



# Percussion Handbook

2015 – 2016

*This Handbook is a supplement to the Pickens High School Band Handbook for all Pickens Percussionists*

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## ***Welcome***

Welcome to the Pickens High School Percussion Studio. Percussionists are members of the Pickens High School Band and will abide by their rules, policies and regulations. We shall also follow all policies set forth by Pickens High School and the School District of Pickens County. If you have questions concerning the Pickens High School Band, please consult the band handbook. This book is provided to further clarify the expectations, rules, and guidelines for the members of the Pickens Percussion Section. In the event that there is a discrepancy between either the *Pickens High School Band Handbook* or the *Pickens High School Percussion Handbook*, the clarification will be solely upon the discretion and decisions of the Band Director, Mr. Chaz Paxton.

## ***Our Philosophy***

- I. To provide effective experience, training, and growth in basic and advanced musical endeavors as it relates to percussion technique and performance.
- II. To foster the growth of good citizenship and life-skills such as teamwork, loyalty, dependability, and pride through discipline and organization.
- III. To display these qualities by representing the school and community through participation in marching events, concerts, festivals, and other performances.
- IV. To maintain and expand the traditions and high standards of excellence enjoyed by this organization.
- V. To bring artistry, understanding, and respect to music through performances, and through support of other groups pursuing the same goal.
- VI. To provide students with an opportunity for enjoyment and the development of lasting friendships through these endeavors.

## ***Purpose of Handbook***

It is the purpose of this handbook to provide each student member and his/her parents with complete and specific information covering all aspects of membership. This is intended as a guide for understanding the expectations, requirements, procedures, duties, responsibilities, privileges, etc. of a member of the Pickens High School Band. The handbook is intended to help each member to derive the most from his/her membership, using this as a guide to enable him to give his/her very best to the group. This handbook should help both parents and students avoid various states of confusion during the school year. In the many hours we spend practicing and performing, there will be hundreds of questions. Please read this handbook thoroughly. Any section where information is incomplete, unclear, or not specific; the Director shall be solely responsible for interpretation.

## ***Percussion Curriculum***

### **Marching Band**

The Summer and Fall “seasons” of our program emphasize the excellence and performance of the Pickens High School Marching Band. The Marching Band will participate in football games, parades, and local and regional competitions. There will be required summer rehearsals and camps.

### **Percussive Arts**

Percussive Arts is a class in the regular school day exclusively for percussionists. As a part of this class, students will work on individual and ensemble components of percussion playing. Individual work will be focused in the areas of snare drum, keyboard percussion, timpani, drumset, and multi-percussion applications. Ensemble work will be focused in the areas of chamber music (individual and ensemble) and Wind Ensemble literature.

### **Region/All-State**

Percussionists have the opportunity to audition for the SCBDA Region/All-State Bands. Requirements for the audition will be given out at the beginning of school. Auditions take place in January of each year.

### **Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band**

Percussionists will serve as the percussion sections for the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band during the Fall and Spring semesters. Performances will include the Winter Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, SCBDA Concert Festival, and the Spring Production. Percussion students may also have opportunities to perform in percussion ensembles.

### **Solo and Ensemble**

Percussionists have the opportunity to perform solos or ensembles at the SCBDA Solo and Ensemble festival. This festival takes place in April.

### **Private Lessons**

One of the best ways to get improve at a faster rate is for students to study privately on an individual basis. There are numerous quality teachers in our area, including our own Layne Cutshall. If your student is interested in private lessons, please let us know.

It is our goal to develop well-rounded percussionists who are capable of performing efficiently on any percussion instrument at any time. It is important for all percussionists to take part in all aspects of the Pickens Bands Percussion Curriculum.

Contact Info:

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# ***The Handbook***

## **Percussion Binder**

Each percussion student should have a BLACK 3-ring binder. The percussion binder is meant to be a long-term organizational tool. Students will add new materials to throughout his/her high school career. Each student's binder should include the following:

- The Percussion Handbook with expectations, rules, and procedures
- Calendars of rehearsals, performances, and other important events
- Warm-Ups, Exercises, and Technique Worksheets
- Show Music (marching band)
- Pencil
- Note: Directors/Staff may add to this list as needed

Percussionists should also keep a music folder to contain all literature assigned for Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Percussion Ensemble.

The percussion binder and folder should be kept neat and organized at all times.

## **Rehearsal and Performance Preparation Expectations**

- BE ON TIME! Early is on time, on time is late!
  - The scheduled start time is when we will begin playing, NOT when we begin setting up
- Each percussionist should allow enough time BEFORE REHEARSAL to have the following items ready for rehearsal:
  - The Percussion Binder should always be present at rehearsals
  - Music, music stand, instruments, mallets/sticks/implements, and trap tables with towels should be out and ready to play when rehearsal begins
  - ALL instruments must be put back and covered at the end of rehearsal.
  - Mallets/sticks/implements that belong to the school need to go back into the proper bag and into the percussion cabinet
  - Leave the room (band room and percussion room) better than you found it. Take pride in organization!

