**LHS Instrumental Music Department**

***Lion’s Pride* Marching Band**

**Director and Senior Band Staff:**

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* Sara McDougall Color Guard Instructor (Lead) sara\_mcd@comcast.net
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**History:**

Liberty has a longstanding tradition of excellence and is regarded as one of the finest competitive units in MD modeling marching style, technique and the latest music trends after leading drum corps units nationwide. Liberty has been an active member of Tournament of Bands (TOB) for over 35 years, winning 28 Chapter Championship flags with specialty awards for best music, marching, percussion, color guard and drum major and three first place Atlantic Coast Championship wins. The band is currently ranked second in the TOB Atlantic Coast Conference for Group III size band and is the highest scoring Maryland band in the history of the organization with a score of 98.00.

Group size/division is determined by the number of participating musicians (only) on the field, from Group I (less than 30 musicians) to Group IV (more than 70). The size of a band does not determine their greatness- small bands can pack a powerful punch and be more precise and rigorous than larger groups. It’s all in the design and execution of the show as well as the dedication and collaboration of students, staff and parents. Nowadays, competitive marching shows are massive productions that contain powerful music selections of a diverse and varied repertoire with highly stylized visual components complete with theatrical-like costuming, props and sets. TOB is known for the high level of rigor, demand and pursuit of excellence placed on students.

**Summer Band Camp:**

Summer Band Camp is a necessary and mandatory part of Marching Band. Three uninterrupted weeks are needed to “field” our show prior to the start of school. This time is valuable as students will learn the entire 7+ minute show with all music, routine, and drill memorized, with the ability to perform their work for the parent’s preview on Friday, August 22, 2025.

With the understanding that freshman families may not be familiar with our band camp policies, students unable to avoid absences due to vacation plans or prior commitments (within reason) will be allowed to participate at the discretion of the Director on an individual basis. Since this situation is not ideal for new learners it is requested that families make every effort to work vacation plans around band camp. Reasoning: Competitive marching band is a team sport that does not “bench” students or have understudies. All students have an active role in our show at all times with absenteeism affecting the entire group’s ability to move forward together.

Band Camp operates on a broken schedule to allow students relief from the heat with time for rest and relaxation between rehearsals. Please note the differences in the Color Guard schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1:** | **8/4- 8/8**  | **Horn Line & Battery****M/W/F, 9-4 pm****T/Thurs, 9-12 noon; 6-9 pm** | **Color Guard & Front Ensemble** **M-Thurs., 9-12 noon and 6-9 pm****Friday, 9-4 pm** |
| **Week 2:** | **8/11- 8/15**  | **M/W/F, 9-4 pm****T/Thurs, 9-12 noon; 6-9 pm** | **M-Thurs., 9-12 noon and 6-9 pm****Friday, 9-4 pm** |
| **Week 3:** | **8/18- 8/22**  | **M/W, 9-4 pm****T/Thurs, 9-12 noon; 6-9 pm****Friday, 9-9 pm\*** | **M- Thurs., 9-12 noon and 6-9 pm****Friday, 9-9 pm\*****Front Ensemble follows Horn Line and Battery Schedule Week 3\*\*** |

**Parent’s Tailgate & Preview Show August 22nd at 5 pm (students stay on campus) \***

**When preparing for band camp, remember to bring:**

1. Instrument, music, 3-ring binder (music), page protectors, “dot book”, writing utensil, and other necessary materials.
2. Plenty of water, healthy snacks and a bagged lunch (MWF).
3. Sunblock, hat, sunglasses and light, reflective clothing.
4. Lace-up tennis shoes (only); no flip-flops.

**Summer Band Camp Absences:**

All Summer Band Camp absences must be reported and approved by Ms. Jason no later than Monday, June 2nd. It is requested that all necessary/unavoidable Summer Band Camp absences be included on the registration contract form when submitted.

**Pre-Summer Band Camp FULL BAND Rehearsals:**

The following full band rehearsal dates have been scheduled in June and July: Wednesday, June 11, 6-9 pm; Wednesday, July 9, 6-9 pm; Wednesday, July 23, 6-9 pm. Students who are in town and available are EXPECTED to attend.

**Weekday Rehearsals (after Summer Band Camp/First Day of School Onwards):**

1. Full band rehearsals (everyone) are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm.
2. Horn Line (winds) sectionals are Wednesdays from 2:30-5 pm.
3. Percussion sectionals are Wednesdays from 6-9 pm.
4. Color Guard sectionals are Mondays from 6-9 pm.
5. Rehearsals are “set” on the calendar and ***rarely*** change. We enjoy an established rehearsal schedule as to respect the time, schedules and outside commitments of our students, parents and staff.

**Rehearsal Absence Policy:**

(5) Excused/Unexcused Absences (illness, emergency, prior family commitment, etc.)

* A weekday absence *may* result in removal from a scheduled performance if new material is not learned to a satisfactory level, or if failure to execute new material causes a safety concern on the field.
* Missed work is the responsibility of the student.

(1) Excused Performance (***extremely rare*** and a “last resort” for students with obligations)

* All known absences are to be communicated to Ms. Jason (at least) two weeks in advance. Performance absences are to be reported by June 2, 2025.
* Immediate absences resulting in illness, emergency, etc. are to be communicated by parent email or phone call to Ms. Jason (first) and any other supervising staff member prior to rehearsal.
* Ms. Jason does not accept “text message” or “phone calls” to friends as prior notice of missing rehearsal. Absenteeism must be communicated by a parent or legal guardian.

**Tardy Policy:**

Simply put, students late to rehearsal will be expected to make-up lost time for the inconvenience put upon the team. Tardiness is not tolerated. To arrive on time is to be late, to arrive 15 minutes before rehearsal is to be on time.

Students must attend school on time to actively participate in any after school activity- CCPS policy. Students who are late to school are expected to report to rehearsal but are on “restricted” participation/observation. Since we do not “bench” students it is expected that students will maintain a 2.0 GPA (with no F’s), establish a good homework/academic schedule, be well rested, healthy and alert, and report to school on time as not to compromise the efficiency of the team.

**Competitions:**

Competitions are on Saturdays (or Sunday for Atlantic Coast Championships). We typically hold a morning rehearsal from 9-12 noon, break for lunch, resume rehearsal from 1-3 pm, and then begin to load equipment and buses for the competition. Competitions are in the evenings and can be local or within 2 hours drive. We typically leave LHS at 3:30 pm and return by midnight. Students find competitions to be the highlight of the marching band experience as they are extremely fun, a creative outlet, and build team spirit and morale. Bus rides are always a “hoot” and students find competition hosts to be very accommodating with food and souvenirs. We encourage family and friends to follow the buses or carpool. Parent support is needed for “pit crew”, uniforms, chaperones and other volunteer positions. When students join marching band we typically find that their parents and siblings do, too ☺

**Transportation:**

All bus transportation and equipment trucks are provided by Johnson’s Bus Service in Westminster, MD. We have a close relationship with our drivers as they’ve been with us for years. Students must ride the transportation provided- CCPS policy.

**Equipment Rental:**

The following students will need to rent equipment or instruments for $75 Color Guard and $100 all Percussion, Marching Brass, rented Woodwinds (flutes, clarinets, alto sax, tenor sax).

All students are expected to respect LHS owned equipment and treat it as their own. Students are directly responsible for any damage or unnecessary wear on the instrument/equipment while in their care.