

Liberty High School

Band Handbook

Marching Band/Concert Band

2017/2018

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Purpose

The purpose of an education is the development of a person's mind, body, and spirit. It is to develop character and empathy. We desire education so that we can understand ourselves and the world around us clearly. An education means that someone can think and behave rationally and logically. Music education helps develop all of these attributes, and is therefore incredibly valuable and a necessary part of the public school curriculum.

The Band Family

At Liberty we want to think of band as a family. We want to develop a tight knit community of like-minded musicians with the same goals. We do everything together. We succeed together, we make mistakes together, and we learn from those mistakes together. Above all we love one another, we would do anything for one another, and at the end of the day, despite any differences, we are still a family and we are there for one another.

Expectations

I. Respect everyone and their property

We, as a band, must respect each other. This is where we see growth in character and empathy. The end goal is to create. We cannot create when we do not respect one another because disrespect serves as a distraction from that goal.

II. Be prepared

When an assignment is given, students are expected to complete that assignment. If the student is having trouble completing the assignment, it is their responsibility to seek help. We will not be able to create something memorable without everyone doing their part. Practice personal responsibility.

III. Leave it at the door

Leave personal troubles out of the rehearsal space. Everyone has struggles and stress outside of this class, but leave those struggles at the door and focus on the work that needs to be done during rehearsal.

IV. Strive for Excellence

Always give your best effort. Don't do it for your teacher, your parents, friends, or the band. Do it for yourself. Never settle for a poor performance or even a mediocre one. Always be thinking of what YOU can do better. What we are looking for at LHS are students who are committed to getting better every day.

Students who are not meeting expectations will see a negative effect on their grade, as well as the following:

Warning

Parent/Guardian Contact

Referral to Administrator

Band Attendance Policy

For Night Rehearsals and Performances

In addition to following expectations, the key to success for any ensemble is for students to attend rehearsals. While there are situations that are beyond anyone's control, band members must be committed to attending all rehearsals and performances. Every rehearsal counts, and every performance is important, regardless of the situation. In addition to attending every rehearsal, every member must be committed to being EARLY to every rehearsal and performance. Rehearsals start promptly in order to respect everyone's time. Students that are late often miss crucial instruction and information. The attendance policy for this year is as follows:

More than 3 unexcused tardies: 30 minute after school detention and phone call to parents/guardians.

More than 4 unexcused tardies: The student will not be allowed to participate in the next performance and will be expected to complete a make-up assignment.

More than 5 unexcused tardies: A face-to-face meeting involving the parents/guardians, the teacher, and the student. Administration will be notified.

More than 6 unexcused tardies: Parent/Guardian notification and the student will not be allowed to participate in any further performances. Alternative assignments will be given for the remainder of the semester.

1 unexcused absence the week of the performance: The student will not be allowed to march the show during half-time or pre-game performances. They must attend the game, assist with tasks assigned to them, and participate in pep band.

More than 2 unexcused absences: Parent/guardians will be notified and students will serve a 30 minute detention after school.

More than 3 unexcused absences: Parent/guardians will be notified and students will serve two 30 minute detentions and will not be allowed to participate in the following competition. An alternative assignment will be given.

More than 4 unexcused absences: Administration will be notified. The student will no longer be participating in the ensemble and will complete alternative assignments for the remainder of the semester.

Excused absences: Illness, family or medical emergency, equal school activity, religious obligation. All excused absences must be cleared by the parent or guardian. While there are situations that will come along that may also be considered an excused absence, the teacher and/or coach will decide whether or not it is truly an excused absence. Please note that the following reasons for an absence or tardy **DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:** Transportation issues (every effort will be made to make sure everyone has a ride to and from all band activities.) homework, jobs, unequal school activities (any performance is more important than any practice or rehearsal. Please communicate with coaches and Mr. Dill to avoid conflicts).

School Attendance Policy During the academic school day

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are a distraction and their use during class and rehearsal is prohibited. THE ONLY time during rehearsal in which they are allowed are during breaks. If a student wishes to use a tuner, one will be provided by the teacher.

If a cell phone is being used during instruction, the teacher or coach will take the phone for the remainder of the rehearsal. If the student is a frequent offender (more than 4 times) they will serve a 30-minute detention per infraction.

