

"Rookie" Parent's Guide to the Eagle Regiment Marching Band Program



Congratulations! You are now a part of the Wentzville Liberty Eagle Regiment and are instantly a part of the Band Boosters. We hope this guide will help you feel more comfortable with the complexities you may find within your first marching season. We will also give you some "insider" information to help you through your first year and the coming years afterward.

Directors/Staff:

- Director: Mrs. Sarita Magno-Parsons
- Assistant Director: Ms. Angelete Frein
- Color Guard Director: Kassandra Welch
- Eagle Staff/ Consultants: Various extra staff chosen by the directors to assist us during the marching season.

Student Lead Team

- Drum Major(s): Students that lead conducting for the show and practices.
- Section Leaders: Student leaders that oversee and assist in their instrumental section.

Band Boosters

- Non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Band Program, all volunteer positions.
 - 2023-2024 Officers:
 - Audra Stewart, President
 - Amber Dunlap, Vice President
 - Leanna Hobbs, Treasurer
 - Brian and Jessica Grotewiel, Secretary

Fundraising

While the band is a curricular program at Liberty High School, funding does not cover all the expenses of operating a program of our size and caliber. Fundraising and fees help to pay for everything from caring for the uniforms, to paying for the staff/consultants, bus transportation to competitions, trailer maintenance, supplies and materials, equipment and large instrument maintenance, show fees, meals, snacks, etc.

We hold fundraising events throughout the year to help with expenses. Some examples are the Car Raffle, Holiday Bazaar, Adult Trivia Night, Butter Braids (2 times a year), and Eagle Regiment Spirit Wear. These fundraising programs help support our students in their marching and concert band year. They allow for reducing out-of-pocket expenses and allow us to make investments in equipment and program needs.

Donations

We love donations! We are a 501(c) 3 and can provide you with tax exempt letters for your taxes. We are happy to take any monetary donation! We will ask for donations of water cases of water and pre-packaged snacks that we use to keep the kiddos hydrated and fed on our long competition and performance days.

Annual Dues

Fee payments can be paid in full or in installments. Our Treasurer can assist with any questions you may have regarding dues and dues payments. As a reminder, all dues for the upcoming season are due on August 31 unless otherwise approved by the Band Director, Guard Director and/or Board. Dues can be paid by check, cash, or Venmo. Financial Aid is available for those who may need it.

Important Documents

- Parent Contact and Travel Form
 - This allows us to keep you informed via emails with any communication regarding the program.
 - Every student must complete this to travel to competitions, performances, etc. We are not allowed to let your student travel with the band if this form is not on file!
- MSHSAA Physical (every two years)
 - A physical must be on file with the Athletic Director office to participate.
- Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement form

Marching Band Camp and Practices

Band Camp is both a mental and physical challenge, but it gives your child a sense of accomplishment at the end! The band director and associate director will produce a calendar of selected practice days and times for your student. Please make sure to keep the schedule up to date as things do change.

Students should be prepared for each rehearsal! Here is a suggested list of items to have when coming to practice:

- Instrument (you would not believe how many forget them!)
- Wear light colored clothing; bring a hat and sunglasses.
- Wear tennis shoes; no sandals, converse, vans, etc.
- Bring sunscreen! Hot days out on the field and you want to stay protected!
- WATER, WATER, and more WATER! Students will want to bring at least ½ gal jug of water so that they stay hydrated.
- Music

Competitions

Mrs. Magno will send out an itinerary for competition days as soon as she has the performance time. It usually about a week before the actual competition. It is best to plan that your student will be at the competition for a full day.

In case you were not familiar with competitions, marching band competitions are where many different bands compete/perform. For the band, competitions are like game days. Bands that perform are critiqued and ranked in different areas of marching band performance by qualified judges. The judges are located both walking on the field and observing from above the stadium seats. Awards are announced after all schools have performed. At some competitions, we might perform twice if we make finals.

