

St. Charles High



Band of Pirates

Handbook 2014-2015

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www.schsbandofpirates.webs.com

FORWARD

Welcome to all new and returning members and parents of the 2014-2015 St. Charles High School Bands! I am excited you will be a part of this long tradition of excellence. We have a fun and exciting year ahead including a variety of musical experiences, trips, performances, and the opportunity to build life long friendships while exploring and developing your musicianship.

Members of the St. Charles High School Bands are given this handbook, which contains important information from calendars to course descriptions, to program goals and grading procedures. This handbook is provided to answer any questions you might have regarding expectations and policies of the St. Charles High School Bands. I ask that each student read through this handbook along with their parents or guardians so there are no misconceptions about band policy. After doing so, please fill out and return all forms located in the Forms Packet.

In this handbook you will find a schedule of rehearsals and performances for the school year. Please keep in mind some dates and times may be altered due to scheduling conflicts or other unforeseen circumstances. I will communicate any changes with you in a timely manner.

Please keep this handbook easily accessible for quick reference throughout the 2014-2015 school year.



Please SIGN and RETURN the forms in the Forms Packet.

Forms are due to Mr. Bippen no later then June 26, 2014

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District Instrumental Music Philosophy

Music is a valued and necessary component of the human experience. By learning and mastering skills and concepts, performing and listening to music, and sharing these experiences with others, a student's cognitive, affective, and psychomotor development is enhanced to benefit all curricular areas. Through their exploration of music students learn to express themselves through performance, improvisation, and composition. The study of music and performance accelerates individual development towards a sense of responsibility, commitment, teamwork, reliability, and task completion. We believe every student should have the opportunity to perform, respond to, and create music.

SCHS Band Program Goals

These goals are aligned with the national standards set forth by the National Association for Music Education and the City of St. Charles School District Instrumental Music Goals.

Students will...

1. Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
5. Read and notate music.
6. Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
7. Evaluate music and music performances.
8. Develop an understanding of relationships between music, and other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understand music in relation to history and culture.
10. Through participation in performing musical ensembles develop, and have reinforced, basic characteristic fundamentals necessary for a successful everyday life.

Staff

Director of Bands
Assistant Director of Bands & Percussion Director
Marching Band Visual Coordinator
Guard Director
Drumline

Sean Bippen
Alison Smith
John Miller
Sarah Knue
Nathaniel Hoyle

Communication

School Contact Information

St. Charles High School
725 N Kingshighway Street
Saint Charles, MO 63301

Phone: 636.443.4100 Fax: 636.443.4101

Staff Contact Information

Sean Bippen	636.443.4177	sbippen@stcharlessd.org
Alison Smith	636.443.4438	alsmith@stcharlessd.org
Sarah Knue		sarahknue@yahoo.com

BOPP Contact Information 2014-2015 Officers

Bill Hesskamp	President	314.603.7839	billydrum@charter.net
Vicky Lyles	Vice President		flyles3124@yahoo.com
Jenny Linson	Treasurer		dennislinson@sbcglobal.net
Jackie Dalton	Secretary		jdalton76@juno.com

Websites

SCHS Band <http://schsbandofpirates.webs.com/>

SCHS <http://www.stcharles.k12.mo.us/schigh/>

MSHSAA Eligibility

All students involved in any ensembles offered by St. Charles High School must meet the Missouri State High School Activities Association's criteria for eligibility as stated on their website: www.mshsaa.org, in order to compete with the ensemble. Due to the nature of the activity, ineligible students will not be allowed to rehearse or perform with the marching band. A zero will be given for class participation and performance grades.

