



Leonardtwn High School Raider Band FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions by Band Parents

If this is your first year as a band parent you may have some questions regarding expenses, time required, personal involvement and many other areas concerning a Band Booster Organization. This collection of frequently asked questions may help you understand what our Band Booster organization and Mr. Martin would like for you to know as you and your child get involved in this activity.

How will my child have time for all of this and still be able to make good grades?

TIME MANAGEMENT will be the most important tool that your child will acquire when becoming part of the Raider Band. Your child will quickly learn to use every minute of the day wisely, how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to set priorities.

Before the week begins, Mr. Martin sends home an email detailing the next week's schedule.

For Symphonic/Concert/Jazz/Wind Ensemble Students: During the first weeks of school, Mr. Martin will send home a schedule to all band students listing rehearsals and concerts.

For Marching Band Students: During the first weeks of band camp, Mr. Martin will distribute a schedule to all band students. It will list every rehearsal, football game, and competition your child will be required to attend for the next three months.

You can also view this schedule on the band's website www.leonardtwnband.org. This schedule will now become a permanent attachment to your refrigerator.

Why is there a Band Booster organization and why should I participate?

The primary reason for the booster organization is to support your children. The Booster organization accrues enough income to cover the needs of the band such as music, Choreography, Equipment/Props, Costumes/Makeup, Flags, Uniform Maintenance, First Aid Kit, Certificates/Plaques, Senior flowers/Gifts, etc. The Boosters help Mr. Martin with the following band programs: Spring Play, Pep Band, Spring Concert, Football Games, Tri-County, Spring Festival (District IV Assessment), Homecoming Bonfire, End-of-the-Year Banquet, Winter Concert, Senior Night, Special Olympics, All County, Solo/Ensemble, Parades, and Marching Band competitions. The music, showmanship, spectacle and pageantry of the marching band experience are also reasons that you may want to participate as a band booster. But first and foremost, this is for your child and his/her classmates.

What can I do?

There are many ways that you be active as a booster. One of the most important things you can do is to attend booster meetings. These meetings are where you should ask questions and voice your concerns and ideas about the organization's activities. This is where decisions are made and information is given. Additional ways to help are to volunteer to chaperone, participate in fundraisers, assist with band camp, or work on the "Pit Crew" (The group of individuals who help transport instruments and props for football games and competitions.).

I am new, do you really need me?

Yes, every person is needed! Often, a small group of members does most of the work and gets burnt out quickly. Regardless of your occupation or area of expertise there are many opportunities to help the band program. The following is a short list of professions that would be



great assets to our band program: Accountants, Nurses, Seamstresses, Welders, Electricians, Sound Technicians, Website Designers, Carpenters, Truck Drivers, Metal Workers, Machinists.

As a new band parent, get involved right away; it's the best way to learn about the program.

Why do we have fundraisers?

Tens of thousands of dollars are spent each season on band programs. Some programs will spend over \$100,000 each year for their program. In most cases, the band boosters must generate this money. Several events must take place to raise the needed funds. Some of the expenses that a band may incur are: Uniforms, uniform cleaning, fuel, busses, bus drivers, food, drill design, music arrangements, band staff, band camp and school instrument repair. The band fee covers only a small portion of all the expenses that the band must pay during the year.

What if my kid is not in marching band?

There are several opportunities to assist the Band Director and the Band Boosters, from helping with uniform fittings for concert & symphonic Band to the Band Banquet at the end of the year.

***Marching Band Question: What happens the day of the Competition?**

Expect the day to be a busy one. Make sure your child is at school at the appointed time. Mr. Martin will email an agenda for each competition detailing school arrival time, rehearsal time, competition arrival time, competition performance time and estimated post-performance departure and arrival times. It is important that your child arrives on time to ensure a smooth practice and start to the competition day.

When the band travels to a competition, please remind your child to bring the necessary items they need, such as a change of clothes/shoes, reeds, mallets/drumsticks, valve oil, socks, etc. Their instruments are usually left at school, but if your child brings his/her instrument home, please remind them to bring it back to school. Pillows and blankets are useful on long distance trips. Students usually bring along some kind of snacks to eat along the way. Give them spending money should Mr. Martin decide along the way to stop for a snack, and to purchase food for themselves at the competitions.

Most important give them a hug and a kiss, tell them to do their best and have fun!

***Marching Band Question: Do you have any suggestions about watching the bands?**

You should try to arrive at least one hour before the band is to perform. There is a fee to enter the stadium as a spectator. (To avoid the fee, you could chaperone ☺). A great incentive for students to perform better is to have a responsive crowd in the stands. Consider purchasing a program which includes a list of the day's events and the bands competing that day. Proceeds from each competition are used by the host school band to fund their activities during their season. Check out the booths, food, and refreshment areas before finding a seat in the stands. This will avoid you having to crawl over people once the competition begins. Please be considerate of other bands by showing your support at the end of their performance. They have worked hard to prepare their show and appreciate your support. Whether your band receives what you view as a good or bad score by the judges, please be considerate of all the bands.