Competitions are a fundraiser for the host school so they do charge admission. They will also have concessions and spirit wear/merchandise available at times. Most schools will have air grams that you can buy for \$1-\$2 and will be read when our band is taking the field.

The band needs your support to help make the competition season a success. That support can be volunteering to help, cheering from the stands, or sending your well wishes if you aren't able to make it.

Home Football Games

At home football games, Marching Band students will report to the band room prior to the start of the varsity game. The call time is usually 5:00pm. During this time, students change into their uniforms, warm up their instrument, and prepare for performances. They will troop to the stadium together before the game to a drum line cadence. They perform the National Anthem and Liberty Eagles fight song before the game. During the game, they sit in a designated section in the bleachers and play fun pep tunes. They will perform parts of the show at halftime and then will have 3rd quarter off. After the game, they troop back to the band room, hang up their uniforms, pack up their instrument, get final announcements, and are **dismissed as a group!** There is a section of bleachers next to the Marching Band section that some band parents like to sit in. Parents, siblings, friends, etc are NOT allowed in the band section unless approved by a director. If you need to talk to your student, please speak with a director first. This prevents injury to students, families, instruments, etc. You are welcome to take pictures of them while they are in the stands.

Uniforms

The marching uniform consists of the shako/plume, jacket, pants, shoes, black socks and black gloves. The shako/plume, jacket, pants and gloves are provided by the boosters. Shoes are provided by the boosters for incoming freshman. After freshman year, the boosters will order shoes for the student, but the student reimburses the boosters for cost. There is an inventory of outgrown shoes in the uniform room, and students are welcome to use any of those shoes at no cost. All of these shoes have been sanitized.

All students should wear shorts or thin pants and their motto or show shirt. Black calf length socks are required and will need to be provided by the student. No other colors, please!

The band directors will occasionally require an alternative uniform be worn. This usually occurs at the beginning of the year when the weather is extremely warm. The alternate uniform consists of khaki shorts or jeans and either a show shirt or motto shirt. Both shirts are provided by the boosters, and the khaki shorts or jeans are provided by the student.

Volunteers

We will welcome you and no experience is necessary! As mentioned earlier, our program is not fully funded through the school district and relies heavily on parent volunteers and support. Our board and other parents will help get you acclimated to football and competition routines, areas that need help, and someone will always be around if you have a question.

Examples of volunteer needs:

- Taking props/pit/equipment to the stadium before the game and returning it the band room or shed after halftime performance.
- Loading and unloading trailers for competition days
- Assisting students with their uniforms
- Helping set up and serve snacks and meals at competitions
- Building props

**We use sign up genius to schedule our volunteers and that is usually sent as soon as we have the itinerary from Mrs. Magno.

Staying Informed

Emails:

- Band Boosters: libertyhsbb@gmail.com
- Band Director: saritamagno@wsdr4.org
- Associate Director: angeletefrein@wsdr4.org
- Color Guard Director: kassandrawelch@wsdr4.org
- Website: www.wsdlibertyband.com

Band Booster Meetings

Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month during the school year at 7pm in the band room. You will always walk away with information your kids forgot to tell you or you may even be the 1st to find out information on what's to come. Everyone is welcome!

Volunteer Positions

- Photographer- Don Johnson ****Open position- Someone who can pull a trailer!**
- Fundraising Coordinator- Bryan Wise
- Uniform Coordinator- Jen Foerstel
- Food Coordinator- Board group effort this year. **We can use a team to help serve meals!**

Learning all the band lingo!

- Shako--Hat worn during competition.
- Plume--Feather adornment that is placed in shako.
- Mellophone--Marching French Horn
- Sousaphone--Type of tuba used for marching.
- Percussion--Any striking instrument, not just drums.
- Auxiliary/Color Guard—dancers, flag spinners, and rifle/saber throwers
- Adjudicators—the judges
- Dots—your band child's position coordinates during certain points of the field show
- The Pit—the non-marching percussion positioned on the front sideline.
- Drumline—the percussionists that march on the field.