Course/Ensemble Descriptions

Marching Band/Concert Band (1 year course/1 credit)

Marching Band/Concert Band are the fundamental performing ensembles in the band program. This is a year long course. Marching band takes place for approximately the first quarter of the school year and concert band is the remaining three quarters of the year. Students in this course also have the opportunity to perform in the basketball band and participate in solos and small ensembles. This course is designed to continue work on "total musicianship" in both ensembles. The first quarter emphasizes the study of contemporary marching band performance techniques. The performance based course culminates in a variety of field and parade performances throughout the quarter. At the conclusion of marching season, Wind Ensemble begins. Students are provided the opportunity to build upon skills and concepts important to individual growth as performing musicians. These skills and concepts involve the following areas: awareness of conducting patterns,

gestures, and styles; interpretation of various musical styles; sight reading; ensemble performance skills; individual technical facility in various keys; understanding of traditional music theory as the foundation of composition; and understanding the historical and cultural context of music performed. Students will learn the importance of responsibly fulfilling their rolls as individual members of a performing ensemble by thoroughly preparing their musical assignments in preparation for ensemble rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

There is an out of class commitment to this course. Please refer to the marching band schedule. Remember it is possible to participate in fall athletics, dance line, cheerleading, and any other SCHS activity, while being a member of the marching band. The marching band schedule is designed around the fall sports calendar.

Basketball Pep Band is an ensemble that performs during home basketball games and other appropriate venues. The ensemble is mandatory for marching/concert band members during basketball season with the exception of select percussionists and guard members. Extra rehearsals outside of the school day will be scheduled as needed.

Jazz Ensemble (1 year course/1 credit)

Jazz Ensemble is a year long course. Students must be enrolled in the Marching Band/Concert Band class to be eligible to enroll in Jazz Ensemble. Special arrangements may be made for bass players, guitar players, and pianists. Jazz Ensemble emphasizes the study of historical jazz literature, artists, and performance practice. Students will research, analyze, and perform music from the big band period through contemporary jazz literature with the main focus on jazz performance and improvisation. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Placement Music Theory (1 year course/1 credit)

AP Music Theory is a year long course designed to prepare students to take the AP exam. The course is designed to further student's understanding of the basic elements of music: melody, harmony, and rhythm, and their role as the foundation for music composition. Students will analyze existing music, begin their own basic four part compositions, and begin to develop their aural skills including sight singing and dictation. This course is highly recommended for sophomore, junior, or senior students who plan to continue their music education after high school.

Co-Curricular Activities are after school ensembles, not for credit, offered to SCHS band students. These ensembles include Winter Guard for students interested in continuing study in color guard, Symphony Orchestra, and Pit Orchestra.

Additional Musical Opportunities

Honor Bands are an excellent performance opportunity for students who are seeking additional performances outside the high school program. The Director will inform students of opportunities and assist them in preparation for auditions. Our students generally participate in the All Suburban Honor Band and Jazz Band, All State Honor Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band, E. Desmond Lee Honor Band and Jazz Band, the Truman State Honor Band, and the S.I.U.E Honor Band.

Chamber Music/Solo & Ensemble Festival - All students will prepare a solo or small ensemble to perform at the SCHS Solo and Ensemble Recital held at the end of February. Chamber ensembles and soloists will be selected by the Band Staff to perform at *Pops & Pasta* in mid March. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the district solo and ensemble festival held at Fort Zumwalt East High School the first weekend in March. Students earning a superior rating can then perform at the state festival in Columbia, Missouri. The Director will assist students in music selection and preparation. We feel very strongly this is an extremely important event for each instrumental music student. Students will be responsible for paying their accompanist if they choose to perform a solo in the district or state solo and ensemble festival.

Summer Music Camps are a fantastic way for students to continue their musical studies in the summer. Every year information will be made available for students on several area band camps. Attending a local university music camp is a great way to meet the professors and see the campus. Summer study is encouraged for all students.

Concert Attendance is highly encouraged. Part of our musical growth is listening to and analyzing others performances. Students will be given information on local college and professional performances in the area. We have some great professional and community ensembles including the St. Louis Symphony, the St. Louis Philharmonic, the St. Louis Wind Symphony (Ms. Ingraham & Ms. Smith play in this ensemble), the Compton Heights Concert Band, and the St. Charles Symphony and Community Band. All students are encouraged to attend as many concerts as possible. These performances are great ways to expand your musical horizons and get credit toward your Band Letter.

Private Lessons are strongly encouraged for all students. There is no substitute for one on one instruction in music. Please contact the Director for additional private instructors.

