

Lafayette High School
Mighty Lion Band
Information Handbook
2023-2024

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Letter from the Director

The Lafayette High School Band's major goal is the creation of an atmosphere in which each individual participant has the opportunity to develop musical and interpersonal relationship skills.

To measure the effectiveness of our teaching methods, a performance-oriented program has been established. Through observation in rehearsal and public performance, the accomplishments and improvements of each student will be determined.

The Lafayette High School Band Program is recognized as one of the finest High School Bands in the country. This is due to the strong guidance of directors, the overwhelming support of parents and administrators, and the capable assistance of student leaders.

With that proud tradition in mind, this handbook of policies on the organization and operation of the Lafayette High School Band Program has been designed. For upperclassmen, it will be a comprehensive collection of past training. For new students, it will furnish information which otherwise would have been learned by trial and error.

This book is not only written for the students, but for the parents and school administrators as well, and should serve as a reference manual for all. It is not intended to be an end product, but will be revised in the future to better serve those students who become part of the outstanding Lafayette High School Band Program.

Thank you for taking time to read this booklet.

Ronnie Gleason
Director of Bands

MUSIC is not only important... it's essential!

Mission Statement

The LHS Band Program creates a positive environment, which accepts each individual member. The members are encouraged to make valued musical judgments, to function logically as well as inquisitively, and to utilize innate creativity. Students are provided the opportunity to develop musical, artistic and interpersonal relationship skills.

We will:

- Serve our members, our school, and our community by conveying powerful ideas and emotions through performances.
- Provide members with life-changing experiences to help gain real world life skills.
- Maintain personal and interpersonal pride through existing traditions while creating new ones.
- Provide learning experiences of different cultures through music and performance.
- Strive to complete all tasks in an efficient, professional, collaborative, and pleasant manner.
- Maintain unity and progress through the belief that our success is measured by individual and ensemble growth.
- Strive for excellence.

Code of Ethics

Hereby established to assist in moving the band in a single and collective direction to focus their potential, to prevent conflict, and to promote forward motion and progress.

Required of Every Band Student:

- ✓ Complete designated tasks
 - ✓ Be tolerant
 - ✓ Be respectful
 - ✓ Be punctual
 - ✓ Be loyal
- ✓ Be cooperative
- ✓ Be disciplined
 - ✓ Be mature
 - ✓ Be honest
 - ✓ Be hygienic
- ✓ Be responsible
 - ✓ Be in control
 - ✓ Be inviting
 - ✓ No gossiping

Performance Bands

Wind Ensemble

This is the premier performing group containing the finest wind and percussion players in the band program. This is an audition-only ensemble and positions are filled at the conclusion of spring activities for the next school year. Acceptance in this group will be based on the maturity of the individual student and an audition of the following material:

- ✓ 12 Major scales, Minor scales, Chromatic Scale
- ✓ Prepared Material
- ✓ Sight Reading

Participation in Marching Band is required. This ensemble meets 5th period. Due to the level of this fine ensemble, which has gained national prominence as one of America's best, additional rehearsals are required which may occur outside of class time. It has performed on some of the most prestigious concert stages in America including Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2014, our Wind Ensemble was honored to present a concert at the Southern Division College Band Directors National Conference/National Band Association Convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

Private lessons are *strongly* encouraged. A list of approved private teachers has been posted in the band room. Auditioning for honor band and participating in Solo Festival is a requirement. All State and All South auditions are not required, but strongly encouraged. Winter Camp (*Symphonic Band Camp*) is also a requirement. See section marked "Winter Camp" in the back of this book.

The maturity level of this ensemble requires the finest equipment available. See one of the directors for suggestions as to what make/model instruments to consider.

Dress for this ensemble is concert black – Tuxedos are required – regular cut, cummerbund, bow tie, white shirt, no tails, no vest. Ladies must purchase a ***uniform dress**.

Orders for dresses must be made no later than December 1.

Symphonic Band

This performing group contains players of exceptional ability and dedication to the band program. Players are determined by audition and recommendation based on Honor Band and Solo Festival preparation. Participation in Marching Band is required. Heavy emphasis is placed on scales, rhythm, tone production, and music theory. This ensemble meets second and fourth periods. An occasional rehearsal may be required to develop ensemble cohesiveness.

Private lessons are recommended. *A Pro-Line instrument demonstration will be conducted in the fall for anyone interested in upgrading their current instrument.*

Auditioning for Honor Band is required. The student must also prepare and perform a solo for Solo Festival. Students are required to have a tuner/metronome. A method book may be required for this course. Winter Camp (*Symphonic Band Camp*) is also a requirement. See section marked "Winter Camp" in the back of the handbook.

Dress for this ensemble is concert black – Tuxedos are required for gentlemen – regular cut, cummerbund, bow tie, white shirt, no tails, no vest. Ladies must purchase a ***uniform dress**.

Orders for dresses must be made no later than December 1.

***Corelli dress – can be ordered through this link:**

sepapparel.com/corelli-concert-choir-dress.html

Concert/Varsity Band

This performing group contains players of developing ability. Players are determined by audition and recommendation based on Honor Band and Solo Festival preparation. Participation in Marching Band is required. Heavy emphasis is placed on scales, rhythm, tone production, and music theory. An occasional rehearsal is required. Private lessons are strongly recommended. Auditioning for Honor Band is not required, but strongly recommended. The student must also prepare and perform a solo for Solo Festival. A method book will be required for this course, as well as a tuner/metronome. Winter Camp (*Symphonic Band Camp*) is also a requirement. See section marked “Winter Camp” in the back of the handbook. In preparation for the spring, this ensemble will be separated into two ensembles according to ability level. If it is determined this group will participate in the District Large Ensemble Music Performance Assessment held at UL, **attire will be black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a black dress shirt.**

Marching Band

The Lafayette High Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence, aesthetically complemented by vivid visual images and movement reflecting the mood and character of the music. The Lafayette High Marching Band has been recognized as one of the top programs in the United States. To continue in this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. The Lafayette High Band will perform at football games, contests, and other performance arenas in the area. *See section marked “special trips” in the back of this handbook.* **Participation in the Marching Band is a requirement for all band students at Lafayette High.**

Goal

The ***Marching Band*** is a state of the art competitive marching band. Membership is based on seniority and an audition process based on a set number of marching band performers. Heavy emphasis is placed on the student’s playing ability. The process also includes a student’s performance ability. Due to the competitive nature of selection to the **MB**, each member is expected to display the utmost responsibility to the ensemble. Attendance at rehearsals and performances are absolutely mandatory, music must be “passed off” when required, and **dot books** must be maintained to the highest quality possible. Any member in violation of the aforementioned standards, or of the Mighty Lion Band *Code of Ethics*, may be removed from the band. Our regular rehearsals will be at Clark Field on Tuesdays from 5-8:30 PM and at LHS on Thursdays from 4-7 PM.

