

*Knoxville's Best*

**HANDBOOK**

**2025 - 2026**



# POWELL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Fall 2025  
Marching Band  
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## Welcome

Welcome to the Powell High School Marching Band! The Powell Band has a well-established reputation of excellence throughout the state and region. Throughout our curriculum, we provide each student the opportunity to further develop themselves as musicians.

With the combined efforts of students, parents, and the community, the faculty, and staff of the Powell Band program offers the best in secondary music education. Our expectations are high, and we will strive to help students to develop musically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administration, and the directors as a source of information regarding the various aspects of the Powell Band program. Please read this booklet very carefully. All members will be expected to understand and abide by the policies set forth in this handbook.

## Mission Statement

“To foster discipline and growth through teamwork to create a musical and/or theatrical masterpiece”

## General Objectives

1. To serve the school and community by providing a source of the finest music performed with the highest possible standards.
2. To teach self-discipline and self-respect.
3. To instill organizational pride and cooperation and establish permanent bonds of friendship.
4. To enhance the musical growth and development of its members through performance in a variety of musical settings.
5. To promote responsibility and independence, equipping students for success in life.

## Attitude Expectation

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in this organization. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not a positive one, you should seek another organization. Band is an elective (not-required) course. By “electing” to participate, you must agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the organization. Even the best performers, if they do not care about the group, have no place here.



# PANTHER MARCHING BAND

POWELL HIGH SCHOOL

## *Personnel*

### • BAND FACULTY •

Tyler Guthrie: Director of Bands  
Mark Criswell: Assistant Director of Bands

### • SUPPORT STAFF •

Zach Todd: Percussion Coordinator  
Maggie Kirkland: Colorguard Coordinator  
Skyler Whitehouse: Show Designer

### • DRUM MAJOR •

Evi Lam

### • ASSISTANT DRUM MAJOR •

Nicholas Moore

### • COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN •

Haley Makin

### • STUDENT LEADERSHIP •

Sydnee Castelloe   Emma Jarman   Ella McCarter   Jojo Copley   Eli Turner   Colby Harris

### • BAND BOOSTER COMMITTEE •

Kimberly Sutton: President	Leah Braun: Treasurer
Melissa Hammond: Vice President	Chantel McNeely: Secretary

# Calendar

## 2025-2026 Performance Schedule

*All Times and Dates are Subject to Change*

August 22	Powell vs Anderson County
August 29	Powell @ Farragut High
September 4	Powell vs Halls High
September 12	Powell @ William Blount High
September 19	Powell @ Karns High
September 20	Karns High Invitational Competition
September 26	Powell vs Knoxville Central
September 27	Clinch River Classic Competition
October 3	Powell vs Campbell High
October 17	Powell vs Jefferson County
October 24	Powell @ Clinton High
October 30	Powell @ West High
November 7	DI 1 <sup>st</sup> Round Playoffs*
November 14	DI 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round Playoffs*
November 21	DI Quarterfinals*
November 28	DI Semifinals*
December 5-8	DI 5A BlueCross Bowl*

*\*Our involvement depends on outcome of season*

## Overview

Attendance at band camp is required for all members of the Powell High School Marching Band. During camp we learn all the necessary marching and musical fundamentals to be able to perform our halftime production. A professional staff is also hired to help teach camp; therefore, it is extremely beneficial to students to attend. Band camp is not something that can be made up or be excused from to be a fully participating member of our band program. Students who miss all or any part of band camp for any reason will be considered for disciplinary action by the directors.

## Meals

It is a goal of the program to provide meals for band camp secured by local businesses and by the Powell Band Booster Committee to help defray the cost of meals during band camp. Covered and non-covered meals will be indicated prior to the arrival to camp.

## Late Arrivals to Band Camp

Anyone arriving after the designated scheduled date and time for his/her respective assignment, must submit in writing a request to Mr. Guthrie to have the late arrival approved.

## Music Evaluations

Music evaluations are designed to ensure that all players have memorized their music. Music evaluations are graded to the same degree as all other performance assignments, so playing musically is just as important as memorizing the notes and rhythms. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off ALL show music and any other piece assigned by the directors.

Deadlines for the pass-offs will be announced at band camp. Any student that fails a music evaluation by the assigned deadline will NOT perform in the upcoming halftime shows until successful completion. Students are required to attend all performances until they have successfully completed their music evaluation. Students with any performance issues due to pass-offs may find their participation in the ensemble modified as dictated by the directors.

