritual leader of the PMB. If the Drum Major is excited about performance or rehearsal, it can sway the entire ensemble to have a great experience - and vice versa. The Drum Major may encounter situations where the communication of spirit and ideas is more important than cleanliness of drill or musicality.
3. Conducting: The most visible but probably the least important part of the job. This is always a work in progress. Even the most seasoned conductor has room for improvement in his/her conducting gestures and manners. With help from Mr. Lowe, the Drum Major can become an effective communicator through musical gesture.

These skills are enhanced through attendance at a summer training camp. Participation in Drum Major Camp is mandatory in order to effectively lead the ensemble. A partial scholarship is available through the, but a significant portion of camp costs are borne by the individual, as the growth of the Drum Major is not just band-specific, but of a personal nature as well. The Drum Major will be relied upon Auditions for Drum Major, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. Auditions will be comprised of but not limited to an exhibition of marching fundamentals, teaching ability, rudimentary conducting skills and an interview.



## Color Guard Captain

The Captain of the Color Guard is a teacher, motivator, and innovator. The Color Guard Captain should plan to have enough additional practice outside of those already scheduled to ensure the guard is clean and effective in its performance. His/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Teaching: The Color Guard Captain will be responsible for teaching color guard specific fundamentals and drill/show routines. Combining elements of patience, perseverance and enthusiasm, an effective Color Guard Captain should be able to engage all members of the guard.

- 
2. **Communicating:** The Color Guard Captain is a spiritual leader as well. He/she must be enthusiastic about the visual element that enhances each performance. An enthusiastic, engaged Captain can not only enhance each rehearsal and performance, but also enlarge the group by enlisting and engaging students outside the band program. This is important not just for band proper rehearsals, but special color guard rehearsals - communication with Mr Lowe and Drum Major(s) is of utmost importance.
  3. **Creating/Innovating:** With Color Guard being a new endeavor to most participants, much of the routine creation rests with the Color Guard Captain. Coinciding with the Teaching element, the Color Guard Captain should feel free to delegate some portions of the show or elements thereof.

These skills are enhanced through attendance at a summer training camp. Participation in Color Guard Camp is mandatory in order to effectively lead the ensemble. A partial scholarship is available through Clare Band Boosters, but a significant portion of camp costs are borne by the individual, as the growth of the Color Guard Captain is not just band-specific, but of a personal nature as well.

Auditions for Color Guard Captain, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. Auditions will be comprised of but not limited to an exhibition of marching and flagging fundamentals, teaching ability, a brief original routine and an interview.



## **Drumline Captain**

The Captain of the Pioneer Marching Band Drumline is a teacher, composer and motivator. The Drumline is in fact the heartbeat of our ensemble. The precision and cohesion of the ensemble can be traced back to the Drumline and its leader. The Drumline Captain should plan to have additional practice outside of those already scheduled to ensure the drumline is clean and effective in its performance. His/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. **Teaching:** The Drumline Captain will be responsible for teaching all members of the drumline necessary percussion rudiments and marching fundamentals. Combining elements of patience, perseverance and enthusiasm, an effective Drumline Captain should be able to engage all members of the guard.
2. **Composing:** The Drumline Captain has authority to adjust the written percussion arrangements to suit the talents and abilities of the line. Adjustments should be made in accordance with Mr. Lowe and the musical integrity of the selection. Additionally, the Drumline Captain is encouraged to write or develop the skills to write marching cadences for the ensemble.

- 
3. **Motivating:** The Drumline Captain is definitely a spiritual leader. He/she must be enthusiastic about all aspects of the performance. The Drumline can provide acoustic as well as visual enhancements to each performance. An enthusiastic, engaged Captain can not only enhance the performance but each rehearsal.

These skills can be enhanced through attendance at a summer training camp. Participation in a marching percussion camp can develop skills to lead the line. A partial scholarship may be available through Clare Band Boosters, but a significant portion of camp costs are borne by the individual, as the growth of the Drumline Captain is not just band-specific, but of a personal nature as well.

Auditions for Drumline Captain, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. Auditions will be comprised of but not limited to an exhibition of marching fundamentals, percussion rudiments, teaching ability, and an interview.



### **Section Leader**

Within the body of the Pioneer Marching Band, each section is a vibrant and cohesive unit which makes the ensemble larger than the sum of its parts. Each Section Leader is a teacher and motivator. His/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. **Teaching:** Section Leaders will be the first line in individual musical instruction in the Pioneer Marching Band. Additional sectional rehearsal for music are encouraged to improve aptitude and promote section morale. Section Leaders are encouraged to work in concert with Rank Lieutenants to maximize efficiency and efficacy of the section in band rehearsals and performances.
2. **Motivator:** Drawing the very best from each member is the primary goal of every Section Leader. A careful balance between positive support and constructive criticism is key to the motivation and growth of the section and the band.

Auditions for Section Leaders, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. Auditions will be comprised of but not limited to an exhibition of musical ability and an interview.

### **Rank Lieutenant**

Within the body of the Pioneer Marching Band, each section is a vibrant and cohesive unit which makes the ensemble larger than the sum of its parts. Each Rank Lieutenant is a teacher and motivator. His/her responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. **Teaching:** Rank Lieutenants will be the first line in individual marching and musical instruction in the Pioneer Marching Band. Additional sectional rehearsal for marching are encouraged to improve aptitude and promote section morale. Rank Lieutenants are



---

encouraged to work in concert with Section Leaders to maximize efficiency and efficacy of the section in band rehearsals and performances.

