



Lake Ridge High School Band

“Using Music and Excellence to Teach Success in Life”

Lake Ridge High School Band families,

We are very excited to have you in the Lake Ridge High School Band Program. The Lake Ridge Band is one of the premier organizations at Lake Ridge High School. In just seven years, students such as you have helped build the reputation of this band as one of the elite band programs in the area and the state. In addition to a great music education, students in band learn the following: time management, communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving, responsibility, respect, leadership, teamwork, and pride. As one of the largest organizations on campus, the band is a great social and academic support group. Consequently, if there is anything a student needs, a fellow band member will always be close by to help at any point throughout the day. The information in this letter should help answer many questions. However, if there is the slightest question on any issue, please feel free to contact any of the high school band directors via email or telephone. We are looking forward to the addition of another great freshman class to our already talented and hard working upperclassmen.

What activities are involved in the Lake Ridge Band program?

The following fall under the umbrella of the Lake Ridge Band: Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Colorguard, Winterguard, Front Ensemble/Pit, Battery/Drumline, and Jazz Band.

When can I check out a school-owned marching instrument, and when do I pay the instrument usage fee?

The following school-owned marching instruments will be available to be issued to both new and returning members during the Incoming Freshman Brass and Woodwind Marching Band Camp on May 20th and 21st: Marching Piccolo, Marching Bass Clarinet, Marching Tenor Saxophone, Marching Baritone Saxophone, Marching French Horn, Marching Baritone, and Sousaphone. Please note that these are the only types of marching instruments that are available for issue to students from Lake Ridge High School.

Instrument usage fees for school-owned instruments will be collected at our band student registration day on Saturday, August 3rd (see attached preliminary marching camp schedule). This fee only applies to those students using a school-owned instrument. Only one instrument usage fee will be charged regardless of how many school-owned instruments are actually used by the student.

When can I check out a school-owned concert instrument, and when do I pay the instrument usage fee?

The only time of year that our concert instruments are not in use, and we can send them to the repair shops for their yearly maintenance and cleaning is during the months of June and July. Once they return from the repair shops, the following school-owned concert instruments will be available to be issued to both new and returning members: Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Concert Bass Clarinet, Concert Tenor Saxophone, Concert Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba. If you are in need of a concert instrument for summer private lessons or for a summer music camp, please contact Mr. Bonebrake via email at bradleybonebrake@misdmil.org. Once the instruments return from the repair shops, an instrument pick-up schedule will be communicated to everyone via email and Facebook post.

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Are all students who sign up for band involved in Marching Band?

Yes. One of the first activities with which you will be involved is the marching band. The Eagle Marching Band consists of **all** students enrolled in the band program regardless of the concert band class in which they are placed. This year, there are fifteen days of mandatory marching band camp for all students who will be a member of the band at Lake Ridge (see preliminary marching camp schedule). At this camp, we will teach the students a multitude of essential musical and physical/marching fundamental techniques and exercises critical for their success during marching season and throughout the entire school year. We will also teach the students the vast majority of the football game stands music, drill team performance music, and UIL competition show music. Those not in regular attendance during the mandatory marching band camp will be at a significant disadvantage to those students who are in regular attendance and may not be able to initially earn a marching position of their own within the UIL marching competition show.

Are pre-performance physical exams and medical history forms required of all students within the marching band?

Yes. A new UIL rule taking effect on August 1st, 2019 requires that all students receive a pre-performance physical exam and complete a medical history form prior to involvement within the marching band activity. For more information on this policy and how/when physical exams will be required for students throughout their involvement within the marching band activity, please see the following link:

http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/Marching_Band_Physical_Exam_FAQ.pdf

How are students evaluated during marching band camp?

Between July 29th and July 31st each student will be evaluated in both outside marching rehearsals and inside music rehearsals on pre-assigned material. The evaluation material will include specific marching technique exercises introduced at the Colorguard Training and Incoming Freshman Brass and Woodwind Marching Camps held in May 2019 (see Upcoming Important Dates to Plan Around calendar). The evaluation material may also include memorized performance of the LRHS Alma Mater, LRHS Fight Song, and the first segment of our 2019 UIL competition show music which will be distributed to the students in May or June 2019 upon its arrival. The students will be evaluated on attendance, punctuality, daily preparedness, daily improvement, technique, musicality, and attitude.

What will the evaluations determine?

All students will receive the same instruction and training while being evaluated. The outcome of the evaluation will culminate in the following results and student roles:

1. Placement within the Varsity Marching Band with their own UIL competition drill coordinate position
2. Placement within the Varsity Marching Band sharing a UIL competition drill coordinate position with another student of like-skill level
3. Placement within the Non-Varsity Marching Band without a UIL competition drill coordinate position

How will each student perform within the Marching Band at football games and marching competitions?