Materials

Students must have the following for ALL music rehearsals:

1. Instrument in working condition. This includes AT LEAST 2 working reeds for those who play reed instruments. It also includes neck straps, slide/valve oil, and anything else needed for instruments to work properly.
2. Music. Even if it's memorized, all students must have all of their music at EVERY rehearsal. (All marching band members with exception to percussion MUST have a lyer and flip folder to keep music).
3. Completed Drill and/or Dot Book (marching band only) at EVERY rehearsal.
4. Fingering Chart (wind players only and provided by the teacher if requested)
5. Pencil
6. Additional materials. Students will receive additional materials from the director and their coaches throughout the semester. Students are expected to keep all materials for the entire year unless instructed otherwise.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Weekly Participation and Progress – 60%

During every rehearsal the teacher is tracking the progress of students and making sure they are following expectations. Students will also be tracking their own progress throughout the week. They will need to fill out a rehearsal reflection worksheet every week for full credit in this category. If students are meeting learning targets and making consistent progress throughout the week, they will receive full credit.

Weekly Music Playing Assessment – 33%

Every student is required to log into their SmartMusic account and complete the weekly assignment. More information will be given during summer band camp.

District Performance and Written Assessments – 7%

The assessment is given at the end of the semester and students will be tested primarily on concepts covered in marching band (Fall), and the concert season (Spring).

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Students need to arrive with enough time before the start of rehearsal for them to be ready, with all materials, to begin at the designated call time.
2. Students should enter the room ready to work, and enter the room as if they would any other academic class on campus.
3. Students who do not sign a locker contract are not allowed in the locker room.

4. The location of additional marching rehearsals will be discussed in class. If the rehearsal is on the practice field, they will need to be on the practice field by the time rehearsal begins.
5. Students must be 100% involved during every minute of rehearsal. Breaks are the only time that you may actually take a break.
6. Breaks are earned, not simply given. When they are over it is time to get back to work. Breaks are for water, restroom use, and to rest. They are not for horseplay and to waste energy and time.
7. If a student is on the sidelines during rehearsal they will be given 5 minutes. After that 5 minutes is up, if they do not return to rehearsal then they need to call a parent and have them come to the school and get them. This is not to punish them. If someone is sick or injured they need to take care of that first. This will be strictly enforced.
8. Rehearsals will always end on time. Please plan for transportation.

Class Rehearsal Schedule

(For the first few weeks of school, weather permitting)

Monday – Goals for week, review tapes, Smartmusic assignments (inside)
Tuesday – Review from Monday night’s rehearsal (outside)
Wednesday – Music Rehearsal (inside)
Thursday – Music Rehearsal (inside)
Friday – Review from Thursday night’s rehearsal, dress rehearsal (outside)

Band Room Expectations

The band room is for rehearsing and practicing.

- Students should handle their equipment only. Do not play each other’s instruments or mess with anyone else’s materials.
- School instruments should only be played by the students who have rented the instrument from the school. Mallet bags will be stored in the music office and will be checked out to percussionists only. Timpani need to be covered after every rehearsal and mallet bags need to be returned to Mr. Dill.
- Students must ask for permission to use the practice rooms and the piano before playing them. Practice rooms are meant for working on music, not a place to hang out and socialize.
- **No food, gum, or drink in the band room (other than water. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR WATER BOTTLES WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THEM)**
- Trash needs to go in the trash cans, not on the floor or in the locker rooms. Please do not throw anything other than aluminum into the blue recycle bin.
- Non-percussion students and non-guard students are not allowed in those rooms without consent from the teacher or a coach.

Another note on room use...

The band room will be open 45 minutes before each call time or after school rehearsal, no earlier. Please plan accordingly.

While extra sectionals and practice are highly encouraged and at times required, please schedule them beforehand with Mr. Dill. Every effort has been made to respect your time, please respect his.

Rehearsal Obligations

Additional rehearsals are scheduled for Monday and Thursday nights from 6-9pm. The following changes allow us to accommodate changes in the school schedule:

9/4 – No Rehearsal (Labor Day)

9/5 – Additional Rehearsal from 6-9pm

10/9 – No Rehearsal

10/10 – Additional Rehearsal from 6-9pm

Sectionals – All sections are required to have 2 sectionals outside of the regular rehearsal schedule before **September 29th**.

There will need to be an additional sectional covering concert music that needs to be scheduled between **November 6th and December 6th**.

Practicing Expectations

Practicing is necessary for a band program to become stronger and thrive. Students are expected to create a practice environment at home that will allow them to work without interruption. Students need to work on sections of music that need improvement and should set short term and long term goals. They should write about practicing and if possible record most sessions (and listen to them). Students should plan on practicing for a **minimum** of 30 minutes 5 nights per week. More specific expectations and help will be discussed during the first week of school.

Performances

Storming the Halls – Every Friday in which there is a **home** football game, we will march through the halls playing the fight song. Students need to be **early** on those days. We begin the second after the bell rings. Pit members that are not marching will need to take care of opening doors for the band.

Pep Assemblies – The band performs at every pep assembly which takes place during 2nd hour. Students will be excused from that class.

