



**Liberty High School Band Program
2022-2023
Handbook**

Welcome to the Liberty High School Band Program!

We are excited you have decided to be a part of this great organization!

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors as a source of information regarding the various aspects of the band program. Please read the contents of this handbook carefully as it contains information necessary to be a successful member of this organization. All members will be expected to understand and abide by all the guidelines set forth in this handbook.

Respectfully,

Sarita Magno-Parsons, Director of Bands

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LIBERTY BAND BOOSTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Director of Bands – Sarita Magno-Parsons
- President – Lisa McGinnis
- Vice President – Steve Maliszewski
- Secretary – Audra Stewart
- Treasurer – LeAnna Hobbs

LIBERTY BAND BOOSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

- Liberty Band Booster E-mail: libertyhsbb@gmail.com
- Liberty Band Website: wsdlibertyband.com
- Liberty Band Twitter and Instagram: @wsdlibertyband
- We also have a Band Booster Facebook Page
- NOTE: We will NOT be using Remind101 or BAND due to District Policy. We will utilize Google Chat and Gmail exclusively.

LHS BAND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- Promotion of school spirit, positive morale, and support to the highest degree in representation of Liberty High School and its community, through music performance.
- Continually strive for Excellence.
- Promote respect, friendship, cooperation and team effort.
- Understand the importance of responsibility, dependability, and presence.
- Understand the importance of group over individual.
- Recognize of the importance of participation in music and the life-long learning of music.
- Build excellent character, self-esteem and pride in all that we do.

MSHSAA ELIGIBILITY

The Liberty High School Band Program is set under the guidelines of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. In order to actively participate, each student must pass **six** classes per semester (equivalent to 3.0 credit hours) and be currently enrolled as a full-time student. Seniors or other students taking a reduced course load must not fail any classes. Students must be in full attendance on the day of a school day performance, or on the day before a non-school day performance. The student must also not be suspended or have any pending legal charges.

Per MSHSAA and WSD regulations, any student who has been deemed ineligible may not perform at any event that is not held at Liberty High School. Any such student will be assigned significant make-up assignments in place of all performances missed.

Please note that we DO watch all grades frequently, and expect that our students will maintain passing grades throughout the year. Students with repeated academic eligibility issues may be asked to leave the program.

ATTENDANCE RESPONSIBILITY

THE STUDENT WHO CORRECTLY COMMUNICATING WITH THE DIRECTORS WILL RARELY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE ATTENDANCE POLICIES OF THE BAND PROGRAM.

Band is a unique course. It has both curricular and extra-curricular requirements. The level of commitment from each individual, is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether before/after or during school, are the means by which students learn as both individuals and as a cohesive group, and cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore, it is imperative that students be present at all times.

Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room.

Attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be reflected in the student's grade.

Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: SERIOUS illness or hospitalization of the student, a death in the family, religious holiday observed by the student's family, or other reasons deemed excusable by the directors. Family vacations are not excused as advanced notice has been given in regards to required rehearsal and performance dates.

All Absences must be communicated in advance in writing from a parent for Excusal. Work, birthday parties, homework, etc. are examples of absences that are generally not excused. **An unexcused absence will result in a zero for the performance grade.**

If a student has a critical conflict (another school activity), he/she should not wait until a day or two before the performance to contact the directors. The earlier the conflict is known, the better the chances of an absence being excused. **It is important to remember that an absence not only affects the individual, but affects all members of the band. We are only as strong as our weakest link. This is a commitment that has been made; therefore, it is essential to uphold it for the sake of the entire program.**

Once the school year begins, we will rehearse before school at 6:30am daily. On Late Start Mondays, rehearsal will begin at 8:45am. In addition, we rehearse on **Wednesday** evenings from 6:00 to 8:30pm. Weekly drum major, brass, woodwind, percussion, and color guard sectionals will be established by the Directors and staff and will begin shortly after the start of the school year. In addition, we will have weekly after-school sectionals during concert season. These rehearsals will begin in late January and continue through April. More information will be sent as soon as the schedule is determined.

No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment and schedule awareness required, we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

All school and board policies are in effect during all band functions on and off school property. Any inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken and may result in dismissal from the Liberty High School Band Program. All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member, or chaperone, without question and with courtesy and politeness, unless said instruction is a violation of civil or moral standards. In such a case, it should be immediately brought to the attention of the directors. All students will travel to off-campus activities on district transportation. **It is expected that students will stay through the duration of the event and may not leave early.** If a student is riding home from an event with their own parents, it must be communicated in advance in writing. Students must be signed out along with their parent IN PERSON with a DIRECTOR. For your safety, "notes" will not be sufficient.