Punctuality is a trait that will serve you well in any endeavor. Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal... don’t try to sneak in at the last second. The Lafayette High Band has a limited amount of rehearsal time when compared to other groups we compete against. It is essential that we make efficient use of the rehearsal time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses

rehearsals cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective

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rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to “carry our fair share of the load” in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which the Lafayette High Band has come to be noted.

Rehearsals are seldom canceled due to inclement weather. We will not usually rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just a drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather and plan for inclement weather. Students should keep a poncho in their locker for such occasions.

STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS CHECK THE WHITEBOARD IN THE BAND ROOM FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR PRACTICE TIMES AND LOCATIONS. PARENTS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR STUDENT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE WHITEBOARD EVERY MONDAY MORNING.

Students should bring some type of canteen or cooler jug for after school rehearsals. Due to the susceptibility of germ spreading there will be **absolutely no sharing of liquid beverages**. Only water is allowed during these rehearsals. No carbonated beverages or juice of any kind.

When students are picked up after all functions, they MUST be picked up in the front of school via the big circular drive. Following rehearsals, please plan to pick up your child 30 minutes after dismissal time. This will allow for transition time.

The Marching Band is indeed an integral part of the total band experience. Through teamwork the students experience a high degree of camaraderie that is seldom duplicated in any other aspect of high school life.

Why Marching Band?

The answer, of course, varies among individuals, but for most, it can be summarized by saying that Marching Band offers students a combination of benefits and fulfillment that they have been unable to find in other activities.

Some find acceptance for the first time. In Marching Band, nobody cares about what you wear or whether you are a gifted musician, as long as you give your best. Some find thrill in the style of music, marching, and constant physical and mental exertion needed to reach perfection.

Some thrive on the challenge of the pressure of competition and the sweet taste of victory. Still others enjoy the opportunity to entertain. For them, the ultimate goal is to bring pleasure to others and the ultimate reward is the thunderous applause that acknowledges their success.

For all, the Mighty Lion Band means deep and lasting friendship, not only with other Lafayette High Band members, but also with all Marching Band members everywhere. Band members form a close-knit fraternity. All have undergone similar experiences and emotions; all know the intense effort and sacrifices, the discipline, and the bursting pride that comes from doing even better than you thought you could. Many people participate in worthwhile activities devoted to music, social development, competitive sports, or companionship; but few are fortunate enough to find the best aspects of all combined in one. Mighty Lion Band members are among these

few.

Why the Mighty Lion Band? Because it's more than a way to spend time, it's a way of growing up. It requires dedication, self-sacrifice, physical and mental endurance under adverse conditions, and subordination of individual desires. But if a band member gives his or her best, the rewards are numerous - the chance to set a goal and strive to exceed it; the opportunity to develop leadership potential while part of a team; the pride that comes from achievement; and the warmth that comes from friendships.

Nobody ever said that being a member of the Mighty Lion Band is the easiest way to grow up, but many people believe it's the best.

Pep Band

Some games will be designated as Pep Band performances and are mandatory. The goal of this band is to provide spirit for designated away football games. *The Pep Band is made up of Field Staff members.*

Travel Uniform Dress Code Policy

All students must wear a Band-issued performance shirt, school approved black shorts worn above the knee (*knee must be visible*), plain white socks, and sneakers. Hair must be well groomed. **Stud** earrings (*1 set only*) are allowed for girls only. Gentleman, hair must be off the collar and out of the eyes, **no facial hair is allowed.** No extreme hair color or style. During marching season, the performance shirt may NOT be worn to school as a spirit shirt so that it remains clean for performances.

Formal Marching Uniform Dress Code Policy

All students must wear Band-issued L-shirt and lightweight shorts. Hair must be off the collar and out of the eyes. Gentleman, no facial hair is allowed. Extreme hair color is not allowed. All jewelry, including watches, excluding senior rings, is prohibited. Fingernail polish and make-up are also prohibited. When in uniform, full uniform **must** be worn at all times unless specified by the director. Uniform jacket or hat must **never** be worn backwards. There is absolutely **NO** running in uniform. Also, no eating in uniform, unless specified by the Director. All school policies apply. Any questions regarding the above guidelines should be referred to the student's Section Leader.

Color Guard

This component of the Marching Band is open to any student at Lafayette High School. Membership in this group is by audition only with a heavy emphasis placed on dance and body movement. Training sessions are held in the spring and a formal audition is held thereafter. During the fall semester, the Color Guard performs with the Marching Band, and in the spring the activity converts to Winterguard; ***there will be an additional fee for costumes and equipment.*** All members enrolled in this class must participate in the Marching Band during the fall, and Winterguard during the spring.

Percussion Ensemble

This group contains all percussionists at Lafayette High School. The emphasis is on rhythm and percussion technique. A wide range of percussion instruments will be studied. **Marching Band is required.** Only the finest percussionists are selected for the upper level bands. Upon completion of Marching Band, the focus is then turned to Concert Percussion. There is an occasional after-school rehearsal scheduled. Solo Festival and auditioning for Honor Band are required.

This performing ensemble has distinguished itself by being the first ensemble of its kind in the entire state of Louisiana to be invited to perform in the Music for All National Percussion Ensemble Festival held in Indianapolis and was once again invited to participate in this prestigious event in March, 2020,

but had to cancel due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Each percussionist at Lafayette High School will be required to have their own set of basic sticks, mallets, practice pad, and metronome. The cost will range between \$75 - \$150 and must be purchased by January 1 of their freshman year. Once purchased, however, the student will not have this cost again, provided of course the student does not have to replace any of the above-mentioned items. See Mr. Gleason for proper mallet and metronome selection.

Jazz Ensemble I & II

This ensemble's major focus is the study of jazz music. The emphasis is on scales, etudes, music, and improvisation. Auditions will occur at the conclusion of marching season. The ensemble meets on Mondays after school and is for no credit. Students enrolled in the Jazz Band do receive 1 point, which can be applied toward their letterman jacket. Any student desiring to audition for this ensemble must be enrolled in an instrumental music class at Lafayette High School. Audition material will become available at the conclusion of marching season.