## Marching Band

Membership into the Marching Band is open to all students at Powell High School. Members must have instrumental experience to be considered for acceptance. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students currently enrolled in a band class are eligible to march, apart from color guard. All students must meet the extra-curricular eligibility requirements as outlined below. Members of the marching band must attend all performances of the band program and communicate all conflicts with the band director at the beginning of the season. The marching band is primarily active in the fall with all varsity football games, select local parades, pep rallies, and various competitions both regional and in surrounding states. **The practice schedule is every Tuesday and Thursday after school from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

## Color Guard

Auditions for the guard are held in the spring semester. Specific audition requirements vary each time, but often will include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals. Any incoming or current Powell High School student is eligible to participate. Color guard participants are full members of the marching band; therefore, they are expected to participate in all activities, help in fundraisers, and are required to follow all applicable rules/regulations in this handbook.

## Winter Guard

Winter Guard is a color guard group that performs to recorded music at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance with flag, rifle, and saber work. Membership is open to anyone at Powell High School. Auditions are held in November of each year. The Winter Guard typically practices two days per week after school. During the season the group may travel to competitions across the state and in local areas. These competitions typically take place on Saturdays throughout the end of January to early April. If you have any questions about the Winter Guard program, please see Ms. Kirkland for details.

## Attitude, Work Ethic & Behavior

Students must strive to always do their personal best demonstrating behavior that is constructive, disciplined, and focused, and contribute positively to the efficiency and effectiveness of all rehearsals and performances. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as determined by the directors. **The band program maintains a strict no response or acknowledgement policy involving communication with fans or with any individual outside of the band program.** This ensures the safety of each band member as well as protects the integrity of the program, school, and district. This no response policy also extends to all public verbal, written, and electronic forms of communication regarding the policies, practices, and performances of the Powell High School Marching Band. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

## Grading Policy

Student's grade is greatly influenced by their participation. Students are consistently engaged in kinetics activities throughout every rehearsal and their participation counts towards their academic grade. Their attendance and contribution to the rehearsal and performances are paramount to their learning experience. Individual student practice is not monitored; however, can become necessary if the student is lacking on memorization, playing exam proficiency, etc. The members of the Powell Band are expected to be proficient not only in the band setting, but in their academic settings as well. The Powell Band grading policy is as follows: **students who have a grade below a C in one class or more will not be allowed to perform with the band program or go on a field trip until the grade is above a 70% average or a written agreement on how the grade is to be improved upon is signed by the teacher of that given class allowing them to participate.** *This policy does not exempt the student from rehearsals.* If there are any questions about this policy, please see Mr. Guthrie for more details.



## General Policy

Because of the nature of musical rehearsals and performances, punctuality is imperative for all members of the Powell High School Marching Band. All schedules will indicate the time for activities to begin, not the time for students to arrive. If a rehearsal is scheduled for 6:00 PM, then all members are expected to be seated (or standing if outside) in place with instruments, music, and any other items needed at the time. This policy applies to regular school classes and out of class activities. For that reason, we suggest that students arrive to school classes promptly, and they plan to arrive **at least fifteen minutes** before any out of class rehearsals and performances.

## Band Event Conflicts

Directors must be given a minimum of two weeks' notice of any scheduled conflicts with an after-school band event (rehearsal, performance, or other scheduled activities) for the absence to possibly be excused (this does not guarantee that an absence will be excused). This notice must be given in the form of a written note from the parent and an absence request form. These items will be hand-delivered to the directors. It is crucial that you fill out the absence request form to its' entirety.

## Everyday Success

### Marching Band Arrival Policy:

*To be 15 minutes early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late.*

## Attendance Policy

Ensemble-wide attendance is the most important thing to the success of any team-based activity. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance demonstrates self-discipline, professionalism and a willingness to learn. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up, both for the individual student and the group.

A calendar of events is published in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling items like appointments, family events, and more, so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. This attendance policy applies to all after school rehearsals and performances throughout the fall and performances in the spring. This also applies to required fundraiser events.

Excused Absences - Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, vacations, issues with transportation, failure to plan, etc. may not be excused.

If a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is required to email a director to inform them of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an “excused” absence for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student may be asked to bring a doctor’s note to the directors on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student’s absence being unexcused.

