

“Rookie” Parent’s Guide to the Eagle Regiment Marching Band Program



Welcome “Rookie” Band and Guard Parents!

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.

Getting to Know Your Marching Eagle Regiment!

Organizational Chart

- Director: Mrs. Sarita Magno-Parsons
- Assistant Director: Mr. David Sedlock
- 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.
 - 2021-2022 Officers:
 - Gena Wagner, President
 - Bob Wagner, Vice President

- Lisa McGinnis, Treasurer
- Shannon Johnson, 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. This usually comes as a surprise to new and “rookie” parents. 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.

Fundraising events such as Butter Braids (2 times a year), Liberty Band/Guard Spirit Wear, Dining events, trivia nights (parent and student events) as well as district wide fundraising with the other Wentzville High School Bands. These fundraising programs help support our students in their marching and concert band year. They also allow for reducing out-of-pocket expenses when planning our overnight band trips and also making 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 as well as cases of water, snacks that we can use to give the kids on long trips during our competition season.

Annual Dues

Fee payments can be paid in full or in installments during the marching band season. Please take time to visit our website at www.wsdlibertyband.com. The website has information regarding events, shows, fundraising, due payment schedule and much, much more! Additionally, at any time, 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 Board, and Financial Aid is available for those who may need it. Additionally, as a reminder, your dues payment can be made via, cash, check, PayPal or Venmo.

Important Documents

For the upcoming season, there are several documents that are needed for your student. These forms are required to be completed every year.

- Parent Contact Form
 - This allows us to keep you informed, send emails and communication regarding the program.
- Consent to Travel Form
 - Every student, annually, must complete this to travel to shows, events, etc.

- Financial Aid forms (if applicable) for reduced or waived band fees
 - Available for those that need assistance.
- MSHSAA Physical (every two years)
 - A physical must be on file with the Athletic Directors office to participate.
- Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement form

Eagle Essentials

There are few essentials needed that are not supplied by the Marching Band and Guard Team. We want to prepare you and your student for those items as our marching band season is quickly approaching.

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!

At rehearsals, it is imperative to have your student prepared. 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 flip flops, sandals, 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 sheets placed in plastic protectors and in a binder.

Competitions

We ask that students ensure that they have full length BLACK socks (no ankle/footie socks, no colored socks). We provide the students a marching uniform, shoes, gloves, and a show shirt. All incoming Freshman will be issued new shoes; however, in following years if new shoes are needed, an order can be placed with the band director and you will be billed for the new pair of shoes.

All students should wear shorts or thin pants under their uniform pants and a dark colored shirt; preferably blue or black. No other colors, please!

Our directors will provide communication on days/times of when your student will need to arrive at the school and then picked up upon our return. Competitions are typically all-day events and usually on all Saturday's.

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. The band needs your support as a cheering section in the stands! If possible, try to sit in a central area of the stands towards the top to get the best overview of the performance and picture formations. A good stadium seat cushion comes in handy. Be aware that you can only enter and exit the stands after each performance. Show your spirit by wearing your spirit wear or school colors and cheer them on but be courteous to the other spectators and performers.

Competitions are a fundraiser for the host school, so there is a small admission fee charged to spectators. There are also concessions for spectators and other band-related merchandise available at some events. Remember, they will perform, even if it is raining. Usually, the awards are given out after all bands have performed. Additionally, most schools will have ‘air-grams’ where you can purchase time for acknowledgement, recognition to your band/guard student that is announced overhead. They read them before our school’s performance on the field.

Color Guard

Please refer to your handbook provided by the Color Guard Director.

Home Football Games/Playoffs

At home football games, Band and Guard students will report to band room prior to the start of the varsity game. In this time, the students change into their uniforms, take out instruments, prepare all props to go to the field. The Band will march into the stadium before the game to a drum line cadence. They perform the National Anthem, our Liberty Eagles fight song, pep tunes, etc. During the game, they sit in a designated section on the track or in the bleachers. Parents and friends do not sit with the band but are welcome to sit in the stands and watch the band perform, and often sit together with other band families. The band will perform a portion of their show as halftime entertainment. The marching band’s show time varies, usually occurring around 8 o’clock, but please feel welcome to support the band and football team by staying the whole game. The games usually end at around 9 o’clock or so. After the game the band will march back to the band room, put away our uniforms and instruments, get final announcements if any, and then be dismissed as a group.

Volunteers

We can use you; NO EXPERIENCE 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 train and show you the ropes. Areas where we are always looking for support are by loading and unloading trucks and trailers on competition days, assist with set up on field with pit and props during competition days and football games, assist students with their uniforms, setting up snack and food areas on competition days, and moving band/guard equipment. We also need volunteers for prop building, events (including color guard events), and a variety of other areas as well!

We use sign up genius to schedule our volunteers so please make sure that you complete the parent contact form so that we can ensure you are on our distribution.

Parent involvement = A SUCESSFUL BAND AND GUARD Program

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 throwers, 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.

Staying Informed

- Band Website— www.wsdlibertybands.com
- Emails
 - Band Director: saritamagno@wsdr4.org
 - Color Guard Director: kassandrawelch@wsdr4.org
 - Associate Director: davidsedlock@wsdr4.org
 - Band Boosters: libertyhsbb@gmail.com

Band Boosters 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!

Ways to Show Your Support

- Give your child support and encouragement for being in the band.
- Invest in the nicer stadium seat cushions. You will be sitting in stadium seats a lot.
- When picking up your student from band, come early, watch, and get to know the other parents.
- Invest in warm clothing for cold weather. Some competitions can go on for hours, so dress appropriately.
- Attend football games and competitions to show your support and cheer them on.
- Hand Warmers; both you and your band child will use them.
- Volunteer and help with fundraising.
- Spirit wear to show your Marching Band/Guard Spirit!
- Come to the band booster meetings!
- A constant supply of snacks. They are always looking for something to eat before and after competitions and band camp.