Never leave the group and venture out on your own. Every member of the band is to stay in designated areas. *During home football games, band members will stand in their assigned sections. If third quarter is designated as time off, band members are expected to remain in complete uniform and return to their section, in the bleachers, with two minutes remaining on the third quarter clock. There should be no leaving of the stadium area or band room until the entire band is dismissed to go home.*

It is important to present the image of Dignity, Discipline, and Pride at all times. **ONLY Band members should be in the band section of the stadium during games and pep rallies.** Students are expected to remain in their sections and be ready to play. The band plays only as a group when directed. There should be no individual, indiscriminate playing at any time.

When the LHS Band “sets” to march to or from any location, there is absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands. We are performing whenever we are in public. Members are expected to follow the instructions of any authorized adult left in charge of the band.

Following any football game or competition, it is the band members’ responsibility to ensure that all equipment is put away correctly.

BAND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS/ETIQUETTE

Self-Discipline: A quality that must come from within the individual. Therefore, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Liberty Band Program. All band members are expected to work positively and effectively at all times.

General Guidelines:

- **School rules are in effect at all times when with the band**
- Inappropriate behavior such as Public Displays of Affection or Foul/Disrespectful Language will not be tolerated
- No one is allowed in the band room area without a director present!
- No food, gum, or drink other than plain water is allowed in the band room.
- No disruptive behavior at any time or place (running, yelling, piggy-back riding, etc.)
- Put all equipment away correctly after every rehearsal and performance.
- Make sure you clean your area before you leave – rehearsal areas, instrument storage rooms, guard room, and practice rooms – keep the band room clean!
- **Do not touch or mess with any equipment/instrument that is not yours!**
- If something gets broken, notify a director immediately.

Care of the Facility:

The appearances of our rehearsal and performance facilities affect the quality of the work accomplished and the image of the LHS Band Program. The Band Room, storage room, and all areas that the band occupy should be left in a clean condition. Personal items should not be left in any part of the room.

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL!

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Be prepared with instrument, pencil, music, coordinate sheet/binder, and the necessary equipment.
- When the director stops – **NO TALKING OR ADDITIONAL PLAYING!**
- Please give the instructional staff your attention at all times – **EYE CONTACT!**
- Get a drink of water and use the restroom before rehearsal begins.
- Check your equipment before rehearsal – make adjustments then.
- Do not ask for reeds, valve oil, slide grease, or additional items during class.
- Be prepared and think ahead!
- Be in your assigned seat, with all equipment, **ON TIME** for rehearsal. Do not be tardy for the downbeat. This is each individual's responsibility – **Being EARLY is to be ON TIME!**
- No cell phones, cameras, or electronic devices allowed during rehearsals or performances, including on music stands.
- Be respectful of directors, instructors, peers, parents, and guest clinicians.

Performance Etiquette:

- Be **ON TIME** (early) and ready for designated warm-up.
- Conduct yourself in a professional and mature manner.
- Be prepared with music, instrument, and appropriate attire.
- **NO TALKING** during the performance – whether performing or a member of the audience.
- No cell phone, camera, or electronic devices allowed.
- Remember that our performance begins before we take the field or enter the stage!
Each individual's actions affect the LHS Band Program – we must work together to present a positive image!

CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

Contests, festivals, and other activities are important features of the LHS Band Program. It is through these activities that we obtain feedback about our progress as individuals and as a unit. Although we never “live or die” by any one judge’s or panel’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.

Competitive performances are filled with emotion. We expect our students to channel this emotion and energy into positive performances and behavior throughout the day.

We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and accept our own successes gracefully. We appreciate the efforts of ALL other performing groups, regardless of placement or scores. Do not equate coming in first with winning. **Winning is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taking the chance of competing, and doing their personal best in the pursuit of excellence.**

BUS TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Traveling as a part of the BAND PROGRAM is a privilege and carries with it certain responsibilities. You will be expected and required to behave as you load, ride, unload, and conduct yourself in a proper manner at all times. **All LHS rules and policies apply in our off-campus performances and events.**

- Always show proper respect and cooperation to all chaperones and bus drivers!
- We will use a seating chart for most trips which will either be assigned by directors or signed up for in seniority order.
- Listen (be quiet) when instructions are given and during roll call.
- No changing of buses or seating assignment.
- Music may only be played through headphones, worn on the head.
- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
- Keep all body parts and objects inside the bus – no hanging or tossing items out of the windows.
- No Food or Drink (other than water) on the bus
- No public display of affection (be courteous and respectful to those around you).
- Talk at a moderate level – directors and chaperones will determine if it is too loud.
- No yelling, throwing of objects, or playing your instrument on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean – put all your trash in the supplied trash bags. Student Leadership Team will be in charge of making sure the bus is clean after our travels. *This does not mean that they clean the bus by themselves!*
- Always use good judgment and common sense.