Grading Procedures

Band is a unique course at Lafayette High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the Band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance-based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student 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 during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made up. Therefore, it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Rehearsal absences, which include “class time”, will undoubtedly affect a student’s performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student’s **daily participation**.

Performances and concert attendance are viewed as major tests. A performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room. The level of concentration required in a public performance helps each student to develop an insight into their own level of performance. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency – serious illness or hospitalization of the student, a death in the immediate family, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. **The band director must approve all absences from performances in advance.**

Finally, the band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Lafayette High Band. Individual practice and preparation are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants, as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered in life.

The following is intended to be a brief outline of our grading policy for the year. For clarification, please refer to the Merit/Demerit policy in the back of the handbook. The system that follows is designed so that each and every student, *with effort*, will succeed in the Lafayette High Band Program.

1st Nine Weeks – Grades will be based on Formative and Summative

Assessments Summative Assessments: Pass-offs, Performances, Special Rehearsals, Solo Fest Recording Assessments: Scale Test

Formative Assessments: Dot Book checks, Music Annotations, Sectionals

Daily Drill Assessments: Scale Test, Theory Sheets, Rehearsals

2nd Nine Weeks – Grades will be based on Formative and Summative Assessments

Summative Assessments: Pass-offs, Performances, Special Rehearsals

Audio/Video Recordings, Honor Band Assessment

Scale Test, Mid-Term Assessment

Formative Assessments: Dot Book Checks, Music Annotations, Sectionals

Daily Drill Assessments, Scale Test, Theory Sheets
 Skills Assessment (CG) Rudiment Assessment (Perc)
 Audio/Video Recordings

3rd Nine Weeks – Grades will be based on Formative and Summative

Assessments Summative Assessments: Performances, Special Rehearsals
 Audio/Video Recordings, Scale Test
 Ensemble Festival
Formative Assessments: Music Annotations, Sectionals
 Daily Drill Assessments, Scale Test, Theory Sheets
 Skills Assessment (CG) Rudiment Assessment (Perc)
 Audio/Video Recordings

4th nine weeks – Grades will be based on Formative and Summative Assessments

Summative Assessments: Performances, Special Rehearsals
 Audio/Video Recordings, Scale Test, Final Exam
Formative Assessments: Music Annotations, Sectionals
 Daily Drill Assessments, Scale Test, Theory Sheets
 Skills Assessment (CG) Rudiment Assessment (Perc)
 Audio/Video Recordings

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at all regularly scheduled band functions, including class time, rehearsals, and performances. Since every student and band director associated with the Lafayette High Band program wants to improve and present the highest quality performance possible, attendance at all scheduled events is absolutely mandatory.

The rehearsal schedule and performance dates for the Lafayette High Band program are published with enough advance notice to accommodate every band member and parent. In an effort to help organize a family's busy lifestyle, the band calendar is posted on the web site (mlbbf.org). Should a change or an additional performance or rehearsal be required, tardiness or absences from this schedule change will be considered on a student-by-student basis.

Tardiness

Tardiness may be caused by car failure or illness. After-school testing, with the approval of the course teacher, may be taken in the band hall with the supervision of one of the directors. The student should give 24-hour notice for any predictable tardiness. When advance notice is not possible, a written note from the student's parents or teacher must be presented upon arrival to the next rehearsal. Tardiness due to car complications should warrant a phone call to the band room. If excused by the director, the tardiness will not be recorded. The Director reserves the right to ask for additional information and/or clarification should the reason be in question.

Absences

ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS MATTERS THE STUDENT PERFORMER MUST CONFRONT.

Absences may be caused by illness, death in the family, or emergency situations. Please note: *school class time is also considered as "rehearsal" time and should be given the same consideration as after-school rehearsals*. The student must give advance notice of all absences by contacting the LHS Band

Office before the absence occurs. A written note explaining the absence, signed by a parent or medical physician, must be turned in to Mr. Gleason (The Director) on the first day the student returns to school following the absence. The Director reserves the right to ask for additional information and/or clarification should the reason be in question.

Unexcused absences can cause the student to be removed from the permanent marching assignment block and/or their position of responsibility (i.e. section leader or field staff). ***Since there are fewer rehearsals during concert season, an unexcused absence during this time, including class time, will result in the student being dismissed for the upcoming event.*** Grading during this period will be arranged by Mr. Gleason. An unexcused absence from a marching performance may result in possible forfeiture of a current band position. During Concert Season, an unexcused absence from a performance will result in a 0 for that particular nine-week period. Half of the allotted demerits may be “worked off” by merits. Students and parents are asked to accommodate the performance schedule of the band since the performance is the end product of the rehearsal process and is the final evaluation of the progress of the band program. Absences not only affect the individual absent, but everyone present. If possible, please call the Band Room should an emergency arise.

Special Rehearsals

Sectionals are considered special rehearsals and are a major component of the successful band program. Every consideration will be given to accommodate the students’ after-school work and study needs before sectionals are firmly scheduled. Once scheduled, however, attendance is mandatory. Check the web site for sectional times.

Parades

Parades are a necessary function of every band program. It is an opportunity to repay the public for its support throughout the year. Everyone loves a marching band in a parade. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3.**

Rehearsal/Class Procedures

Students have 5 minutes between classes before they are marked tardy. They have an additional 1-minute to get seated and their instruments ready for class. This means that you are in your seat with your instrument, stand, music, and a pencil ready to begin 6 minutes after the previous class dismissal bell. Make sure you have extra reeds, mutes, oil, etc. before taking your seat. Once seated, remain seated unless given permission by the director to do otherwise. **Please note:** *Tuners/Metronomes are required material for all instrumentalists. Cell phones are not to be used! If it is determined that a student is using a cell phone during any rehearsal (during class or outside of the school day) the cell phone will be taken away.*

ONLY BAND STUDENTS are allowed in the Band Room.

Talking will not be tolerated while rehearsing! If the conductor allows individual warm-up before class, it is important to do each of the following. If there is no time before class then students should make every attempt to play these on a daily basis:

- ✓ Mouthpiece buzzing.
- ✓ Long tones (slowly avoiding upper range to begin).
- ✓ Lip slurs for brass, arpeggios for woodwind and brass scales – major, minor, and chromatic.
- ✓ Review assignments for the day.

Daily Practice Routines

- **Prepare to Practice: 5 minutes**

Practice in a room where you won't be disturbed (No TV, radio, little brother or sisters, etc.). Have the following out and ready to use: straight-backed chair, music stand, metronome, music, mirror and pencil on stand, instrument, and accessories.