Webster Community Music School (All Instruments)	West County (Chesterfield): 636.537.1601
Band Instrument Service Co. (All Instruments)	636.441.7707
Mozingo Music (All Instruments)	636.300.9553
Jennifer Scott (Flute)	jenn_scott@sbcglobal.net Phone: 636.724.2970
Becky Swett (Clarinet)	sweckybett@yahoo.com Phone: 314.807.9269
Dave Libby (Trumpet)	Phone: 314.830.3530
Lisa Blackmoore (Trumpet & F. Horn)	Phone: 636.795.2580
Dave Dickey (Trombone)	Phone: 636.233.6251
Ryan Treasure (Percussion)	Phone: 636.248.1022

Grading

1. *Written and/or performance FINAL EXAM - 10% of the semester grade*

2. *Performance Tests and Quizzes - 20%*

There will be 2-3 performance/memorization tests during each semester. Each test will relate to the specific music being studied, including current repertoire as well as scales and other music assigned. Students will be evaluated on memorization and or mastery of performance fundamentals of technique, tone, intonation, and rhythmic accuracy.

3. *Written Assignments and Quizzes - 10%*

All written assignments and quizzes comprise this grade. Most of this work will be relating to class lessons in music theory and rhythmic studies.

4. *Class Participation and Responsibility - 30%*

Students will be evaluated on the frequency and quality of their individual contributions to the ensemble from both a performance and behavioral standpoint, as well as their demonstrated level of responsibility. This grade will be lowered only if the student chooses not to fulfill these requirements (infraction).

5. *Performance Participation and Responsibility - 40%*

Each scheduled performance will have a grade posted in this category. A default grade of 100 will be lowered for any listed infraction.

Infractions

Unexcused Absence	-100 points
Tardy	-10 points
Uniform Infraction	-10 points per uniform piece
Chewing Gum/Food in Class Room	-5 points
Off Task/Class Disruption	-20 points
Not Participating/Insubordination	-30 points
Missing required materials	-20 points per material

Physicals

All students participating in marching band, winter guard, or winter drum line must have a physical on file with the Activities Office. Only the MSHSAA Physical Form will be accepted. This form is located in the Forms Packet or on the band website and is due on June, 26 2014.

Financial Obligations & Fundraising

No one will be excluded from band because of the financial obligation. If you need assistance, please talk to the Band Director.

Marching Band participation fees are \$125.00 (Color Guard \$175.00) and an additional \$50.00 which goes to the Band of Pirate Parents (BOPP) account. A variety of fundraisers will be available for student participation. Students receive a percentage of their total fundraised money to apply to their participation fees. These fundraisers are the easiest way for students to generate *all* of their required band fees. If students do not participate in fundraisers, the Band of Pirates Parents budget will not meet the needs of the band program. **Band fees are due in total on October 21, 2014.**

The **Marching Band Participation Fee** covers contest and competition entry fees, additional staff, uniform rental and cleaning, purchase of the marching show, props, equipment, concert programs, fees for All Suburban, All State, Solo and Ensemble Festival, end of the year awards, instrument repair and maintenance, and other normal daily operational costs. Marching Band participation fee checks should be made out to the St. Charles High School Band. Located in the forms packet is the Marching Band Payment Plan. The first payment is due Marching band members must put down a \$50 down payment, due June 21, 2013. This first payment is a **non refundable deposit**. Students whose fees are not paid in full by October 21, 2014 will be placed on the fee fine list for the remaining amount. Please make checks payable to the SCHS Band.

The **Band of Pirate Parents Fee Portion** is required for each family and paid on a family bases, not a per student bases. BOPP is the parent organization that supports our students throughout the year including travel expenses, vehicle maintenance, props, additional staffing, show shirts, food at competitions, band banquet, and other daily operating expenses. Participation fees which go to the Band of Pirate Parents (BOPP) is \$50 per family. Please make checks payable to BOPP.

Students will not be excluded from marching band because of financial need. If a student has made a reasonable effort to earn fees through the fundraising projects, financial assistance can be provided, please talk to the band director.

When paying fees, please write two checks: one to SCHS Band for band fees and one to BOPP for BOPP fees. Do not combine them into one check.