Unexcused Absences - An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed for excused absences. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance for both the lack of knowledge from missing rehearsal and for the safety of other members in the band. An unexcused absence from a performance result in the loss of two letter grades. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Multiple attendance issues will result in the student being placed on non-performance status due to a lack of commitment and punctuality.

Being placed on non-performance status DOES NOT excuse the student from any other event that requires attendance. For example, just because you do not play in a concert does not mean that you may simply skip it. You are still required to show up, dressed appropriately. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

## Punctuality

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. **Two unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absence and with that comes all the ramifications listed above.**

During the school day, students are expected to either be in the band room preparing for rehearsal at the beginning of the assigned class time or on the football field. In marching band class, students are expected to be in the appropriate rehearsal space at the designated time as dictated by the directors.

## Exceptions

There are of course exceptions to this rule, and it is up to the discretion of the Director of Bands how these policies are interrupted. This is nevertheless a guide and should be assumed to be the policy that will be carried out.

## General Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Powell High School. Whenever you are wearing a Powell Band uniform or other band attire, you are representing the entire student body of Powell High School.

Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will NOT be tolerated. We represent each other, the school, and ourselves and we strive to represent the best in high standards and traditions.

### Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Knox County Board of Education disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. Do not use alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapes or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This will include action by law-enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
3. Abuse of school facilities or equipment is prohibited. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above and any other form of school facilities that students interact with.
4. Unauthorized use of school instruments is prohibited. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play their specific school instrument, unless given permission by a director.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of peers will be tolerated.
6. Profanity will not be tolerated. Keep it clean!
7. Respect authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else placed in charge.
8. Do not leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are AT ALL TIMES.
9. Cell phone use is not permitted during performances or rehearsals. The only exception to this rule is for use of the UDB (Ultimate Drill Book) app for drill setting.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral, and participation in extracurricular events may be modified or suspended indefinitely. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from all extracurricular events.

## Conduct in the Band Room

1. Trash cans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage room. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as: playing percussion (or other) instruments that do not belong to you, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than to practice or music rehearsal. Use common sense to avoid issues
2. Absolutely no food, drink, or gum in the band room.
3. **Music stands and chairs are to be put back on the racks after each rehearsal.**
4. Vandalism, theft, and use of school equipment or other student's property is prohibited.
5. Do not play instruments that are not assigned to/owned by you.

## Football Game Rules

*Game time is work time. Attention should remain on the Drum Major or Director*

1. **No Cell Phone use during Band Time.** This does not include break time. If a cell phone is seen out during game-time/band time, a Director will confiscate it. Repeat Offenders will be suspended for a game at a Director's discretion.
2. All students must *remain in full uniform* and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game unless other instructions are given by the Director of Bands.
3. No non-band members in the stands during the games.
4. Do not play your instrument unless directed by a Drum Major or Director.
5. Maintain professional image and behavior.
6. General and student conduct rules apply.

## The Uniform

- Students and parents are responsible for informing a uniform team member of needed repairs of the school owned uniform, whole or parts, if it/they should become damaged from normal wear and tear.
- Students and parents are responsible for replacement or repair of the school owned uniform, whole or parts, if it/they should be damaged from non-normal wear and tear or lost.
- Students are expected and required to properly hang their individual uniform up following all performances.
- Students will be required to purchase uniform parts or custom uniforms that are considered personal items that cannot be used again by other students. The items may include but are not limited to gloves, socks, custom guard uniforms, marching shoes, dress shoes, band t-shirt, concert dress clothing, etc. These items must be purchased through the band program (except for socks and concert dress) to ensure that model and styles match. Although students are required to purchase these items, most of these items fall under the student's band fees so no additional fee is required unless students do not meet inspection requirements (See Inspections).

