



A LGHS Music Boosters FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions about Marching Band and Color Guard

Do students really get PE credit for band and guard?

Yes! LGHS requires 2 years (4 semesters) of PE. The Fall semester of Marching/Symphonic Band counts as PE Credit. Physical conditioning is a large part of our Field Show preparation. If you are in band for 4 years, you will NEVER need to take a PE class. Color Guard receives PE credit for BOTH semesters.

What about Performing Arts credit?

LGHS requires 1 year of Performing Arts. The Spring semester of Marching/Symphonic Band counts for Performing Arts credit. Color Guard is PE Credit only.

What about the homework load? Can my student really do all this and still be a star student?

ABSOLUTELY. The discipline and overall striving for excellence are life skills that are well-shown to help music students in their Academic careers. More concretely, your students will become very efficient in the Fall season. They will simply have less time to waste, but grades in general do not drop. In fact, the anecdotal evidence from parents is that their students seem to do *better* in the Fall semester than they do in the Spring.

I hear that girls need to wear boxers?

Since the band students change on the bus in a coed situation, all girls in band must wear boxers and sports bras on competition day. Color Guard changes on their own bus and do not need to wear boxers because they would be too bulky under their jazz pants.

What else should I buy?

Black socks (3pr) for Band members. Color Guard purchases their own black jazz shoes and black jazz pants that they wear at rehearsals and, most likely, at competitions. Last year, however, Color Guard also purchased tan colored shoes to wear at competitions. The Guard instructors can let you know what brands they recommend and what you need to purchase.

Is Pep Band different from Marching Band?

In the fall, you will hear that the “Pep Band” will be performing at all home football games. The Pep Band is the same personnel as our Marching band—and, yes, it includes the Color Guard, too. The Pep Band uniform is: Band Jacket, Field Show T-shirt, Black pants (jazz pants for Guard), black socks, and black shoes. The Band Guard performs the National Anthem before the game and plays rock tunes in the stands during the game. During the first half, the Color Guard sells 50/50 Raffle tickets. Everyone gets 3rd quarter off for a food and social break.

Do the Band Parents sit together at Football games?

Yes! You’ll find us on the north side of the band, near the 50 yard line. Wear your Orange Booster shirt and Pit Pop hat in order to fit in with the Music Boosters and the rest of the Los Gatos crowd. Enjoy a baked potato and chili to support the Music program! When the band gets up to leave during



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the 4th quarter, we help roll up and bag their chair pads and return them to the band room.

Does Band and Guard meet as a class during the school day?

Yes, this year Brass/Woodwinds and Colorguard meet during 4th period; Percussion meets 6th period. In 2010-2011, the schedule will probably be similar.

What happens after Field Show season?

The musicians in the Band continue on as Concert Band in the Winter and Spring, improving their overall musical skills. Most of Color Guard enrolls in 2nd semester Color Guard and attends evening rehearsals with their coach in addition to class time to work on their Winter Guard routine and skills.

Percussion Ensemble and Woodwind/Brass work on Symphonic and Ensemble pieces during their class time. There is an additional activity fee for Winter Guard and Percussion Ensemble. In non-International tour years, the Jazz band may travel to the Reno Jazz Festival. Some students participate in Winter or Spring sports.

Is there time for lessons in the Fall months during Field Show season?

Absolutely. If you can continue music lessons during the Fall season, you absolutely should.

What about Honor Bands?

Honor bands are audition groups which students apply to separately for performance in the Winter and early Spring. Auditions are generally held in late November and early December. As the name indicates, acceptance into an Honor Band is an honor, and speaks to an exceptional level of musical achievement.

Information for the Santa Clara County Band Directors Association auditions can be found at <http://sccbda.org/>.

California Band Directors Association (CBDA) All-State Honor Band information is at <http://www.cbda.org/>

Is there an extra charge for WinterGuard or Winter Percussion?

Yes, these are Winter Activities and a separate participation fee is charged. The fees that you are paying now are related to this packet

What and when is “Leadership Camp”?

Leadership Camp is for selected Sophomore, Junior, and Seniors and will be held on Monday and Tuesday, August 16th and 17th from 9a-12noon. The student leaders will help Mr. Marra and the drum major(s) organize the activities for Band Camp.

What is your website and how do I use it?

Our website is <http://www.lghsmusic.net/>. You do not need to have a User Name or Password to access much of the information on our website or to volunteer using our on-line volunteer software. However, there may be non-public information, such as budget updates, which are only available to registered members. For this reason, we recommend you create an account on lghsmusic.net.



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How do I volunteer?

Go to our website <http://www.lghsmusic.net/>
Go to the “Volunteering” tab for instructions.

Band Camp: My student has medications s/he needs to take. How are those handled?

The kids are handling their own meds. At this age, they are much more responsible at taking their inhalers or pills than the parents that we assign to remind them.

Marching Band: Does my student need ear protection?

It is not a requirement. Our best information is that decibel levels for outdoor performances are generally acceptable. However, depending on where your student is in the drill, and what they are playing, they (and you) may want to avail yourselves of ear protection. This year we are offering Etymotics ear protection for those students who wish to take advantage of them. These ear guards have been recommended by professional musicians as well as former high school students and rockers. They are as useful at concerts as they are in marching competitions.

General: Can the kids contribute towards the volunteer credit themselves?

Under some circumstances, yes. If the event is a Community activity, such as our own Crabfest, then the kids in general get community service hours (which count towards extra accolades in the High School), but not Booster volunteer credit hours.

General: Evening Practices are scheduled until 8:00. When should I expect to pick up my student?

Oddly enough, not at 8:00 sharp :) The practices generally end at 8:00 *on the field*. After that, the kids head up to the band room, assisting the students who have equipment to return (Pit, percussion, flags, etc). Depending on your student's level of (a) assistance (b) sociability (c) exhaustion, you may expect to pick him or her up at any time between 8:01 and 8:20 or so. You should set out your expectations with your student. Cell phones are very useful in this instance.

General: Am I allowed to park along the curb at High School Court?

NO. It is a fire hazard. We have had fire trucks not be able to get through. Don't park there!

What if I still have questions?

Every new family is paired with a more experienced “Booster Buddy” who will check in with you from time to time. Of course, you can always contact our leadership team. Our contact information is available on the website as well as in the leadership roster.