Students who earn a position within the Varsity Marching Band with their own UIL competition drill coordinate position will:

1. perform in the stands throughout the game at all Varsity football games
2. perform for the drill team performance at halftime of all Varsity football games
3. perform the UIL competition show at halftime of all Varsity football games
4. perform the UIL competition show at marching competitions in September, October, and November
5. perform the spirit show at halftime of all Varsity football playoff games
6. perform the spirit show at pregame of all Varsity football games (upon administrative approval)

Students who earn a position within the Varsity Marching Band sharing a UIL competition drill coordinate position with another student of like-skill level will:

1. perform in the stands throughout the game at all Varsity football games
2. perform for the drill team performance at halftime of all Varsity football games
3. challenge weekly to perform the UIL competition show at halftime of all Varsity football games
4. challenge weekly to perform the UIL competition show at marching competitions in September, October, and November
5. perform the spirit show at halftime of all Varsity football playoff games
6. perform the spirit show at pregame of all Varsity football games (upon administrative approval)

Students who earn a position within the Non-Varsity Marching Band without a UIL competition drill coordinate position will:

1. perform in the stands throughout the game at all Varsity football games
2. perform for the drill team performance at halftime of all Varsity football games
3. perform the spirit show at halftime of all Varsity football playoff games
4. perform the spirit show at pregame of all Varsity football games (upon administrative approval)

How do weekly marching challenge evaluations work?

Those students who earn a position within the Varsity Marching Band sharing a UIL competition drill coordinate with another student of like-skill level will learn the same marching coordinate position throughout each rehearsal and will be evaluated each week. Typically, this evaluation takes place during the final rehearsal of the week prior to a performance. Students who are sharing the same UIL competition drill coordinate position will challenge each other throughout the duration of the rehearsal by swapping in and out on each repetition of the same marching sequence with one student marching the coordinate each time. This gives each student equal opportunity to perform during rehearsal and the directors an opportunity to equally evaluate each student on the same material. Results of marching challenges are typically posted an hour or so prior to the subsequent performance uniform inspection.

Does my child have to be academically eligible to perform with the Marching Band?

Yes. Academic eligibility is required of all students in order to participate and/or perform with the marching band at events such as, but not limited to, football games, marching contests, parades, and pep rallies. Academic eligibility does not apply to rehearsals.

Once school begins, when does the Varsity Marching Band rehearse the UIL competition show?

The Marching Band meets as a full group after school and is limited to eight hours of regular rehearsal each week outside of the regular school day. The weekly Marching Band rehearsal schedule is set for Monday & Tuesday from 3:45pm-6:15pm and Thursday from 3:45pm-6:45pm, leaving Wednesdays free for extended tutorials, appointments, club activities, church obligations, and any other family related events. The exception to this will be on weeks when Monday is a school holiday, unforeseen weather related issues interrupt rehearsal, or there is a Thursday night Varsity football game. In cases such as those, the Marching Band will rehearse on Wednesday from 3:45pm-6:15pm. As mentioned, Wednesdays are generally free of Marching Band rehearsal with the expectation that any and all appointments, club activities, church obligations, and any other family related events be scheduled on that afternoon and not on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. If, by MISD heat policy, the afternoon temperature warrants the need to move the starting time of rehearsal to a later time, an adjusted rehearsal schedule will be created and clearly communicated in a timely manner to all students and families.

When does the Non-Varsity Marching Band rehearse?

Those students earning a position within the Non-Varsity Marching Band without a UIL competition drill coordinate position will rehearse with the members of the Varsity Marching Band on Thursday afternoons only from 3:45pm to approximately 5:00pm. The exception to this will be on weeks when there is a Thursday night Varsity football game. In that case the members of the Non-Varsity Marching Band will rehearse with the members of the Varsity Marching Band on Wednesday afternoon from 3:45pm to approximately 5:00pm.

What are the required performances and events for the Varsity Marching Band?

Members of the Varsity Marching Band are required to participate with the band at all regular season and playoff Varsity football games, marching contests, parades, and pep rallies; academic eligibility status not with standing.

What are the required performances and events for the Non-Varsity Marching Band?

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What are the financial obligations for band?

Included with this letter is a list of fees and supplies that each student will need for band. This list will explain each student's financial obligation, and also what the school district and band boosters contribute. Fees are due and will be collected at our band student registration day on Saturday, August 3rd (see attached preliminary marching camp schedule). Our stance on music education has always been, and will continue to be, that we do not want any student to be unable to participate due to financial issues. We will work with any student and parent in a discrete manner to help in any way possible. However, band fee payment is expected on Saturday, August 3rd.

What are the Lake Ridge Eagle Band Boosters?

The Band Booster organization is a vital element of the band program at Lake Ridge High School invested and committed to all students in the Lake Ridge Band. The Band Boosters conduct fundraising activities and provide numerous support services for the band. The success of our band is highly dependent on dedicated and active band booster parents. All parents are invited and encouraged to be a part of the booster program. Please be involved with your child by becoming an active member of the band boosters.

Is there a meeting coming up?

Yes. There is an important meeting for all incoming freshman band parents on **Monday, May 20th** at 7:00pm in the Lake Ridge High School Band Hall. Important information regarding everything you need to know to get started in the Lake Ridge Band will be discussed at this meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

Other questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email with questions. See you all on **May 20th** at 7:00pm!

Sincerely,

Brad Bonebrake
Director of Bands
Lake Ridge High School Band
Mansfield ISD
bradleybonebrake@misdmail.org