- **Long tones, register slurs, natural slurs: 4-5 minutes**

Slow scales (in whole tones to include crescendos/decrescendos) for sound production, intonation, breathing, embouchure, and scale knowledge. Brass ALWAYS starts with mouthpiece exercises! Remember to focus on proper syllables without moving your jaw (mirror can be helpful for this) – “tah” for upper brass, “taw” for mid low brass, and “toe” for low brass.

- **Finger Work: 5-7 minutes**

Hands and fingers should be curved whether up or down. Check contact points of thumbs and sides of fingers. Finger motion should be small and precise. Should be done with a metronome.

- **Tonguing Exercises: 5 Minutes**

Tongue should be relaxed and allowed freedom of movement. Avoid moving the jaw while tonguing. Use efficient motion with the tongue only moving the tip.

- **Scales and Arpeggios: 7-9 Minutes**

Scales must be played in very even rhythm with a metronome. Work on scales slowly and gradually increase speed. Scales should extend into extreme registers.

- **Etudes: 10-15 Minutes**

Work on two contrasting etudes at a time or alternate working slow and fast. Stress correct rhythms and articulations.

- **Solo Repertoire: 10 – 15 Minutes**

Choose a solo early and develop until you become proficient, then begin working on another solo. Practice with SmartMusic.

- **Band Music:**

Always stress the difficult passages that seem to be a problem. REMEMBER, you are responsible for learning your own parts to the best of your ability. No other class relies on each individual member as much as Band. Each individual person is important to the overall success of the group. You make a difference.

Each day attempt to strengthen your breathing technique and gain better control, attempt to strengthen your lip muscles to gain endurance in your playing (mouthpiece exercises and long tones), attempt to strengthen your finger muscles for better dexterity and control (metronome use is a must), attempt to strengthen your tonguing muscles to gain control, evenness, and speed (in this order - never sacrifice accuracy for speed).

Behavior Guidelines

All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member, or chaperone without question unless said instruction is a violation of civil law or moral standards.

All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.

- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, including tobacco and alcohol, while representing the LHS Band is subject to immediate removal from the organization and referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Band students will not play on or with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, please remind them.
- Band members should not remove, play with, hide, or take any part of someone else's band uniform. The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance and to be worn with the utmost respect and dignity. If you have a problem with your uniform, don't take someone else's. See the uniform crew for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection.
- At any away trip, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark.

When the Lafayette High Band "falls in" to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of excellence demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline and pride at all times. Do not allow anyone to "break ranks". You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.

Absolutely no running in uniform!!!

Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to ensure that all equipment is put away properly. Non-band personnel will wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

Attitude

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Lafayette High Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band.

This general saying always holds true: *"If everyone in this program were just like me, what kind of program would this be?"* Those students who do not project a positive and cooperative attitude will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave this organization.

Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude, one that is deserving of the Mighty Lion Band, where the tradition continues.

Contests and Festivals (these event are subject to change or cancellation due to Covid)

Contests and festivals are important features of the Lafayette High Band. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the time, work and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, tedium, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, tears, success, and joy. *The Marching Band will participate in **Bandboree on Saturday, 30 September; District Festival on Monday, 23 October; Showcase on Saturday, November 4.**

All members of the Lafayette High Band program stand with "silent pride" as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of the outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have scored ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. Those are the people who will never know the true benefit of friendly competition, but mistakenly equate winning with coming in first.

Lafayette High Band Program prides itself in "leading the way" in this endeavor. For this reason we are a program admired and respected by many. The outcome is not the important aspect of competing, but the journey in which you get there.

Contest Pictures

Here at Lafayette High School, there are but a few opportunities for group photography. During those photographing sessions and because pictures are taken for posterity's sake, students are expected to be serious when posing for pictures. There is usually a "crazy picture" taken of each section for kids to have an opportunity to be less formal and not have the picture affected for the entire group. Any student determined to intentionally defame a group picture will be severely dealt with by possible forfeiture from current position in band and compensating others for defaming the photograph. There will be no exception to this rule!

***All dates are subject to change due to circumstances out of our control, such as Covid.**

Guidelines for Concert Etiquette, to include Marching Band and Winter Guard

Performances:

- Do not enter the concert hall while a group is performing.
- Do not talk during the performance.
- Sit in your seat properly with feet on the floor and not on the back of other seats. Do not slouch in your seat.
- Become an active listener, not a passive one. Try to understand the composer's intent.
- No food or drinks in the concert hall.
- When entering a concert hall you should expect to remain seated until the group has completed all performance selections. If an emergency should arise, please get up quietly and create as little distraction as possible.
- Do not bring cell phones into the concert hall. If they are brought in, please turn them off until the concert is over.
- Turn all personal communication devices off.
- During marching band competitions, the performance/awards ceremony should reflect a friendly atmosphere where groups display goodwill for each other's accomplishments. All participating groups exhibit a tremendous amount of work throughout the year and should be "cheered on" regardless of the outcome.

Adherence to these guidelines will be and always has been the hallmark of any "classy" organization - one in which you can be proud!

Instrument Care

School-owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense. *See Director for replacement costs.* There is a rental fee per semester for any school-owned instrument and equipment. The fee will be posted in the student's Charms account.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. **Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs.**

Uniform Information

When you are in uniform you represent this outstanding organization, as well as the community and school. Your uniform is to be complete at all times when in public. Trousers should be hemmed long enough to just brush the tops of your shoes. Jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets, watches, ear rings, rings, (excluding senior rings), nail polish, and student-selected accessories are not permitted.

Students should show up for performances in lightweight gym shorts, black socks, and the Band-issued performance t-shirt. Uniforms will be slipped on over this attire. At no time will bare skin ever be shown outside of the restrooms. At the conclusion of each performance, **uniforms will remain in the band room and not taken home.**

Uniform cleaning will be taken care of by the band.

All band members must have black marching shoes for performances. Shoes may be ordered from a local music store. Shoes should be cleaned for each performance. Plain, **long** black socks with no logo are to be worn with marching shoes (Dinkles), and black gloves are to be worn with the formal marching uniform.

Color Guard uniforms are to be worn in the prescribed manner. Members of the Color Guard are also required to provide the appropriate footwear. Make-up, jewelry, and hairstyle are as much a part of the uniform as the uniform itself. Guidelines will be established and members will be expected to comply.

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in yourself and your organization. Never wear any part of your uniform in an inappropriate fashion, for example – hat backwards. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times! You have earned the right to wear your uniform! Wear it with pride!