Fundraising and Student Accounts are organized by BOPP. Specific fundraisers raise money for the general BOPP account while others are split between students individual accounts and BOPP. BOPP keeps track of all these accounts. Student account money may only be used for director approved band expenses for the child. All expenditures are at the discretion of the band director. Money is not transferable to any other school activity and all monies are forfeited once the child is no longer enrolled in band at St. Charles High School or the child is no longer a student at St. Charles High School. All expenditures are pending director approval, no exceptions.

Band of Pirate Parents

Band of Pirate Parents (BOPP) is a booster group organized to support the band program at SCHS. Their support is absolutely critical to maintaining and furthering the band program. BOPP meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30PM in the SCHS conference room by the galley (you will be notified by email if this changes).

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances are mandatory! You will be counted absent if you arrive at a rehearsal or performance 30 minutes after call time or you miss the entire rehearsal. Likewise if you leave a rehearsal more than 30 minutes early you will be counted absent. During marching season, two or more absences in the same week may result in that individual not participating in the next Marching Band performance.

Excused Absences A written letter or email from a parent must be submitted to the Director prior to your absence. If the absence is last minute due to illness or a family emergency, a note may be submitted the next day. Only absences due to illness, weddings, or family emergencies will be excused. **Work is not a reason for an excused absence.** Make sure you make the necessary arrangements to be present at all rehearsals and performances.

Unexcused Absences Students will receive a 0 for an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance and will not be allowed to make up the missed points. Please plan your family vacations and summer camps accordingly so you will not miss summer rehearsals.

School Conflicts Students who miss a rehearsal or performance due to a school conflict will not be penalized, provided the situation is brought to the attention of the Director well in advance of the conflict. Decisions regarding the student's participation are made by the involved faculty members and based on level of involvement and the level of the activity as to whether the student will be excused.

Tardies When you are not in your warm up position by call time, you are tardy and will lose points toward your daily grade. **"If a student is tardy to the first class of the day by more than ten minutes, the student is ineligible to participate in activities for the day. It is our commitment to education that sets our attendance policy."** This is a St. Charles High School policy and will be followed very strictly in the band program!

Leaving Early (Away Events) Students leaving early from an away event must have a signed note from a parent submitted to the Director at least 48 hours prior to departure. Students who do not follow this policy will not be allowed to leave early. A parent must check the student out with the Director before he/she can take their child from any away event. If a parent does not come to check their child out the child will have to ride the bus back to SCHS.

REMEMBER TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE, BUT TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME!!!

Student Leadership

Drum Major leads the marching band on and off the field. He/she is expected to assert leadership and provide a strong student role model in all areas of the band program. The Drum Major is selected through an audition held each Spring. The Drum Major will be required to attend a summer drum major camp

Section Leaders are students who display a high level of musicianship and respect for their fellow band members. They are used as assistants to help fellow students achieve their best both on and off the field. These students are selected by the Director at the end of the year with input from the students. Section Leaders are required to attend and pay for a leadership camp over the summer.

Required student leadership meetings will happen through out the year (summer included). During marching season these meetings will be held weekly every Tuesday from 5:00PM-5:30PM.

Set-Up Crew Positive membership in this crew is key to the success of the band program. Members of the Set-Up Crew will be in charge of setting up for all rehearsals and performances including all electronic equipment (mouth), field markers, drum major stands, chairs, stands, etc...

Leadership Behavior Policy All leadership is expected to always act in compliance with the responsibilities of their position. If for some reason a leader acts out of line, either by taking more power than is theirs or by having problems taking orders from another leader, then the first offense will result in a private conference with the accused and the accuser to find a solution. The second offense will result in a conference with the Director, the accused, and the accuser. If the problem persists the Director reserves the right to permanently remove students from their leadership positions as she deems necessary.

Attitude

Pride! Pride in yourself, in your fellow band members, and in the accomplishments of the ensemble. Band members must exert a feeling of pride and keep a positive attitude in rehearsal, performance, and in their daily routine. Remember, wherever you are, you are representing the St. Charles High School Band Program and the St. Charles Community. Students who cannot display a positive attitude and sense of pride will be asked to change their attitude or be removed from the ensemble.

