

TIDEWATER PIPES AND DRUMS

"Your Hometown Pipe Band"



Mission Statement

TP&D's vision is to be the best pipe band in southeastern Virginia. We define "best" in terms of quantity and quality. We want to field the biggest pipe band in the region with the most pipers and drummers, and we want to produce high-quality pipe band music that entertains every one of our audiences, whether it is on the city streets during parade, on stage during a performance or on the field during competition.



About the Band

The band formed in 1975 and has continuously maintained a roster of active pipers and drummers from across Hampton Roads. The band, a non-profit, 501c3 organization, performs at a variety of events every year, including the Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Norfolk Grand Illumination Parade and a number of events for the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office, including the South Norfolk Fourth of July Parade and the annual "Symphony Under The Stars" concert. It also has had the honor of performing in many special events throughout its 36-year history, including the Virginia International Tattoo. A member of Eastern United States Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA), TP&D fields a successful Grade IV band for competitions in the mid-Atlantic region.

Student Program



St. Patrick Catholic School is partnering with TP&D, the premier bagpipe band in southeastern Virginia, to bring another facet of music to its students. Students will have the opportunity to join the band and learn to play the bagpipes or drums through instruction offered by experienced band members from 6 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday at the school. The target range for students is 5th to 8th

grade; however, younger students demonstrating maturity or musical experience are welcome. The goal is to promote the





art form to interested students and to develop a youth “feeder” band. The student experience with TP&D will enhance the Life of Mind, Life of Spirit, Life of Relationship and the Call to Servant Leadership.

Lessons



Experienced members of the band will provide lessons for students following the instruction in The Piping Centre’s Highland Bagpipe Tutor Book and Doug Stronach’s Pipe Band Snare Drum Tutor Book. Student

progress will be monitored through a student progress report, and parents will be encouraged to support the student through an understanding of the expectations and discipline required to master these instruments.

A Place for Parents

Many of the active adult members of the band began by participating with their children as chaperones, then began to learn the instrument themselves. Active parents enjoy a unique opportunity to travel with their children and to socialize with other parents and adult band members. The band encourages students of all ages to learn the instruments and currently instruct several adult students.

Expectations

Lessons are offered at no cost; however, students pay a monthly band membership fee of \$35 until they are ready to join the band as active musicians. This helps cover uniform costs when the student converts to playing with the band. The low initial cost is one of the attractive aspects of learning to play the bagpipes and snare drum. Piping students will purchase a practice chanter and tutor book with accompanying

CD for under \$150; drumming students will purchase a snare drum pad, sticks, tutor book and accompanying CD for under \$120. Students typically train on the chanter and pads for a full year before becoming proficient enough to transfer their skills to the actual instrument. This provides a low-risk way to gauge interest and commitment before investing in a set of bagpipes or a snare drum. Once students progress to the instrument, they quickly join the band for performances at parades, concerts, highland games, competitions and other venues in support of school and community programs including sporting events.

Scholarship Program

Several colleges and universities in the U.S. have pipe bands and offer scholarships to students with musical aptitude and good academic performance. A sampling of schools and the values of the individual scholarships offered:

- St. Andrews Presbyterian College (Laurinburg, N.C.): Up to \$14,500
- Lyon College (Batesville, Ark.): \$12,000 and up
- The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.): Varies
- Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pa.): Varies

TP&D also offers financial assistance for members to attend piping and drumming summer schools, including the National Piping Centre’s Virginia Piping & Drumming School in Winchester and the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming in Valle Crucis, N.C.

Additionally, students have benefitted from the network connections, experience and recommendations of adult musicians in the band that enjoy assisting in the academic pursuits of other band members, especially those seeking a higher education.