Band Officers

The band officers govern the Band Council. This group consists of the Drum Majors, Head Librarian, Work Crew Captain, Uniform Captain and Color Guard Captain. The Director of Bands serves as the Advisor to the Band Council. The Band Council meets before school on Friday mornings during marching season to discuss progress of the band.

Head Drum Major

The HDM serves as the President of the organization. HDM is usually a senior with auditions being held in May of the previous year. The audition process consists of submitting an application with a teacher recommendation form and a rigorous interview process. Once selected, a summer camp is required. The HDM presides over business meetings of the Band and Band Council meetings and is in charge of the annual Band Banquet. He or she is the first assistant in charge under the director at all band functions and trips made by the band. The HDM answers to Mr. Gleason.

Assistant Drum Majors

The ADMs serve as the Vice Presidents of the organization. They should be either seniors or juniors, and serve in the absence of the HDM. The ADMs serve as chairs of the social committee. Social activities include the end of marching season social and Ye Olde Christmas Feast. They are also responsible for roll call at each rehearsal. The ADMs follow the same audition process as the HDM and must attend the same summer camp.

Head Librarian

The HL is a senior or a junior. HL takes minutes at all band and band council meetings and assists the band secretary with the daily operations of the band. The HL is appointed by Mr. Gleason. A staff member is also assigned to assist whenever needed. The HL sends invitations, sympathy cards when someone is ill, and writes notes of appreciation on behalf of the Band and Band Council. The Library staff is responsible for distributing, collecting, and cataloging music.

Work Crew Captain

WCC should be a senior or junior and is appointed by Mr. Gleason. WCC is responsible for the issuance and care of all equipment and making sure that all equipment is available for various band activities. Daily routines include the setup and breakdown of chairs for rehearsal. WCC also supervises the loading and unloading of instruments and equipment for away football games and concert band trips. The WCC is assisted by a work crew and other band members and assists with organizing the set up for Ye Olde Christmas Feast, spring concerts, and Graduation.

Uniform Captain

UC should be a junior or a senior and is appointed by Mr. Gleason. UC is responsible for the issuance, care and maintenance of all band uniforms. UC will supervise the loading and unloading of uniforms in conjunction with the WCC. The UC is also responsible for making sure that plumes are distributed for performances. This position is assisted by a crew appointed by Mr. Gleason.

Color Guard Captain

Mr. Gleason and Mr. Cork select the CC, with assistance from the guard instructor, at the end of the school year. The CC must exhibit strong leadership qualities and demonstrate extensive knowledge of marching fundamentals and equipment-handling techniques on flag and props. CC should have some background in dance and choreography. The CC is responsible for the storage, transportation, and maintenance of all equipment and props used for the guard. The CC is assisted by a co-captain.

Section Leader/Field Staff

Section Leaders assist in teaching and rehearsing the marching band show. They must have a thorough knowledge of marching fundamentals, drill, teaching techniques, and rehearsal methods. Section Leaders must display a high level

of musicianship and have the ability to lead their section while maintaining a positive rapport and attitude with their section members. SL/FS work under the supervision of the director and make sure their sections are ready for rehearsals. In addition, they are responsible for running music section rehearsals when needed, checking off music, and inspecting uniforms before performances. All members of FS also help with the appearance of the band room throughout the school year. FS are usually the first to arrive and the last to depart band functions. In the spring, students will be given an opportunity to submit an application for a Field Staff position.

During the fall semester, weekly Band Council meetings will take place. The Band Council consists of Drum Majors, Captains, and Section Leaders. During the spring semester, meetings will be monthly. The Band Council also has the duty of requesting merits and demerits. **The issuing of merits/demerits is the sole responsibility of the Directors.**

Band Awards

Each graduating senior that completes four years and remains in good standing in the band program at Lafayette High School will receive the senior award at the band banquet. The senior award is a cumulative award that highlights the students' Band experience. In addition, the following awards are given at the spring banquet:

- Most Outstanding Freshman
- Most Outstanding Sophomore
- Most Outstanding Junior
- Most Outstanding Senior
- Most Outstanding New Member
- Most Outstanding Percussion
- Most Improved Percussion
- Most Outstanding Color Guard
- Most Improved Color Guard
- Most Outstanding New Guard Member
- Mighty Lion Award
- Most Outstanding Concert Band Member
- Most Outstanding Concert Band Member
- Most Spirited
- Rock Solid Marcher
- Most Improved Symphonic/Concert/Band Member
- Best Switcher
- Solo Recital Performers
- Most Outstanding Solo Performer
- Most Outstanding Woodwind/Brass
- John Philip Sousa Award
- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Band Jacket

In order for a student to earn and receive a band jacket, the student must first be in good standing with the band as well as all academia at Lafayette High School. The band jacket represents the TOP students, not only in our band program, but also in the entire student body. Receiving a jacket is indeed an honor not all students are guaranteed to receive. However, if every student does what is expected of him/her during their tenure with the Mighty Lion Band Program, they will earn a band jacket by their senior year. Earning a jacket is set up on a point system. (This point system is the same system used for the information put on the senior plaques given at the end of the year banquet.) Some students will undoubtedly earn enough points after only a couple of years. It is the student's responsibility to keep their points updated and to make sure their total is correct. Once the student has earned the required number of points (16), or is selected for the All State Band, they may then purchase their band jacket. *You may only order a jacket prior to your junior year if you have been selected to the District Honor Band and have the required number of points. **In order to receive your letterman jacket, you must be a current band member in good standing. Good standing includes being current on all fees.*** A representative will come to the band hall to measure the students wishing to order jackets. Points may be earned according to the following:

Activity	Points	9	10	11	12
Completion of band course with an A	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Completion of Marching Band	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Successful performance of a solo	1 per year	_____	_____	_____	_____
State Solo Participant	2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Solo recital performer	2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Successful performance of a small ensemble	1 per year	_____	_____	_____	0
demerits for the entire year	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Participation in Honor Bands:					
All State	Automatic qualification				
All District	Top Band – 3				
	2 nd band – 2				
	3 rd band – 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
All South	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
BOA, National Honor Band	2	_____	_____	_____	_____
LSU Chamber Winds Camp	2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Approved summer music camp	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.8 or better overall G.P.A.	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
12 Major Scales	1 (1 time only)	_____	_____	_____	6
Minor Scales	1 (1 time only)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jazz Band Participation	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wind Ensemble	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Switcher	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total by Year		_____	_____	_____	_____

Color Guard must accumulate 15 points before ordering a letterman jacket OR at the conclusion of their Junior year. The point system will be based on the following:

Activity	Points	9	10	11	12
Marching Competition Team	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rifle Line Marching	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Complete Marching season with no Demerits	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Winterguard Team:					
Varsity Team	3	_____	_____	_____	JV
	2	_____	_____	_____	C
	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rifle line winter	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Successful Completion of Winterguard	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Final Grade of A	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.8 or better overall G.P.A.	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Approved Color Guard Camp	1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total by Year		_____	_____	_____	_____

Individual Opportunities

All District, All State, All South, Ark La Tex, National Honor Band of America, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and Chamber Winds Camp provide students with the opportunity to excel individually on their instrument and to receive recognition for their musical achievements. In order to avoid conflict, students must check with the director of bands before auditioning for any honor ensemble.