Homecoming Week – There will be additional performance opportunities the week of homecoming. Dates and times will be given as soon as they are made available to the teacher.

Football Schedule: For all Home games the call time is **5:00pm**. Call times for away games will be announced as soon as transportation is scheduled.

8/25 (Home)

9/1 (Away) @Arcadia

9/8 (A) @Sunrise Mountain

9/15 (H)

9/22 (H)

9/29 (H)

10/6 (A) @Chaparral

10/13 (A) @ Willow Canyon

10/20 (H) Senior Week + Pink Week

10/27 (A) Centennial

The band will perform in all playoff games after the regular season. A schedule will be sent out as soon as it is available.

Competition Schedule:

October 7th @ Gilbert H.S.
October 21st University of Arizona Band Day
October 28th @ Raymond Kellis H.S.
November 4th State Marching Festival (If qualified)
November 18th State Marching Championships (If qualified)

Concerts:

December 12th. 6:30pm @LHS Auditorium. Call time TBD
March 8th, 2018 – 6:30pm @LHS Auditorium. Call time TBD
March 13th, 2018 – Parade of Bands feeder concert. 6:30pm. Location and times TBD
April 7th, 2018 – District Arts Festival. Performance and Call Times TBD
May 8th, 2018 – End of the year concert. 6:30pm @LHS Auditorium. Call time TBD

Eligibility

In order for students to participate in any performance outside of the regular school day, they must follow school eligibility rules. If a student receives a yellow card from any class they will meet with the teacher and discuss ways for them to avoid getting a red card.

Honor Bands/All-State Opportunities

District honor band will be held in the first half of the 2nd semester. All students are encouraged to audition, but please know that the work that will be necessary to pass the audition will need to primarily be done individually. As always, Mr. Dill is available for extra help after school and during lunch. **All students wishing to apply for leadership positions in marching band the next fall must prepare an audition for district honor band.**

Crew Work

In order for us to rehearse efficiently we need student volunteers that can help get water, move drum major podiums, and help with pit equipment. Crew workers are a valuable part of the band family. Crews will be exempt from stadium cleanup during the season, will get a free crew t-shirt, and will earn additional points towards a letter. This is a great way to make friends and help out the band.

Marching Uniform Code

- Students will take and return uniforms to the correct uniform rack in the dressing rooms before and after EVERY performance. Guarmet bags are to be folded neatly and placed in the storage container.
- Drinking or eating anything other than water while wearing a uniform is strictly prohibited.
- Rude remarks and foul language are inappropriate while wearing the uniform.
- Makeup is not allowed while wearing your uniform
- Students with long hair that shows below the rim of the hat must pin their hair up during performances.
- Students are not to handle plumes at any time.

- It is the student's responsibility to keep the uniform looking great. It is also the responsibility of the student to return items properly. If this is a problem the measures will be put in place to ensure that uniforms are being respected. Please do not abuse the privilege of being able to wear this uniform that is important to so many people.

Concert Attire

For all indoor concert performances, all members should follow the following code:

Men-Black collared shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes, tie of any color. Jackets are optional but preferred.

Women-All black, whether you wear a dress or pants is up to the student so long as the length of the dress is appropriate for a formal event. Avoid tops with spaghetti straps or halter tops, or anything that would not follow the school dress code. Dark shoes, black is preferred. Colored accents are acceptable.

Medical Forms

Failure to turn in medical forms to the front office will result in the student not being able to rehearse or perform with the marching band. This is school policy – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

Forms are due by the first day of band camp.

Post-Marching Season Groups

The status of these groups is dependent on behavior throughout the year and student interest. The existence of either group must be earned and nothing is written in stone.

All students who wish to participate must sign a commitment contract and pay the fee set up at the beginning of the season before rehearsals start.

Anyone is welcome to try-out for either group. You do not have to be a member of the percussion section or guard beforehand.

Lettering

All points are cumulative throughout the student's high school band career. After the student receives a letter, subsequent points will go towards earning a bar. There are no limits to the number of bars a student can earn. Since this is a new system, a graduated system has been developed to insure fairness for all students regardless of grade.