## Marching Uniforms Etiquette

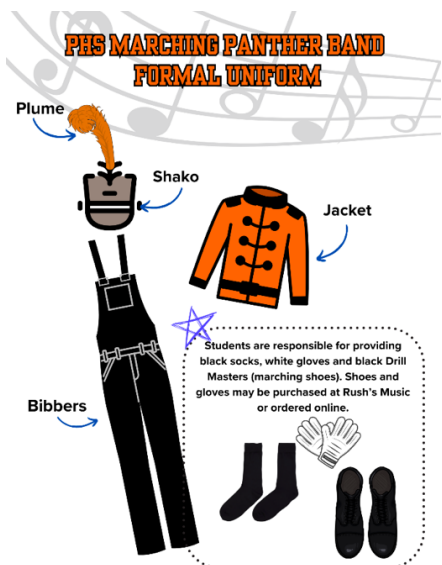
- Students will wear their summer uniform (official band shirt, khaki shorts, tennis shoes, band hat, and short black socks) when indicated by the directors.
- Students will always wear their summer uniform under their assigned full band uniform.
- Students are to **never** leave the band room or equipment room without their full uniform on (except for gloves, shakos, and plumes). Once students have entered these areas the students then may remove the full uniform. (*With director exceptions*)
- No hats are allowed unless provided by the band program for all members.

## Inspections

- It is required of all band members to always keep their uniforms and equipment in pristine condition. The leadership officers will be inspected by the directors and in turn will inspect each of their corresponding sections. The following is a list of what is expected at inspections. Any infractions could result in any of the following: loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break and a work duty assignment, or a deduction of their performance grade with possible suspension from the said performance.

### Personal Appearance

1. Hair should always be up. NEVER touching the collar at any point. Those members with long hair must put it in a ponytail and put it inside the band hat (only black hair ties) or some other similar method.
2. Members are not permitted to wear any make-up (except for color guard).
3. Members must wear clear nail polish or have naturally colored nails. Nails also must be at a respectable length.
4. There should be no visible jewelry: rings, necklaces, watches, earrings, and facial piercings. Student with retention piercings must be covered via band aids, ace bandages, etc. (Exceptions apply but must be communicated to the Director).



5. For students with visible tattoos these must be covered via band aids, ace bandages, etc.

## Uniforms

1. Should be worn in the proper manner.
2. Pant length should touch the top of the shoe without folding.
3. With the shako on, no hair should touch the forehead – bangs must go up inside the shako.
4. Shoes must be in proper working order.
5. Long Black Socks must be an appropriate length (Preferably over the calf).
6. Gloves should be white and clean. The tips of fingers should be cut for woodwinds.
7. The band shirt must be worn under the uniform.

## Instruments

1. Cleaned on the inside and outside. Brass instruments and percussion must be polished (provided by the band).
2. Brass slides must move easily.
3. Brass valves must be well oiled and move easily.
4. All percussion instruments must be cleaned. Sticks must be uniform and taped properly (tape provided by the band).
5. All color guard equipment should be clean and properly taped. Color guard members should have all accessories items with them (rifles, spears, etc.).

## Music

1. All members must have their flip folders with all stands and show music.
2. All students should have their music lyres with them.
3. Flip folders should be clearly labeled with the students assigned number.

## Band Fee Payment Policy

When you and your student sign the band contract you submit to a fee liability agreement. This simply means that you are obligated to pay these fees on the designated time of payment retrieval. If you do not submit a payment and it does not clear our records in a timely manner, then the student is susceptible to suspension from a band related activity or even expulsion from the program

Band Fee (if using a school instrument)		
Band Fee	\$350	due 7/14/2025
Instrument Rental Fee	\$50	due 7/14/2025
Transportation Fee	\$150	due 8/22/2025
Uniform Fee	\$50	due 9/05/2025
		<b>TOTAL \$ 600</b>

Band Fee (if providing your own instrument)		
Band Fee	\$350	due 7/14/2025
Transportation Fee	\$150	due 8/22/2025
Uniform Fee	\$50	due 9/05/2025
		<b>TOTAL \$ 550</b>

- The band camp fee of \$350 is due the first day of full band camp on July 14, 2025. The entire band camp fee must be paid in full by July 14, 2025. This is necessary to pay our professional staff for camp.
- Transportation fee is \$150. Band Uniform fee is \$50. The color guard uniform fee is due the last Friday in August and varies from year to year. This year that date is August 29, 2025.
- *Make all checks payable to "Powell High School" with your student's name in the memo section.*
- **School Owned Instrument Fee – all students playing a school owned instrument such as percussion, tuba, baritone, mellophone, etc. will pay a \$50 fee that will cover repairs and regular maintenance of the equipment. This should also be paid the first day of band camp July 14, 2025.**
- Fee Waiver applies to ALL these fees except the color guard uniform, but the appropriate paperwork must be completed and filed in the front office of PHS in a timely manner.  
**PLEASE MAKE SURE WE ARE AWARE THAT YOUR CHILD IS FEE WAIVER!** The fees will not be removed from your child's account if not and will still be due at the time of graduation.
- Non-payment or failure to set up a payment arrangement = no guarantee of a spot in the drill. To clarify, if there is no payment or arrangement, students will not be allowed to march, and their uniform will be held until a payment or arrangement is made.
- **Do not allow money to be the reason your child does not take band. If a need is communicated, we will make arrangements as necessary.**
- Fundraise throughout the year! This will help cover the cost of participating! Talk to Mrs. Sutton or Mrs. Hammond for details.