All District Honor Band

Each student enrolled in band courses at Lafayette High will prepare the material necessary to audition for the SLBDA District Honor Band. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band students are required to audition for the Honor Band. Concert Band students are not required, but strongly encouraged to audition. If the student chooses to audition, the **cost of the audition is \$10**. Students choosing not to audition must perform the audition music or a portion of the material for Mr. Gleason. This course requirement will constitute 50% of the students 2nd nine weeks grade. Students successfully completing the audition for the District Honor Band receive the entire credit for the third nine weeks, whether they make the honor band or not. Honor Band auditions will be held at Lafayette High School on **Saturday, December 9**.

Solo and Small Ensemble Festival

Each Lafayette High Band student will be required to prepare either a solo or an ensemble for the Lafayette High Solo and Small Ensemble Festival. **The fee is \$10 for solos or \$5 for each performing member in a small ensemble during the Spring Small Ensemble Festival.** Students should consult private teachers for solo selections. If a student is not enrolled in private lessons, the directors should be consulted for proper selection. Students should select solos early and begin working on them as soon as possible. When performing in the Festival, the student will also receive recorded comments from an expert panel. Following the festival, a virtual recital will feature the top 7-10 performances (solo or small ensemble) during the day. **All students will be required to attend the recital.** Failure to attend will be regarded as an unexcused absence, which will result in not receiving credit for Solo Festival. The directors feel strongly that being a recital attendee is as much a learning experience as performing the solo. The Small Ensemble Festival will be held in the spring. Attire for this event is "Nice" dress. No jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers will be allowed for this event. Solos must be recorded with accompaniment on a date to be announced.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a specialist show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement toward practicing increases. They continue to improve, allowing them to enjoy playing their instrument more. Private instruction allows them to be a stronger contributor to the program and increases their chances to be selected for honor bands, which in turn helps them receive more college scholarships. This is a win-win situation, an investment in your child's future. Everyone involved benefits from private lessons. If interested, contact the band director. *Student accounts cannot pay for a student's private lesson.*

Band Fees

As the parent or guardian of a student in this program, your commitment to the financial requirements of the band organization is an essential part of the success of the band. With a band our size, the cost of instructors, music, marching drills, uniforms, instrument purchases and repairs, props, equipment, transportation, security, band camps, competitions, food/refreshments, special events, concerts, and program administration will exceed \$175,000. While the volunteer fundraising efforts of the parent booster organization (MLBBF) will help offset a significant part of these costs, the majority of the funding depends upon the timely payment of the annual band fees assessed to the parents or guardians of our band members.

Band Fees

Band Camp Fee (checks payable to LHS)
\$200/Band student

Family Fee (checks payable to LHS)
\$450/Family

Family Fee Payments Options

3 payments option: \$150 due September 1
 \$150 due December 1
 \$150 due March 1

6 payments option: \$75 due September 1 and each month thereafter through February 1

Additional Fees:

Dinkles- does not apply to CG (checks payable to Lafayette Music)
\$44/Band student

Competition Uniform- does not apply to CG (checks payable to MLBBF)
\$113

Color Guard Winterguard Fee (CG members only – checks payable to LHS)
\$100

Color Guard Costume Fee (checks payable to LHS)
Determined each year and communicated to members of Color Guard by the CG Director

Instrument Rental Fee (if applicable – checks payable to LHS)
\$50 (one instrument)
\$75 (two instruments)

Honor Band (cash only)

\$10

Solo Festival (cash only)

\$10 for solos

\$5/member of a small ensemble (applies to the Spring Small Ensemble Festival)

LCBI Ad

All band members are responsible for selling at least 1 ad for the LCBI program. Ad sizes/prices may change annually.

Timely fee payment is required for the revenues needed to meet many of the band's expenses, and will be treated like other school fees assessed for books, supplies, and other class materials.

**ALL FEES MUST BE UP-TO-DATE IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND PROM (JUNIORS/SENIORS)
AND GRADUATION (SENIORS)**

Color Guard must pay their costume fee (determined on an annual basis) and band camp fee to receive their costume. *In order to help with the cost of Winterguard, Color Guard will have an additional \$100 fee in the spring (See Band Fees).*

To help students meet their financial obligation to the band, we have several fundraising opportunities for **parents and students only (unless approved by Mr. Gleason)** to participate in, including working Cajundome and ULL events. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities you can contact the Band Office or contact **Donna Domingue** at lhsbandfundraiser@gmail.com. Money earned working these events will be held in your child's Band account. **No money earned from working fundraisers will be paid to parents or students outright, ever. Any credit remaining in the student's Band account upon graduation or leaving the Band, remains with the Band.**

NSF Checks – in the event a check is returned for non-sufficient funds, the band will only accept cash to cover the original payment; in addition, the NSF charge may be added to the total owed.

All fees should be paid by April 1. Failure to do so could result in juniors and seniors not being allowed to attend Prom or end-of-year school activities, such as Band Banquet.

How To Pay Fees

Fees are paid either by cash, check, or money order. There is a "fee box" in the office across from Mr. Gleason's office. **When paying fees by check or money order, please make the check or money order payable to LHS and write your child's name on the memo line. If paying with cash, place the cash in an envelope with your child's name and the reason for the payment written clearly on the outside.**

Special Trips

Each year, a trip may be planned that will serve a two-fold purpose. First, the trip will be a reward for the students for all their hard work. Secondly, the trip will be designed to challenge the students in some performance area and compare the musical ability of our students with those from around the country and the world. Separate fundraisers may be planned to help students raise money to fund their trip. ***Initial deposits may be non-refundable.*** Any student who is referred to the office for disciplinary action will be reviewed by the director and depending on the severity, may not be allowed to participate in the trip. If a student is removed for disciplinary actions, the initial deposit and all other money paid for the trip may be forfeited.