General Conduct

Members of the St. Charles High School Band of Pirates are not only subject to regulations present in this handbook but also to the rules and regulations of the St. Charles High School Code of Conduct, the St. Charles High School Student Handbook, and rules set forth by the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

Students are expected to come prepared to each rehearsal and performance with all the appropriate equipment, including but not limited to their instrument and needed accessories, music, uniform if applicable, and a pencil.

All participants are expected to follow the instruction of any teacher, administrator, chaperone, or staff member without question unless said instruction violates civil or moral law. If you should be displeased with said instruction please address your concerns with the Director.

Smoking, drinking, or taking of any drugs by any band member will be not tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble. If prescribed medicines must be taken during a band function, notify the Director in writing and something will be worked out.

Be respectful to everyone!

If you have doubts as to the consequences of your actions, just don't do it!!!

Performance Procedures and Requirements

Football Games The Marching Band will perform at all home football games. Call time for games is 1½ hours before game time on the marching band practice field. Attendance is taken at call time. You are required to wear your full marching band uniform unless otherwise noted. Students are required to sit together in the stands during the game where they will perform as a pep band. Games will last approximately two hours.

Concerts Call time for concerts will be 1 hour prior to the performance time in concert dress unless otherwise noted. Most performances will take place in the Theater at SCHS. Students are expected to stay for the entire program.

Contests & Competitions Schedules and requirements for these events will be provided at least one week prior to the event. While attending contests and competitions positive comments only, please! Remember you are representing St. Charles High School.

Basketball Games The pep band will play for pep rallies and home basketball games. A pep band schedule will be handed out in November. The pep band will meet 1 hour prior to game time unless otherwise noted. Attendance is taken at call time in the band room. Pep Band will sit together as a group in the stands during the games.

Uniforms

Marching Band uniforms will be provided by St. Charles High School. It is the students' duty to maintain the uniform by treating it with care and **dry cleaning when necessary**. All marching band uniforms will be stored at school. No adjustments shall be made to the marching band uniform unless specifically approved by the uniform chair. **DO NOT CUT ANY MATERIAL FROM THE UNIFORM!** Each uniform is valued at \$650. The student is responsible for keeping their uniform in performance condition and will be held responsible (monetarily) for any damage done to the uniform. Students will need to provide black marching band shoes, black socks, white gloves, and a band polo. The shoes, gloves, and polo will be ordered through the band so everyone looks uniform. Order forms are located in the FORMS PACKET.

Color Guard uniforms will be paid for out of guard dues. These uniforms are special ordered each year. The band will specify what uniform pieces students will be able to keep and what must be returned to the band. Guard students will also need to purchase shoes which will be decided upon each year by the Guard Director.

Wind Ensemble uniforms will consist of all black for female students and black pants and a white dress shirt for males. Please be conservative in your clothing choice. Students in low cut shirts and skirts or dresses above the knee will not be allowed to perform. All students must wear dress shoes, no tennis shoes. The Director will make the decision if a student's attire is inappropriate. Those students will not be allowed to perform and will receive a 0 for the performance.

Pep Band members are responsible for wearing their navy band polo to each performance.

Jazz Ensemble members must provide solid black dress pants, dress shirt, dress shoes, and socks. White ties will be provided by SCHS. Any damage done to an SCHS ties will be charged to the student.

Transportation

As of 2009 we no longer have bus transportation provided by St. Charles High School. This will limit the number of events we are able to attend. Please remember to be respectful to the bus drivers at all times and to clean up after oneself at the end of each trip. Students who cannot follow bus procedures will not be allowed to travel and perform with the ensemble, thus resulting in a failing grade. Bus seating will be assigned the first trip and will not change throughout the year. Trading is not permitted. All participants must be respectful and follow the instructions of the bus chaperones. Any problems will be brought to the attention of the Director and students will be suspended from future trips. **If you do not arrive on time, you will be left behind and be given an unexcused absence.**

Any student wishing to return home with a parent from an away event may do so provided a signed note was submitted to the Director at least 48 hours in advance of the trip. Students may not drive themselves or ride with friends, friend's parents, or strangers to or from any event without proper paperwork on file in the band office. Please communicate with the Director at least two weeks in advance for special arrangements.