## Travel Policy

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you will sit out the performance and incur the prescribed consequences unless someone is able to get you the item you forgot that is required for performance. (see Assessment).
2. All instruments go on the instrument carts that belong to your section or with you (i.e. Flute, Clarinet, etc.). You are responsible for getting your instrument to the loading area on time where they will be loaded for you by the loading crew.
3. Unless told otherwise the summer uniform will be worn on the bus. (Band shirt, khaki pants, short black socks, and tennis shoes.
4. Keep the bus clean...in words and actions.
5. All county and director bus rules apply as well as the specific rules of the individual driver.
6. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent **ONLY** if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus *before* leaving Powell High School prior to the event. Parent/guardian must meet student *at the bus* and make verbal contact with the bus chaperone. Do not leave a venue with your child without "checking-out" with the bus chaperone. Students that go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school *that evening*.
7. All students must stay for the entirety of the game or event except for an emergency approved by the director.
8. Do not switch from your assigned bus.
9. Every band member helps unload the truck on return to the school.

### **NO ONE IS DISSMISSED UNTIL ALL UNLOADING IS COMPLETED**

Band members are expected to perform at all football games, marching band events, and marching band trips as dictated by the schedule or as announced by the directors. Plan for Thanksgiving as well as a probable championship trip. You are responsible for following trip schedules and taking responsibility for your luggage, instrument, and uniform. This includes loading and unloading all items from buses or trucks.

All students are expected to ride school-provided transportation. Any exceptions should be submitted, in writing, on an official travel excuse form to Mr. Guthrie no later than one week in advance of the event. No other forms of communication will be accepted. Any member missing the school-provided transportation is responsible for getting to the event on time. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band. During Band Camp, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the bus on which you will travel or the semester. Once bus lists are finalized and posted, you may not ride on a different vehicle without approval from the director. Each student must be seated on his/her assigned bus fifteen (15) minutes prior to each departure. Attendance will be taken at that time.



## Travel

While traveling with the band, only those band members assigned to a room may occupy the room. Each student is required to stay in his/her assigned hotel room unless approved by the director. You and your roommates are responsible for any incidental room charges (e.g. movies, room service, and phone calls). While staying in a hotel, a “no noise” policy between the hours of 11:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. will be maintained by all band students. Failure to adhere to bus or hotel assignments will result in the failure of the course. Upon failure, a students may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band. You have the privilege of traveling with The Powell High School Marching Band, Knoxville’s Best band organization. As a student at Powell High School and the Knox County School System, you are subject to all school and district rules governing student conduct as outlined in **the 2025-2026 Powell High School handbook and Knox County Schools handbook**. You will be held responsible for all aspects of your behavior. Please remember to respect the rights of others in the group and all persons not connected with the group. Consumptions of alcoholic beverages, the use of illegal drugs, or behavior deemed inappropriate by the directors, while associated with the band at any performance, rehearsal, or school sponsored/related activity will not be tolerated. Individuals in violation of these policies will be subject to referral to the Executive Principle at Powell High School, Dr. Chad Smith, and failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band. People will judge you, Powell High School, and The Powell High School Marching Band by your actions, both on and off the field. Your behavior and appearance must be exemplary and will beyond what be expected of you as a private individual. The outstanding reputation of The Powell High School Marching Band has taken years to build and can be destroyed by one individual and one unfortunate incident.