Students should notify the director if they are unable to attend an upcoming performance. This will allow an opportunity for the director to find a replacement. If excused, the student will not be penalized and an alternative assignment will be given.

Student accounts have been designated primarily for the purpose of paying for the student's individual trip. However, the student's Family Fee must be current before fees can be applied to the student's trip. Any student that has an outstanding financial balance will not be allowed to participate in any band activity that requires payment.

Bus Rules

The image exhibited by the band members on all bus trips can add another positive aspect to our total band program. The few rules are designed to protect our band members and to help insure a safe and enjoyable trip.

- Stay seated when on the bus, especially in town where frequent stops occur.
- Be sure you are on your assigned bus.
- You are expected to ride the bus to and from the event unless you have prior approval from Mr. Gleason. Only in extreme cases will students be allowed not to ride the bus home. It's an opportunity for students to provide feedback to each other, as well as help with band duties upon their return.
- When entering the bus and before departing the performance arena, remain quiet for roll call and any announcements. Once the bus is in motion, you may begin talking.
- No shouting at any time, especially at opposing teams supporters.
- Be courteous to the needs of the driver and chaperones.
- The bus captain is in charge. You must listen to that person. A request from them is a request from Mr. Gleason. Any problems should be referred to the chaperones at which point they will notify Mr. Gleason. (You don't want this to happen, trust me.)
- No food or drinks are allowed on the bus unless approved by Mr. Gleason.
- Personal stereos may be used with headphones only. You are responsible for safety of your stereo while in the game or during the performance. Do not ask a chaperone to hold your personal belongings. ***(It's usually a good idea not to bring valuables on the bus. Security cannot be guaranteed).***

- Upon arrival, close all windows and make sure your area is clean. Make sure to take all belongings with you.
- Keep all body parts in the bus at all times.
- No “hacking” on seats. Bring practice pads.

Stadium Rules

- Following our march to the stadium, remain at attention in front of your seat until the Drum Majors put you at ease. You may then remove your hat and gloves.
- Approved hats (worn appropriately) are allowed in the stands following the “take seats” command.
- Visitors are not allowed in the band seating area, nor can anything be brought to band students during the course of the game. Students are not allowed to leave the band seating area unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Be attentive and alert at all times, ready to play at a moment’s notice. Keep your eyes on the Drum Majors. When the DM gives the downbeat, everyone is expected to play.
- Instruments will not be played solo.
- No “doodling” or “hacking” of any kind.
- Color Guard must perform all stand dances and cheers.
- Water will be provided. Soft drinks will be provided following the competitive show performance.

CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING EVENTS

Chaperone Information

Chaperones will be treated with respect and students will follow all instructions given. Reasonable and appropriate behavior is expected from all students. Report problems to the head chaperone. If the problem persists and is serious, the head chaperone will report the problem to Mr. Gleason. A student bus captain is responsible for taking roll on the bus. Please assist the student leader in keeping the bus quiet for roll call, but please allow that student to exercise his/her leadership ability before stepping in. Students must remain on the same bus for the duration of the trip unless approved by Mr. Gleason. Girls and boys may sit together provided inappropriate behavior is not being displayed. No sharing of blankets. No sitting on each other’s lap.

ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY!

Students will remain on the bus and quiet until told to exit by Mr. Gleason, staff member, or head chaperone. When approaching the designated performance site, all students must remain seated. Please have the students clean the bus upon our return home. Chaperones please check for forgotten items. Bus radios are not to be played and no “boom boxes” are allowed on the bus.

During all performance events, band students will always do the exact same thing, at the exact same time, in the exact same way.

Mr. Gleason will designate all water breaks, food breaks, etc.

Special Performances

Ye Olde Christmas Feast

One of the special and truly unique events to the Lafayette High Band is the Ye Olde Christmas Feast. It is unique in that it is a showcase of not only group accomplishments but also of individual accomplishments. The concert/recital will take place on **December 7 & 8**. Once a date is filled, tickets may only be purchased for the alternate performance date. Guests enjoy camaraderie over dinner while being entertained by some of the finest young musicians in the country. Dress for the event is "NICE". Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the meal and are limited to the number of seats available. Everyone in attendance must purchase a ticket. *You may not purchase tickets through your band account.* Tickets will go on sale in November.

District Pre-Assessment

Spring Concert

In an effort to showcase the accomplishments of the entire year, the Mighty Lion Band performs a concert for all to enjoy. The Percussion & Jazz Band concerts will be **Friday, May 3**. The Symphonic, Concert, and Jazz Bands will perform on **Monday, May 6**. The Wind Ensemble will perform on **Wednesday, May 8**. These concerts will be held in the Lafayette High School auditorium. There is no admission charge to this event. **The concerts will begin at 6:30 pm.** Attire for the Symphonic Band will be concert black. No jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers of any kind. Wind Ensemble will wear concert black. Concert Band attire will be all black. Dresses or skirts must be ankle length.

All students involved in the Mighty Lion Band Program are required to attend all performances. Symphonic Band students and Color Guard will attend the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz concerts; Concert Band will attend Winterguard (and vice versa). Failure to attend each concert will be regarded as an unexcused absence from a performance, and your grade will reflect the absence.

Additional performances/rehearsals may be required. Once set, attendance is mandatory. Conflicts will be dealt with on an individual basis. See section of the handbook marked Excused Absences.

Band Banquet

The annual banquet is truly the "big ticket" event of the year. It is the culmination of the band members' hard work and a celebration of the new bonds that were made during the year. For our senior class it is a time to reflect upon their years in band and to bid farewell. This year's banquet will be ***Date to be announced**. Band accounts may not be used to purchase tickets. In order to attend, ALL band fees must be paid in full.

Graduation

All instrumental music performers in the Lafayette High School Band will be required to perform for graduation ceremonies held annually in the Cajundome. Attire for this event is "nice". The **2024 Graduation is tentatively scheduled for May 17/18, 2024.**

Winter Camp

A major component in the preparation of the Spring Semester at Lafayette High School is the Winter Camp. **The WC will be held January 12-13, and will conclude with a parent performance on Saturday, January 13, at 4:00 PM.** A world-class clinician will be selected to clinic each band and provide master classes throughout the weekend. Such notable clinicians as Larry Livingston, Robert Reynolds, Gary Green, Jack White, Jack Delaney, Sue Samuels, Alan McMurray, Glen Hemberger, John Mackey, David Maslanka, and Frank Ticheli have been invited to clinic our band. Due to the nature of this activity, ***Winter Camp is a required event!***

Louisiana Concert Band Invitational (LCBI)

Music for All is proud to partner with concert band festivals across the country to present Affiliate Regional Music Festivals. The Louisiana Concert Band Festival is one of 5 that Music for All has chosen to begin their regional concert festival campaign. MFA now proudly hosts 19 regional festivals. Affiliate Regional Music Festivals are part of Music for All's on-going support of the essential core of every band program. **The LCBI will be March 2, 2024. Each band student will be required to sell at least 1 ad for the LCBI program.** Sizes and ad prices may change annually.