## **Music Preparation**

All music you receive (including warm-ups, show music, concert music, percussion ensemble, solo and ensemble, etc.) should be learned as quickly as possible regardless of the goals set forth by the director or the date of performance. The faster you learn notes and rhythms, the better you will get and the more fun you will have. Make it happen!

**Practice**

The amount of time spent practicing by each percussionist must be enough to adequately prepare the materials. Remember: what you get out of something is always equal to what you are willing to put into something. This applies to music performance as well. If you want ensure a quality, artistic performance, you must be willing to put into time preparing the material.

Think of practice as your “homework” for band. Each student should strive for at least 30-40 minutes of quality practice per day. As music becomes more challenging and as the student matures, more practice time will be necessary and expected.

For the percussionist, it is sometimes difficult to practice at home as students do not have access to timpani or a marimba at home. Percussionists will have to work out time after school or during lunch to practice on the school owned percussion equipment.

**Expectations and Procedures**

All percussion students and parents should consult the Pickens Bands Handbook of Policies and Procedures for specific directives as it relates to expectations and procedures.

**Equipment/Facilities**

Percussionists should always show respect for their own as well as school owned instruments and equipment. After rehearsals and performances, all instruments should be stored in their proper place with the proper covers on the instrument. All mallets/sticks/implements should be put in their proper place in the mallet bags and placed in the percussion cabinet.

The percussion storage room should ALWAYS be kept neat, orderly, and organized. Everything should have its place, and should be put in its place when not in use.

## ***Stick and Mallet Requirements***

Each percussionist will be expected to be equipped with a standard set of sticks and mallets (as described below). Each semester, students will need to add sticks and mallets to their collection, as well as replacing any mallets/sticks as necessary.

We feel that each percussionist should have their own set of mallets/sticks for several reasons:

- We feel that the mallets/sticks will have more longevity if the students are responsible for supplying their own
- As a percussionist and a musician, the student needs to be responsible for their “instrument,” in this case, the mallets/sticks that they play with
- Percussionists are expected to spend less than \$500.00 over the course of 4 years in high school, while other instrumentalists in the band are expected to provide instruments which could cost from \$1,200.00 to several thousand.

We ask that each percussionist be equipped with the following: (see Mallet/Stick recommendations)

1-2 pair of yarn marimba mallets  
1 pair of timpani mallets  
1 pair of drum set sticks  
1 pair of concert sticks  
1 pair of xylophone/bell mallets  
1 mallet bag  
1 practice pad  
1 metronome

\*\*\* These items can be purchased through [www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)

\*\*\* Mr. Paxton will place an order in early September for students who want to receive a discounted price on the required products

\*\*\* These items can be purchased individually. We also offer a Pre Pack for approximately \$220.00 which includes the following:

2 pair of marimba mallets  
2 pair of vibraphone mallets  
2 pair of xylophone/bell mallets  
1 pair of timpani mallets  
1 pair of concert drum sticks  
1 mallet bag

## ***Mallet/Stick Recommendations***

For the introductory requirements, we recommend the following:

1-2 pair of yarn marimba mallets

**Recommended: Innovative Percussion Soloist Series IP-240**

1 pair of timpani mallets

**Recommended: Innovative Percussion GT3 Medium**

1 pair of drum set sticks

**Recommended: Innovative Percussion Ed Soph ES1 or ES2**

1 pair of concert drum sticks

**Recommended: Innovative Percussion James Campbell IPJC OR  
Cooperman Nick Petrella #5 OR Vic Firth SD1**

1 pair of xylophone/bell mallets

**Recommended: Mallettech BB34 “Becker Blues”**

1 mallet bag

**Recommended: Innovative Percussion MB1 Small Cordura**

1 practice pad

**Recommended: Evans HQ Real Feel 12” Double Sided**

1 Metronome

**Recommended: Boss DB-30 or Korg MA-1**

For additional mallet/stick to add later, we recommend the following:

### **Marimba**

#### **Innovative Percussion Soloist Series**

IP100

IP200

IP275

IP300

IP400

#### **Innovative Percussion Mark Ford**

IP801

IP802

IP803

IP804

### **Vibraphone**

#### **Innovative Percussion Rattan Series**

**Ross**

RS201

RS251

RS30

RS301

### **Bells/Xylophone**

#### **Innovative Percussion James**

IP904

IP905

IP906

IP908

### **Timpani**

#### **Innovative Percussion General Timpani**

GT1

GT2

GT4

GT5

Students should expect to add to their “collection” each year.