Points needed to Letter or Bar:

Class of 2018 = 7

Class of 2019 = 8

Class of 2020 = 9

Class of 2021 = 10

To earn either a Letter or Bar, students are required to meet the following criteria:

- Participate in Marching Band and or Concert Band for 2 semesters (or 1 semester each)
- Maintain an A average grade for each semester

- No more than 2 unexcused absences, or 4 unexcused tardies
- Participate in all competitions and concerts

Students earn points by completing the following:

- Join a crew during marching season = **2 points**
- Join an off-season group (winter drumline or guard) = **3 points**
- Join Music Council and hold an office position = **3 points**
- Tutor a younger band student = **½ point per 45 minute session**
- Audition for District Honor Band = **2 points (3 if you make it)**
- Audition for All-State band = **3 points (4 if you make it)**
- Work with future LHS band students at the feeder schools (please ask Mr. Dill for help with this) = **2 points per 30 minute session**
- Take private music lessons from a qualified instructor = **3 points (a signed form needs to be completed by the lesson teacher before receiving points)**
- Private lesson scheduled with Mr. Dill = **½ point per 30 minute session**

Communication

Communication between the teacher and students, as well as the teacher and parents will mainly be conducted using the following tools:

Email – Please take a moment to make sure that the front office has your correct email address.

Communication about concerts and performances will be sent out through email rather than a paper flyer given to the students.

LHSMEA Email Blasts – Most information will be sent out through these email blasts and will include information about fundraisers and upcoming events.

Lhsbandsaz.com – The band and choir website contains the most up-to-date information about the band, and includes contact information, booster information, and a calendar. There are also links to class information, photos, and more. Please check the website regularly.

Remind App – The remind app is free to download. Information about how to join the group will be given out in a separate flyer. This year there is one slight change. There will be a student group and a parent group. Parents are invited to join both if they want to, but the communication sent out on the student group will be more geared towards what the students need to know. This is the most direct way to get information about return times from performances, last minute changes to the schedule, and fundraising information.

Flyers – Made available only to those students who want them. Students must request a copy or a few copies may be made available. This form of communication will stop if students leave copies laying around the band room or hallways, or just throw them away. It is then their responsibility to share the information with parents.

As always, please feel free to call if you need to talk to Mr. Dill. If you leave a message every effort will be made to return your phone call promptly. (The voicemail finally works this year)

Parent Volunteer Information

Name: _____

Student's name _____

Availability: (circle when you are generally available to help)

Monday Afternoon (2:30-6:00) Evening (6:00-11:00)

Tuesday Afternoon Evening

Wednesday Afternoon Evening

Thursday Afternoon Evening

Friday Afternoon Evening

Saturday Morning (7:00am-12:00) Afternoon (12:00-6:00) Evening (6:00-11:00)

How often are you willing to help? Circle one

Whenever

For a specific event(s) (Please specify _____)

*Every effort will be made to schedule volunteers at the beginning of the marching season. Please understand that things do come up last minute and I may call on people to help at that time. I will do everything in my power to respect your time and your schedule. Please also understand that the times are general. There may be times throughout the semester that we will be out later than what is on the sheet, or earlier. Thank you!

Crew Sign Up

Please put a check mark next to the crew you want to join. Please sign up for 1 crew only.

(This is voluntary and recommended for students in grades 10-12, though 9th graders are certainly welcome to join. Joining a crew will help you earn points towards a Letter or Bar.)

Water Crew _____

Pit Crew _____

Podium Crew _____

Crew Descriptions

Water Crew – The water crew is in charge of filling the water jugs before every night rehearsal and before every performance (including football games).

Pit Crew – Pit crew is in charge of helping the pit section bring their instruments to the field. This includes class rehearsals, night rehearsals, and home football games. Pit crew is also in charge of loading the trailer before travelling.

Podium Crew – The podium crew is in charge of taking the drum major podiums to wherever the band is going and returning them afterwards. You must be able to lift fairly heavy equipment to be on this crew, but the more there are, the less you have to lift. Podium crew is also involved with loading the trailer before travelling.

Liberty Bands

Instrument Locker Use Form

Student Name _____ Locker Number _____

Lock Number _____

The above named student and their parent/guardian understand and agree to the following:

1. Liberty High School and the Peoria Unified School District are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
2. The locker is to be kept clean. After an initial warning the student may lose locker privileges if the situation does not improve.
3. A lock will be checked out to the student. Students may not use their own personal lock. If the lock is damaged or lost a replacement cost of \$10 will be assessed to the students bookstore account.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Percussion and Guard Room Agreement

1. The rooms should be clean and organized at all times.
2. Rooms are not to be used as social areas and are for storage only.
3. It is the responsibility of the students in both sections to keep these rooms clean.
4. No students from other sections are allowed in the room.
5. You may not go into a different sections room without expressed permission from their section leader.
6. Liberty High School and the Peoria Unified School District are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in the elimination of the off-season groups for the 2017/2018 school year.

Student Name (print) _____

Students Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement and Agreement

I have read the Band Handbook and understand its content. Every effort will be made to follow the expectations set forth in the handbook. Failure to agree to the contents of this handbook will result in a meeting with the teacher and school administration regarding participation in the band program at Liberty. This agreement is **DUE: Friday, August 11th**.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

