

# Music Department Report

September 2026  
Prepared by Nate Bankert



*From Mr. Bankert:*

The 7-12 choral program is once again off to a strong start! We're working on rehearsal procedures and reviewing concepts from last school year. The singers are working hard! We look forward to sharing our voices with the community this school year!

Learners are currently preparing for ACDA National auditions as well as District Chorus auditions. Fingers crossed that we have good representation from our PV choristers this year.

The 9-12 Musical has been announced! Please join us February 18-20, 2027 for:



*From Mr. Ackerman:*

## **Marching Band**

- Season off to solid start, rebuilding year, new staff
- 28 members – lots of flags!
- 90s theme
- Article in last week's pennysaver
- Home games and parade

### **Concert Bands**

- Rehearsals off to a fine start. Alternate with choir as always
- Pull-out lessons have begun, rotating schedule, email invites, Google Calendar
- Members – 23 in the High school group, 31 in the 7/8 grade
- Concert in JANUARY and May.

### **Music Explorations course**

- New course designed for grades 7-8. Exploring piano, guitar, bass, etc.
- Builds on elementary ukulele and piano, prepares for focused HS electives
- Allows for self-guided practice and MCL
- One each quarter. Class sizes 8, 14, 12, 12 (=46)

### **Modern Band Program**

- Two HS rock bands (Apollo's Axe and Electric Bloom) and two in the 7/8 level (High Maintenance and Highway 7)
- 25 learners are involved in this activity
- Working on taking Electric Bloom to Lebanon Valley College to record
- Apollo's Axe has a long-standing arrangement to record at Academy for Media Production in McSherrystown.
  - We serve as their live band to teach THEIR students wiring etc
  - the engineer gives us professional level recordings for free
- Only concert scheduled so far is the May one. Not sure we can fit in the holiday one like last year.
- As always, the PV Rock Bands YouTube channel hosts our videos and gains followers.

*From Ms. Shyver & Mr. Apgar:*

This year has started off on a very musical note! Learners were singing and dancing on day one, and we spent a lot of time discussing ways we can be our best selves in music class. Mr. Apgar and I are looking forward to recruiting new members into Mr. Apgar's beginning band program as well as welcoming back any returning members. September 9<sup>th</sup> is our annual instrument rental night at Paradise Elementary, so spread the word to any fourth, fifth, or sixth graders who aren't yet in band but would like to try. See you there!