

# LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL BANDS



*2017-2018  
PARENT HANDBOOK*

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

The Lancaster Band Boosters enhance the overall band experience, by working directly with the directors of the band program. Membership is open to all parents and guardians and interested community members. Regular meetings are held on the first Monday of the month beginning at 7:30pm in the Lancaster High School Band Room.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

Most of Band Booster fundraisers will benefit the entire band program. All families are expected to actively participate in fundraisers throughout the year. Without sufficient funds, the Band Boosters will be unable to adequately fund the activities of the Band program and fees will have to increase in order to cover the cost.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

At least two fundraising activities each year will directly benefit individual student accounts. Credits earned through these fundraisers may be used to pay for band fees by submitting a “transfer form” to the booster treasurer. At the conclusion of the student’s participation in the band program, all remaining funds will transferred to the Band Booster General Fund.

## **FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES**

If you have any questions regarding fees, or if you are having problems making payments, please contact the band director or booster treasurer so that alternate financial arrangements can be made. We are willing to work with you, but we can’t help if we don’t know there is a problem.

## **MARCHING BAND CONTESTS**

Marching Band competitions in Ohio are sanctioned by the Ohio Music Education Association (abbreviated as OMEA). Each competition will have bands in a variety of classifications (C, B, A and AA), based on school enrollment. Lancaster falls into the largest classification, Class AA.

Each band has a 15 minute block of time to set up, warm up, perform their show (actual show length must be between 7 and 11 minutes), and exit the field. Evaluating the band performances are two music judges, two visual judges (one visual effect and one visual performance), two general effect judges, one percussion judge, and two auxiliary judges.

The ratings of the two music judges, two visual judges, and the two general effect judges' evaluation are used to determine the final rating of the band. In addition, the percussion judge and both music judges rate the percussion section and combine their scores. These seven ratings are then converted to a final rating.

Contests are open to the public. The cost of admission is determined by each host school.

## **STATE MARCHING BAND FINALS**

Bands who earn the top rating of "Superior" at any OMEA competition are eligible to participate in OMEA State Marching Band Finals in late October or early November. The Lancaster Band of Gold has qualified for OMEA State Marching Band Finals every year since 1981. On the calendar, there are several options listed for OMEA State Finals. Only one date will be chosen for Lancaster's performance, but it will not be decided until the band qualifies with a "Superior" rating at a local competition.

## **BAND OF GOLD INVITATIONAL**

Each September, the Lancaster Band Boosters host a competition of our own called "The Band of Gold Invitational." The Band of Gold performs as the host band at this event, meaning it can perform for a rating. Since it is the host, it will not compete directly with other bands. The Band Boosters need everyone's help on this day!

## **CONCERT BAND ADJUDICATED EVENTS**

In March, all of our LHS concert bands participate in OMEA District Adjudicated Event. An “Adjudicated Event” is similar to a “Contest,” except that bands do not compete directly with one another. Each band performs three pieces for a panel of three adjudicators, who will give the band a rating (I – Superior, II – Excellent, III – Good, IV – Fair, or V – Poor). After the performance, the band will go a separate room (off limits to the general public), where it does sight-reading. During this process, the band reads a new piece for the first time and another adjudicator will give a rating to the performance. The ratings of all four adjudicators are combined into an overall rating. Bands that earn the top rating of “Superior” are eligible to perform at OMEA State Adjudicated Event later in the spring.

OMEA Adjudicated Events for Concert Band are open to the public and are free of charge. Friends and family members should be reminded that photography and videos of any kind are strictly prohibited during OMEA performances. Failure to comply may result in the disqualification of the performing group.

## **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE**

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event is held on a Saturday during the winter (January or February). Musicians from many area schools will have the opportunity to perform a solo or in a small ensemble for a qualified adjudicator. The adjudicator will give written comments and an overall rating. Performances are scheduled throughout the entire day and are open to the public. Similar to concert band events, photography and videos of any kind are strictly prohibited.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

### **Stay informed and plan ahead.**

Band members and their families have busy schedules. Looking ahead on the calendar and preparing accordingly will prevent a lot of problems the day of an event. Band members will be told a lot of information at rehearsal, but most of this information can also be found on the band website, on social media, or will be sent through listserv.

### **Communication is key.**

To make sure students are successful and everyone is informed, the director must stay informed with what is going on. If there is something going on that may affect your student's behavior, work ethic, interpersonal interactions, or health, please don't hesitate to let a director know.

### **Your student is capable of incredible things... and we expect nothing less.**

Your son or daughter may not understand it yet, but he/she is capable of doing really amazing things in band. We take great pride in getting to know each student so that we can help them be their best. Because we respect each student so much, we refuse to accept less than their best!

### **Band directors are people too.**

But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids. If you have a question or concern about your child and the band program, please set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, the directors are probably not your best resource. Another parent will usually be able to help you with basic questions.

### **A band is only as strong as its weakest member.**

No one sits on the bench in band. As a result, all of our individual members rely upon every other member. We hold each member to a high standard in order to have a successful group. With that being said, assistance is always available for band members who need extra help or feel like they are struggling.

### **Yes, it's worth it!**

All of the rides back and forth, the time commitment, and financial obligations are really worth it! You may not understand it at first. Your child will probably get discouraged or frustrated from time to time. But by the end of the season, it all comes together. Being part of the Lancaster Band program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Appreciate the great lessons band teaches your child and take the time to enjoy all of these priceless moments.

**There's a method behind the madness.**

At first, you may only see mass chaos (or at least organized chaos) when observing band rehearsals or functions. With over a hundred students, it can often appear this way. There is a reason behind everything we do. You may not understand why things are done in certain ways, but they are almost always well-planned and deliberate. After a few years, you will understand much better.

