

LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

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Frequently Asked Questions

What types of groups are available for me to participate in at Lancaster High School?

There are a lot of opportunities for the current junior high musicians to participate in at Lancaster High School. Ensembles that are part of the curriculum are Freshman Band, and Marching Band. Extracurricular opportunities that exist are Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Pep Band. Freshman band members also have the opportunity to participate in high school solo and ensemble contest. Students participating in extracurricular ensembles must be a member of Freshman Band, which is a class that meets during the school day.

I'm not sure if I'm really a "band person." Maybe high school band isn't for me?

Band is a really diverse group. There's not really one "type" in band. Some love band and enjoy being part of everything they can. Some have other interests and only play during the day in Freshman Band.

Do I have to audition to be a member of any of the high school ensembles?

It depends on the group. To sign up for band class (Freshman Band), you must have the recommendation of your 8th Grade Band director. Percussionists will need to audition for marching band and percussion ensemble. Pep Band and Jazz Band are open to all band members.

I'm not really the best at my instrument. Does this change in high school?

High school band provides lots of ways to get better. There are numerous band members who come into high school lacking confidence in their playing ability. Within the first few months, a lot of band members begin gaining confidence, practicing more, and really enjoying band like they've never done before.

What is Freshman Band?

Freshman Band is a Concert Band made up of all 9th grade students, similar to 7th grade band or 8th grade band. The difference is simply the difficulty of music chosen for each. All 9th Grade band members are placed in Freshman Band.

Do I have to be in the Marching Band?

The band directors are committed to giving every student the best experience possible at Lancaster High School. Usually this involves being in Marching Band. If you are unsure about marching band, its expectations, or its time-commitment, talk to one of the directors. If participation in another activity, health concerns, or another reason may prevent you from being successful in marching band, we can work that out with you on a case-by-case basis.

How much credit do I earn towards graduation from being in the band?

The State of Ohio requires all graduating high school students to have an arts credit. All band students earn 1 credit, each year, for their participation in band. Marching Band members earn an additional 1/4 credit. Marching Band can also count towards your PE credit. Students who are in Marching Band for two seasons can have your one PE class requirement waived.

How often does the marching band practice?

The marching band rehearses 3-4 days a week in the afternoons or evenings. An exact schedule will be available in the spring.

Do I have to go to band camp?

Yes, if you are going to be a member of the Band of Gold. This year, Band Camp will be held July 28-August 2, 2019 at the University of Rio Grande University.

Do I have to pay to go to band camp?

Yes. Fundraising opportunities will be presented to students to help offset some or all of the cost of band camp. Be sure to sign up for e-mail updates on the band web site if you want to be informed of upcoming opportunities.

Why should I be in the marching band?

MARCHING BAND IS FUN! Yes, there is hard work needed to make this ensemble successful, however the reward of playing for a lot of people and being in the public eye frequently. The Band of Gold has a long tradition of top ratings and rankings at marching band contests, has traveled all over the State of Ohio, has a tradition of performing at Disney World, the National Independence Day Parade, and has earned the right to perform at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals every year since 1981. In addition, the overwhelming majority of students in the marching band often comment on how their transition to high school was easier by being a part of this group. Freshmen in this group will have an early and instant attachment to a high school group with a family type atmosphere. Freshmen also have access to upperclassman with answers to questions that freshmen typically have prior to school starting. Furthermore, band kids have a lot of fun at the football games, marching to cadences in parades, on bus trips, at band camp, and performing.

Are there any other fees for band?

Yes, there are other smaller fees, such as a uniform fee. Again, fundraising opportunities will be given to students to help offset costs of fees. The Lancaster Band Boosters are willing to work with families that may have financial difficulties.

Do I have to memorize music in marching band?

Yes. The first several weeks of practice are geared towards learning techniques to memorize music. We typically work on music for several weeks before it needs to be memorized completely. Upperclassmen are very quick to spend extra time with new members that need help with this.

Will band and extra practices adversely affect my grades?

Whether you are in extracurricular activities, or not, good grades are dependent upon work ethic and time management. If you are conscientious and organized, band, or any other activity, will not adversely affect your grades. If you are not conscientious and organized, grades will be a problem even without extra activities! The band's schedule has been carefully developed to work with the school's academic demands. In fact, most of the school's top scholars are in band.

I hear the Marching Band takes big trips. When will this occur?

The Band of Gold is traveling to Disney World in Orlando, Florida in December 2019. We usually take a big trip every three or four years.

I am afraid of the high school students!

The high school band students want you in the high school band! They frequently ask about you and how many freshmen are coming. The band program at the high school is so successful that when the seniors graduate, and the current freshman, sophomores, and juniors move up, they want to know that the success is going to continue. This is YOU! They want YOU there and will do anything to make YOU feel as comfortable as possible as quickly as possible.

What is Pep Band?

Pep Band is the athletic band that performs at the basketball games. The Pep Band typically plays pop music and school songs to entertain the spectators at the LHS home basketball games. Students must be a member of a Concert Band to be part of this group.

What is the Jazz Band?

The "Swinging Gales" Jazz Band starts rehearsing in November and has several performances during the school year. The band rehearses and performs a variety of styles in popular and jazz genres.

What is Percussion Ensemble?

Percussion Ensemble is a select group that rehearses in the afternoons, after school, for a couple hours three to four times per week. This group performs several times from the start of rehearsals in the late fall through the end of the school year. This group is extracurricular. You must be a member of a Concert Band (*like Freshman Band*) to be a member of this group. You must also successfully pass an audition that is held in the spring of each school year.

What is Color Guard?

The Color Guard complements the woodwind, brass, and percussion with the use of flags, equipment, and dance maneuvers. Musical background is recommended, but not required. Clinics and try outs are held in the spring. Guard members are part of the marching band and attend all marching band rehearsals and performances. Current band members are encouraged to talk to your non-band friends about trying out for guard!

How do I sign up for High School Band?

When you schedule for high school classes, be sure to include “*Freshman Band*” on your schedule. Also, parents must attend the *Required Parent Meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:00pm in the High School Cafeteria*. All items should be done promptly to secure your spot in this great group!

What if I am still not sure?

Since it is new and unfamiliar, all incoming freshmen feel somewhat unsure about high school band. This is normal. You owe it to yourself to talk to some current high school band members and find out what it is all about. There are countless individuals that will always regret not trying band in high school, but very few who ever regret doing it. Please schedule a time to talk with any director or a high school band member. They will be able to answer many questions that you might have.

Do not hesitate to contact a director with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to your continued success as part of the Lancaster High School Band!

For more information, visit our website:

LancasterBands.com