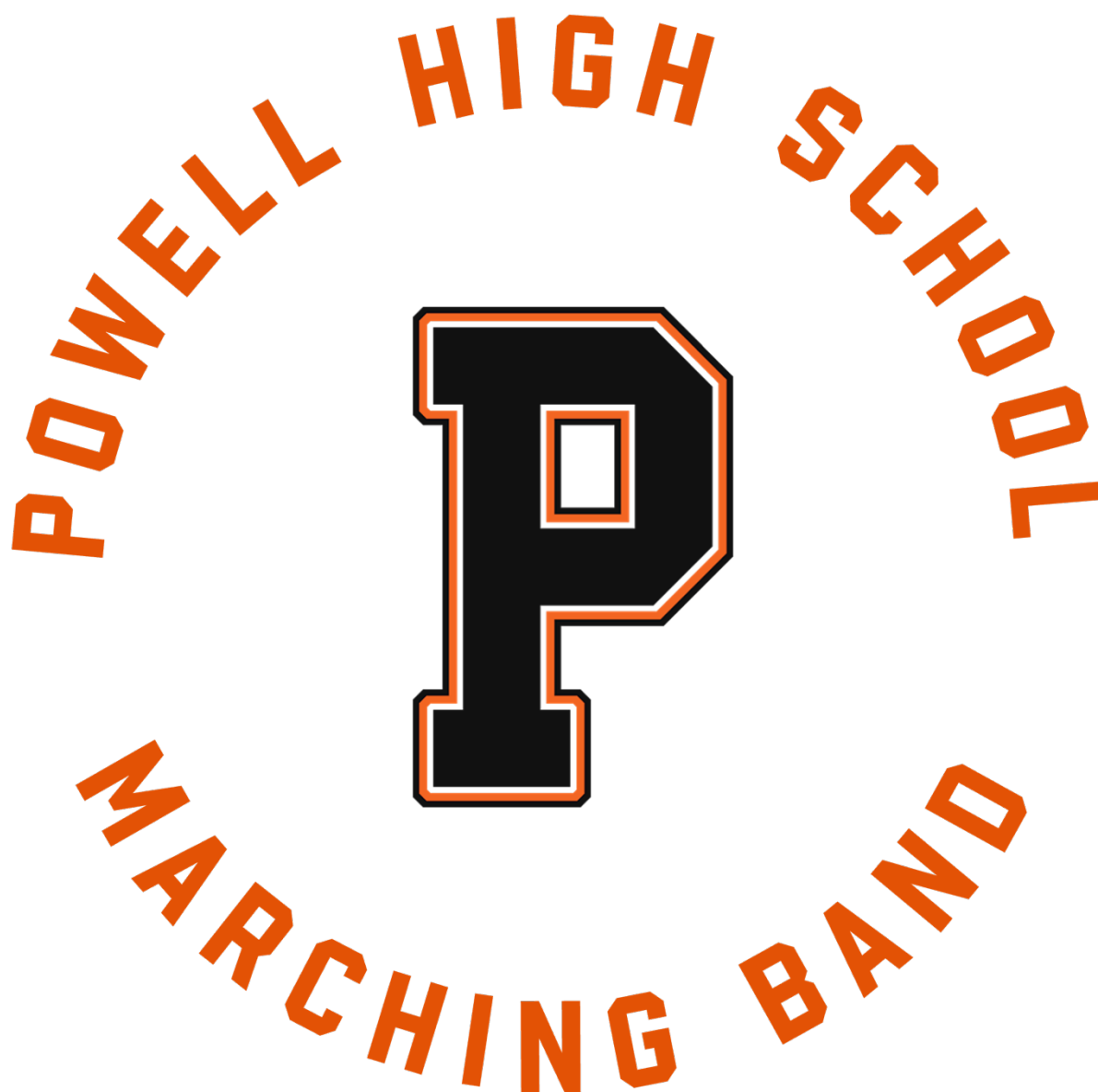
## Travel Dress Code

While traveling with The Powell High School Marching Band, please remember that you represent not only the band, but also the school and district. Therefore, it is very important to maintain a positive image. To establish and maintain this image, all students must adhere to Band Member Appearance guidelines as stipulated on page 12 of this handbook.

Travel dress code for band members is as follows:

For Travel by Bus (unless in full uniform) – All students must wear The Powell High School Marching Band t-shirt, official travel cap (if a hat is worn), khaki shorts, short black socks, and tennis shoes. Jewelry may not be worn. Any questions should be directed to one of the Directors.

# **P** | BANDS



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[www.knoxschools.org/phsband](http://www.knoxschools.org/phsband)**