Rides home from St. Charles High School, after any rehearsal or performance must be at the school no later than 30 minutes after the event's scheduled conclusion. If rides are not present the student will be left outside the school potentially by them self. **Please be on time to pick up your child!**

Facilities and Equipment

The school district has provided us with the equipment and facilities we need to be successful. Please be respectful of this equipment and facilities. Do not leave any money or valuables in an unsecured state. St. Charles High School is not responsible for any lost or stolen articles. A locked locker will be provided for instrument storage. Remember, the band room is not your personal closet. Only instruments and music can be stored here. Please keep all other belongings in your school locker. If you do not have the Director's permission to use a piece of equipment or facility, do not use it. **There will be no food or drink in the band room other than water.** Students who fail to abide by any of the facilities and equipment rules will be issued an immediate detention and or office referral. These rules are in tact to keep our students safe and to prolong the life of our expensive equipment and facilities. Students may borrow school owned equipment provided a *Borrowed Instrument Contract* is signed.

Band Lettering Policy

The St. Charles High School Band Letter is a symbol of outstanding extracurricular achievement rewarded for hard work and perseverance. Listed below are the requirements for earning a letter in band. Letters are presented with all band awards in the spring of each academic year.

MARCHING/CONCERT BAND

1. The student shall earn an "A" or "B" for the first three quarters and have an "A" or "B" during the fourth quarter at the time of presentation.
2. The student shall have no unexcused absences from performances.
3. The student shall attend all days of band camp week.
4. The student shall work at least one fundraising event.

2 Active Semesters (1) numeral for year of graduation

At Least 2 Active Semesters & 25 Points (1) a chenille patch of the activity

At Least 4 Active Semesters & 50 Points (1) a chenille "SC" Band Letter

Each Additional 2 Active Semesters (1) a gold bar insert to indicate multiple years of varsity experience

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

1. The student shall earn an "A" or "B" for the first three quarters and have an "A" or "B" during the fourth quarter at the time of presentation.
2. The student shall have no unexcused absences from performances.
3. The student shall work at least one fundraising event.

2 Active Semesters (1) numeral for year of graduation

At Least 2 Active Semesters & 20 Points (1) a chenille patch of the activity

At Least 4 Active Semesters & 40 Points (1) a chenille "SC" Band Letter

Each Additional 2 Active Semesters (1) a gold bar insert to indicate multiple years of varsity experience

COLOR GUARD/WINTER GUARD

1. The student shall earn an "A" or "B" in marching band if enrolled in the class.
2. The student shall have no unexcused absences from performances.
3. The student shall attend all days of band camp week & Winter Guard Camp.
4. The student shall work at least one fundraising event.

2 Active Semesters (1) numeral for year of graduation

At Least 2 Active Semesters & 20 Points (1) a chenille patch of the activity

At Least 4 Active Semesters & 40 Points (1) a chenille "SC" Band Letter

Each Additional 2 Active Semesters (1) a gold bar insert to indicate multiple years of varsity experience

Listed below are the events students can participate in to receive points toward their band, jazz band, or guard letter.

Participate in State Solo & Ensemble		Participate in District Solo & Ensemble	
I Rating	12	I Rating	10
II Rating	10	II Rating	7
III or IV Rating	7	III or IV Rating	5
Audition for All Suburban Band	5	Audition for All Suburban Jazz Band	5
All Suburban Band Member	10	All Suburban Jazz Band Member	10
Audition for All State Band & Orchestra	5	Audition for All State Jazz Band	5
All State Band or Orchestra Member	15	All State Jazz Band Member	15
Participation in an approved honor band or orchestra	10	Participate in an approved honor jazz band	10
Weekly private lessons	10	Community Ensemble Member	3
Perfect attendance at SCHS band camp	10	SCHS Pit Orchestra	3
Jazz Ensemble	10	Work a shift at Music In The Parks	1
Winter Guard	10	Perform a Solo or Small Ensemble at Pops N' Pasta	1
Winter Drum Line	10	Participate in an approved performance not listed above	1
Section Leader	5		
Drum Major	7		
Set Up Crew	3		
Attend a college summer band camp	10		
Approved Concert Attendance (programs must be submitted)	1		

Please see Band
website for the most up
to date calendar.

<http://schsbandofpirates.webs.com/>