**Many hands make light work.**

There are always things that the band needs help with. If you can help out in any way, please do so. We are fortunate to have great volunteers and you can join them.

**Greatness is a choice.**

Talent is overrated. If your son or daughter wants to be “great”, it can be done. Take band rehearsals seriously, take advantage of any extra opportunities that present themselves, and dedicate time to focused, individual practice time. Over the years we have found that band members improve and succeed because they are determined to do so. They are capable of doing so, and also capable to choose not to. It's up to them to decide their path.

**You will meet a lot of great people.**

Through the band program, you and your student will most likely meet people who will become your friends for life. Take advantage of opportunities to get to know the “band family” - fellow parents, students, boosters, and directors.

## ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS POLICIES

All absences and tardies must be reported to the directors in advance using the official “Band Absence Form” only. This form can be accessed on the band website. Parents must fill out the online form, thus acknowledging the absence, but it is the student’s responsibility to see that these forms are submitted promptly and filled out properly.

In the case of an emergency situation or sudden illness, please call the Music Office and leave a message at *740-681-7523*.

### REHEARSAL ABSENCES

Rehearsals are vital to the success of a performing group. In the event that there is a conflict with a rehearsal due to a family event or conflict with another activity, the band member will be considered excused if electronic notification is received **two weeks (14 days)** before that date. It is of the band’s best interest, as well as the student’s best interest, to plan these events around the rehearsal schedule when possible. Please note that excessive absences, regardless of the reason, may affect participation in the performing ensemble.

### IF PERFORMANCE IS WITHIN TWO WEEKS

100% attendance is required if a performance is within two weeks. The only valid excuses for missing these rehearsals are as follows: personal illness, a death in the family, or another extenuating circumstance as defined by the director.

### ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Attendance will be taken immediately at the start of rehearsal. Those who are not accounted for will be called, according to the phone numbers listed on the student information card. **Be sure to add the music office phone to your cell phone in case you find yourself running late.** Messages will be checked at the start of each rehearsal.

## **PERFORMANCE ABSENCES**

All members are required to attend all performances. The only valid excuses for missing performances are as follows: personal illness, or a death in the family. If an extenuating circumstance is in conflict with a performance, the director must be notified in writing no later than **two months (60 days)** prior to the performance. An example of an extenuating circumstance would be the wedding of a close relative at the exact time and date of a performance.

## **TARDINESS**

Students are expected to be on time and fully prepared for all rehearsals and performances at the specified report time. Students should allow an adequate amount of time to prepare their instrument, set up, and warm up prior to the specified time.

## **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES OR TARDIES**

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, the following: doctor and dentist appointments (non-emergency), lack of transportation, homework, studying, driving school, and work conflicts.

Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will result in one or more of the following:

1. Grade Deduction
2. Suspension from Future Performance(s)
3. Removal from Leadership Position
4. Dismissal from the Performing Group

## **ACADEMIC INTERVENTION**

High achievement is expected from all band members not only in band, but in other academic courses as well. Students who receive a grade of D or F on an interim report or grade card must notify the director immediately so that scheduling accommodations can be made to improve the grade.

## **RIDING HOME WITH PARENTS**

Band members are permitted to ride home with a parent or guardian after a performance. To do so, parents must submit a written request at least 24 hours prior to the event. Notification on the day of the trip cannot be accepted.

The student and parent must check out before leaving. There will be an assigned chaperone or staff member near the buses for this purpose. The buses will not depart until all students are accounted for.

## COMMUNICATION

It is the responsibility of each band member to be informed. All information crucial to successful participation in our program will be discussed in class.

The following means of communication are intended to give band members and their families additional ways to reference information.

	<u>How to Access</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<b>BAND WEBSITE</b>	www.LancasterBands.com	The band website is a great resource to reference information, forms, contact information, and other links.
<b>E-MAIL LIST (BLOG)</b>	Go to LancasterBands.com and enter your e-mail address at the bottom of the page to subscribe.	Information posted to the website will be e-mailed directly to you.
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	1) Lancaster Bands 2) Lancaster Band Boosters-Lancaster, Ohio	Content includes reminders and other helpful information for band members and supporters.
<b>TWITTER</b>	@LancasterBands	Messages posted on the Lancaster Bands Facebook page will be automatically posted on Twitter. Those interested may follow one or both and still receive the same information.
<b>INSTAGRAM</b>	LancasterBands	Used to showcase our band program through pictures and short videos.
<b>BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS</b>	First Monday of each month at 7:30pm Lancaster High School Band Room	Information discussed at Booster meetings includes upcoming fundraisers, events, and volunteer opportunities.
<b>GOOGLE CALENDAR</b>	LancasterBands	The official calendar for all band events. This is linked on the band site for easy access.
<b>YOUTUBE</b>	LancasterBands	Content posted will include Lancaster Band performances, recruitment videos, and other videos to assist students with their playing.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

The Band Boosters provide a wealth of information regarding many things. Often, instead of contacting the directors, members of the Band Boosters may be the best people to contact. Contact information for the Band Booster officers and committee chairs can be found on the band website.

Band Booster officers and committee chairs are the best people to contact regarding:

- Fundraisers
- Concessions
- Volunteering
- Uniforms
- Band Fees
- Student Accounts
- Financial Questions
- Banquets and Awards

## **DIRECTORS**

The best way to contact the directors is through e-mail. If this is not possible, you may call and leave a voicemail on the office phone 740-681-7523, but due to the directors' schedules, this method will usually take longer to get back to you.

### **Ben Factor**

*Director of Bands*

b\_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us

### **Jared Smith**

*Associate Director of Bands*

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### **Bruce Gerken**

*Director of Percussion*

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### **Cassandra Bull**

*Administrative Coordinator / Flute Instructor*

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### **Debbie Voight**

*Color Guard Instructor*

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