2. **Motivator:** Drawing the very best from each member is the primary goal of every Rank Lieutenant. A careful balance between positive support and constructive criticism is key to the motivation and growth of the section and the band.

Auditions for Rank Lieutenants, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. Auditions will be comprised of but not limited to an exhibition of marching fundamentals and an interview.



### **Program Librarian**

Beyond the on-field tasks, there are positions that ensure the smooth, uninterrupted functioning of our organization. The Clare Bands Program Librarian begins duties during the marching season, but has responsibilities that extend throughout the school year that include:

1. **Copying & Distributing:** Keeping our originals in good condition is paramount to this job. Ensuring those originals remain in the library for future use is incredibly important. Knowing the instrument complement of the bands is important information to have committed to memory.
2. **Collecting Fees:** Lost music and folios should not occur within the PMB following music distribution. Collecting a nominal fee from students who are unable to be responsible is a logical outgrowth of the position, as well as having a working "IOU" list of those who cannot pay upon receipt of reissued music or folios.
3. **Organizing:** Maintenance of the music library is a not a job for the faint of heart. In addition to coordinating the music distribution of the PMB selections, you will be charged with continuing that job throughout the concert season, assisting younger librarians with similar duties. Our library has over 2000 selections and needs careful organization and maintenance to keep titles intact and usable for future Pioneer musicians.

Applications for Program Librarian, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. The application process will be comprised of but not limited to an reference check and an interview.

### **Equipment Manager**

Any band program is comprised of unsung heroes; foremost among those is the role of Equipment Manager. The Equipment Manager is not responsible for the care and maintenance of our equipment alone, but the coordination with Mr Lowe:

- 
1. Loading/Unloading: The Equipment Manager will take the lead in loading and unloading the trailer, helping reassembly, notifying classmates of abandoned instruments, etc. It is not the responsibility of the Equipment Managers to load/unload by him/herself.
  2. Notification of Maintenance: Our equipment goes through significant wear and tear throughout the season. Informing Mr Lowe of needed maintenance is an important necessity of the position.

Applications for Equipment Manger, when appropriate, will be held in the final quarter of the preceding school year. The application process will be comprised of but not limited to an reference check and an interview.

## Field Crew

Additional opportunities for involvement with the Pioneer Marching Band exist for younger band members and their parents. Our Pioneer Marching Band Field Crew help set the marching podiums at each performance and assist in placing color guard equipment on the field as needed. Please contact Mr Lowe for further information on how you or your student can become a integral part of the Pioneer Marching Band family.

### Field Manager(s)

Parents - preferably dads - who are able to assist with logistics for the following duties:

1. Trailer Transport: Nearly every performance of the PMB is an away performance; whether it is at Brookwood, CMU, or another school, our trailer must go with us. Having a team of responsible parents who can move the trailer as needed is an immense help to the PMB, and less taxing to just one parent.
2. Podium Movement/Location: The Drum Majors and Mr Lowe require the field podium to be moved from the trailer to the track and field. Often, Mr Lowe doesn't have time to complete this task due to group movement. Having a team of parents responsible for this task its extremely helpful, and less taxing to just one parent.

### Color Guard Assistants

Seventh- and eighth-grade students who are not either ready for a full commitment to the PMB and/or show an interest in color guard can assist in the following manner:

1. Equipment Placement: As we increase or array of visual tools and techniques, the need to have appropriate equipment placed on or near the field is important. Having student assistance
2. Equipment Check/Maintenance (with Captain[s]): Color guard Assistants can be the first line of maintenance requests. With inspection of silks and other equipment, the PMB can be assured to continue making a visual impact on our community as well as musical.

---

# PIONEER MARCHING BAND

## A Tradition of Enthusiasm and Excellence

---

---

### Grade 8 Student Contract

Students enrolled in 8th Grade Band are encouraged to increase their musical aptitude and get a feel for high school activities by joining the Pioneer Marching Band. Our high school students excitedly anticipate your student's participation in the Pioneer Marching Band for the coming year. They have genuine interest in your student's welfare and success in this ensemble and beyond. In addition to learning more advanced music and having an extra year of marching technique, your 8th grade student will have a whole new group of friends who will support and promote your student's musical, academic and social growth.

The following conditions are in place for 8th graders in the Pioneer Marching Band:

1. Participating students will be members in full: be assigned a uniform; have charted positions in pregame and halftime; able to fully participate in any PMB activity.
2. Attend and participate in a Pre-Band Week Clinic to learn marching fundamentals.
3. Attend all of Band Week (no exceptions; equivalent to 8 weeks of in-school rehearsals)
4. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances.
  - a. Weekly rehearsals and performances will be assignments for 8th grade band students. These are usually 5 points each.
  - b. Students will receive 15 points for each fully completed rehearsal or performance; zero points for any rehearsal missed; partial credit is possible.

***Your response is needed to plan for Band Week. Please turn in to Mr Lowe before Memorial Day.***

I understand the agreement to participate in the coming season with the Pioneer Marching Band. My student and I look forward to an exciting season of music and marching!

---

Parent Signature

---

Date

---

Student Signature

---

Date