MARCHING FESTIVAL DRESS/CASUAL UNIFORM

The LHS Band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization in our pursuit of achieving excellence. When not in uniform, it is expected that band members will dress as prescribed by the directors. Students will be expected to wear their band show shirt tucked in, jeans (WITHOUT HOLES), tennis shoes, and socks. The jeans MUST be dark blue, full length and devoid of holes. Khaki shorts or capris will be worn with the show shirt on warmer days. Jean shorts, athletic shorts, and other pant types will not be acceptable unless specified by a Director or Instructor. It is the responsibility of each band member to ensure that we present the best possible image at all times.

IF YOU DO NOT OWN DARK BLUE JEANS OR KHAKI SHORTS, YOU MUST ACQUIRE THEM!

MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representation of the LHS Band Program, school, and community. When in public, the uniform is to be complete at all times. Jewelry, nail polish, and student selected accessories are not permitted. Nails should be trimmed and neat. The only headgear worn with the uniform is that provided by the band. Any lost or damaged uniform items will be paid for by the student to whom they are issued.

For Uniformity:

Males: Hair must be off the collar in back, off the eyebrows in front, and at least halfway up the sides of the ears. If this cannot be done, hair should be rolled up or pinned up under the hat. Male band members are not allowed to wear earrings while in uniform.

Females: Hair that falls below the collar must be pulled back into a tight bun. All finger nail polish and all jewelry must be removed prior to a performance. **No headbands will be allowed. Additional hair pieces need to be secured with hairspray and hair pins.**

Under the uniform, students are expected to wear a solid navy blue shirt, gym shorts or sliders, and calf length solid black socks. Black marching shoes will be purchased for any new students for reasons of uniformity. If marching shoes are lost or no longer fit, the student will pay \$45 to replace them. Band members will be provided with a band show t-shirt that is to be worn as part of the uniform for certain events. Each student will be provided with one pair of gloves for the season. If a student needs additional gloves, he/she may purchase a pair for \$5.00. It is the student's responsibility to keep these personal items clean and in order.

The way we wear our uniform reflects the pride we have in our band program. Our uniform projects an image of pride and quality. At NO time will the uniform be worn in part. All zippers, fasteners, and snaps must be fastened at all times. If any part of the uniform is removed, it must all be removed. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all band members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times. Any damage to the uniform due to neglect, will be the responsibility of the student.

CONCERT SEASON ENSEMBLES

Auditions for Concert Band will take place around the last week of October. Concert Band will meet first hour beginning at the conclusion of marching season. Placement is based on musicianship level and needs of each ensemble.

CONCERT AND CONTEST DRESS

Our public reputation extends past marching festivals and carries throughout the year.

*NEW FOR 2022 - We will be transitioning to uniform formal wear for the ensemble. This will include a tuxedo for the gentlemen, a dress for the females, as well as other neutral options. More information will be given out during the school year.

INSTRUMENT CARE

Each student is responsible for the proper function and maintenance of his or her instrument at all times. Any major repair that might place the instrument out of use for any length of time (loss of class or rehearsal time) must be brought to the attention of the directors in advance.

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage will be repaired at the student's expense. Percussion and guard equipment are included in this policy.

Be careful with your instrument and NEVER play anyone else's. The LHS Band Program will not be held responsible for private instruments left unattended. YOU are responsible for your instrument at all times.

Woodwind Instruments – No lipstick on reeds, instrument free of dust and dirt under the keys. Lacquered and silver horns must be shiny and free of fingerprints. No deposits inside the mouthpiece.

Brass Instruments – Check valves and slides, instrument should be clean and spotless. No deposits inside the mouthpiece.

Percussion and Guard Equipment – Inspected by the instructors as needed.

INSTRUMENT LOCKER USAGE

Students will have the opportunity to check-out a locker to store their INSTRUMENT AND MUSIC ONLY. **No food, drink, clothes, books, or other personal belongings are allowed in the lockers.** A jacket and shoes may be kept in the storage room ONLY during marching season. Foot powder must accompany the shoes to avoid unpleasant odors. Those who choose to use an instrument locker must supply their own lock and locker combinations must be given to the directors upon check-out. Any damage to the assigned locker will be the responsibility of the student.