*** All dates are subject to change**

Mighty Lion Band Website

mlbbf.org

Students and parents are encouraged to visit the website (mlbbf.org) frequently as newsletters, calendars, booster news, and general information will be posted. Parents are encouraged to contact Mr. Gleason via email if any questions not covered in this handbook should arise.

Social Media

Lafayette High School Band has a **Facebook** page – **Lafayette High School Mighty Lion Band** that promotes healthy and honest discourse with its readers.

- ✓ Everyone involved with the Mighty Lion Band Program should observe principles of integrity, professionalism, privacy, and impartiality.
- ✓ Dishonorable content will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Photographs/names of Band members are not to be posted unless prior approval has been granted.
- ✓ As a general rule, be careful discussing things when emotions run high, and show respect for others' opinions. When disagreeing with others' opinions, keep it appropriate and polite.

Hints for Band Members

- ✓ Always check the white board in the band room for daily instruction.
- ✓ Bring special equipment to seats (mutes, pencils, reeds, etc.).
- ✓ Do NOT leave music on stands or instruments where they do not belong.
- ✓ **Keep the Band Room clean! Pick up after yourselves!**
- ✓ Have a pencil at every rehearsal.

Be early for every function!

Be early for every function!

Be early for every function!

Be early for every function!

How Parents Can Help

At Home

- ✓ Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- ✓ Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- ✓ Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- ✓ Help student keep a daily record of practice.
- ✓ Give them a safe place to keep their instrument.
- ✓ Keep the instrument in good repair with extra reeds, etc. in each case.
- ✓ Be sure brass instrument slides are always greased and valves oiled.
- ✓ All students must have a metronome and tuner.
- ✓ Be careful with ALL instruments, including school-owned.
- ✓ Teach your child to be prepared for rehearsal and lessons.
- ✓ Make faithful attendance at all activities important.
- ✓ Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises - in the home, at school, at church, and in the community.

At School

- ✓ Keep record of student's various musical activities.
- ✓ Notify teacher if the student is to be absent or tardy for lessons, rehearsals, etc., and explain why.
- ✓ See that their instrument gets to school.
- ✓ Teach them to be punctual.
- ✓ See that they stay on top of homework and make up all schoolwork that is missed. Band is not an excuse to not be prompt in turning in schoolwork.
- ✓ Attend concerts.
- ✓ **Volunteer.**
- ✓ Discuss with your teacher anything that will help them understand your child better.

LAFAYETTE HIGH BAND AGREEMENT 2023 - 2024

In becoming a member of the Lafayette High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. **Please do not turn in without both student & parent signatures.**

(Student signature)

(Student printed name)

(Student email)

(Parent signature)

(Parent printed name)

(Parent email)

Family Fee Payment Elections

Please select the payment option you choose by **initialing the line** next to the plan set forth below:

_____ Pay in full \$450 (cash, *check, *money order) due no later than January 1.

_____ Three payment option: \$150 due September 1
 \$150 due December 1
 \$150 due March 1

_____ Six payment option: \$75 due September 1 thru Feb 1

***Additional Band Fees may apply to your student
 (see Band Fees section of the Handbook).***

***If paying by check or money order, please make it payable to LHS
 and write your student's name on the memo line.**

Mighty Lion Band Booster Foundation (MLBBF) **Mightylionbandboosterfoundation.org**

The Mighty Lion Band Booster Foundation (MLBBF) is the support structure for the Lafayette High Band Program. The MLBBF is made up of parents of current students in the Lafayette Band Program. Through the MLBBF, you can support your student throughout his or her time in band. We have found that a parent working with the MLBBF is a great way to be involved with your student's high school career.

The MLBBF performs many of the administrative and logistical functions of the Band Program, leaving the Directors free to do what they do best – TEACH. When the Directors are not distracted by worries about uniforms or how to facilitate the movement of more than 300 students to a myriad of locations, they are better able to focus on the tasks at hand. To assist the Directors and students, the MLBBF must rely on the boosters to help raise funds, move equipment, coordinate meals, and a whole host of other tasks. A band program of this size and caliber must have support from its boosters. As your student begins his or her participation in the Lafayette High Band, you will find you will interact on a frequent basis with the MLBBF. Each interaction is an opportunity for you to become involved.

Upon reading the handbook, you may find many opportunities to become a part of the Lafayette High Band Program via the MLBBF. If you are unsure what you would like to do, just try something. Just because you've helped in one area doesn't mean you can't help elsewhere next time. With all that the MLBBF does, a place can be found that fits you. If, after looking over this information, you still are not sure what you would like to do, feel free to speak with any of the MLBBF board members. It has been said, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person." We have a lot of busy people in the Mighty Lion Band Booster Foundation. As an MLBBF volunteer, you will enjoy unique opportunities to share in your student's pride and accomplishments not found in many other school activities. Be a part of it, and share this extraordinary experience with your student.

MLBBF Committees

To keep the Lafayette High Band running smoothly, many people are needed to work behind the scenes. The following committees have been set up and need **volunteers!** Please go to mightylionbandboosterfoundation.org for details.

- **Band Camp**
- **Football Chaperone**
- **Medical**
- **Flag/Accessory Construction**
- **Alumni Night**
- **Uniforms**
- **Louisiana Concert Band Invitational (LCBI)**
- **Bandboree**
- **Family Clean Up Day**
- **Ye Olde Christmas**
- **Transportation**
- **Prop Dads**
- **Costumes**
- **Senior Night**
- **General Volunteer**

2023-2024 Booster Executive Board

Lisa Valentin, President
Trisha Darbonne, Vice President
Donna Domingue, Secretary
Adam Swann, Treasurer

MLBBF Board Members

Lauren Ashurst
Jeremy Boyette
Renee Boyette
Trisha Darbonne
Donna Domingue
Moiria Evanco
April Lafleur
Joey Lafleur
Kayla Leger
Meghan Mixon
Adrienne Musumeche
Steven Musumeche
Adam Swann
Jennifer Swann
Eli Valentin
Lisa Valentin
Brandon Wallace
Joan Wallace