It is very important that all instruments and equipment are returned and stored daily, in their proper location, for the purposes of maintaining inventory, security, and care of the instrument/equipment.

GRADING POLICY

The following Grading Policy will be in effect for the entire year. Rehearsals and performances are similarly weighted as they are both important! Playing tests will be given throughout the year and give the directors opportunities to assess the progress of students' learning objectives on an individual basis.

Performances/Playing Tests = 50%

Rehearsals (including any outside of school hours) = 30%

Assignments = 20%

*Please note that any Band or Guard student who is not performing up to standards, has excessive absences, is having disciplinary issues, etc. may be removed from the main performing group and placed into "alternate" status on the sideline with additional practice assignments given until they are at an acceptable proficiency level.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Individual instruction is the best method in becoming an outstanding musician. It is strongly encouraged for all students. Many people around the area, at local music stores, and at the local colleges/universities are available for lessons. Please see one of the directors for contact information.

OTHER PERFORMING ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

Being a member of the band program allows many additional musical and color guard opportunities.

Jazz Band

The LHS Jazz Band is a voluntary auditioned ensemble that begins rehearsing at the beginning of November. Rehearsals are Tuesday through Friday from 6:30-7:15 am. Students selected are expected to be prepared and on time to rehearsals. Continuous tardies or absences will result in the dismissal from the Jazz Band. This ensemble will perform at school concerts and events.

LHS Pep Band

The LHS Pep Band plays at select Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball Games from December through February. **All members of the LHS Band Program will be expected to participate in several games as part of their grade.** A schedule of performances will be given out closer to the start of the basketball season.

Color Guard

All Color Guard members are required to enroll in 1st Hour Band for the 1st Semester and attend all rehearsals, events, and performances throughout the marching season. Color Guard members who play an instrument will join the concert ensembles in November.

Winter Guard

Winter Guard is a voluntary, extra-curricular, auditioned squad that competes on the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association Circuit. Auditions will take place after the fall marching season ends, and the competition season will run through March culminating with the MCCGA Championships.

Weighted Band

Weighted Band is open to all Senior Band Members and is weighed on a 5.0 scale. Those enrolled are responsible for all requirements expected of all band members and additional requirements set forth by the district and secondary music faculty.

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS

St. Louis Suburban District Honor Band

Music students who are highly skilled and well-practiced have the opportunity to audition for the SLSMEA District Honor Band in October. Those selected for this prestigious ensemble have the opportunity to audition for the Missouri All-State Band in December. The audition music is the same for both ensembles; however, it is very difficult and must be practiced on a continuous basis in order to be successful at the audition. We encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity and learn how to prepare for an audition.

Missouri All-State Band

All Missouri Band Students who have been selected to their respective District Honor Bands are eligible to audition for the Missouri All-State Band in December. This band is comprised of the top band students in the state and is one of the highest honors a high school musician can receive.

District Solo and Ensemble Festival

Band Members have the opportunity to participate in the District Solo and Ensemble. In accordance with the Missouri State High School Activities Association, students can prepare a solo and up to two ensemble events to be adjudicated. Events receiving a "1" rating will advance to the State Solo and Ensemble Festival, on the campus of the University of Missouri Columbia, at the beginning of May. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about and prepare chamber music.

State Large Ensemble Festival

Concert Band will be attending this festival at Holt High School. The band will perform two prepared selections and one sight-reading selection for adjudication. The ratings will be combined to receive an Overall Rating. All band students will be required to participate in this State Festival.

LIBERTY BAND HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

*****To be returned to the Band Office by the 7/26/22****

Dear Band Parent/Guardian:

We ask you to read this Band Handbook and let us know if you have any questions or comments concerning its content. It has been developed throughout our teaching experiences and with the assistance of people, like yourself, making contributions to its content.

We are assuming the responsibility of doing our best to instruct your child in the latest and most accepted methods and techniques in instrumental music, and to provide experiences that will challenge him or her in this area. We are seeking your support and cooperation in this endeavor and are hoping that you will encourage your child to participate in our band to the fullest extent of his or her ability.

Please sign your name below indicating that you are aware of the content and intent of this handbook.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your continued interest in and support of the Liberty High School Band Program.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

Dear Band Member:

In being a member of the LHS Band Program, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the Tradition of Excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the LHS Bands to operate successfully.

I have read the expectations and guidelines of this organization. I agree to follow these policies and procedures in order to become a successful member of the Liberty High School Band Program.

I fully understand the conditions and guidelines set forth in the Band Handbook and agree to abide by them.

(Signature of Student)

(Date)