

Frequently asked questions from freshmen and freshman parents:

**Q: Is marching band all year?**

A: No, the competitive season ends in early November with 2 parades to follow.

**Q: Can I do sports, or other activities, and band at the same time?**

A: The answer is yes. We have many students that are involved in sports, debate team, track, drama, etc. The better you manage your time the more successful you will be. The band and athletic programs need to know WELL IN ADVANCE of conflicts. There is room for Academics, Athletics, and Music.

**Q: What is band camp?**

A: Band camp is our equivalent to sport's double days. This is a concentrated 2 weeks of rehearsal where students learn the music, choreography, and drill formations for the fall marching band show. The first two days is for new members and leadership. This gives upcoming freshmen and students moving to LNHS a chance to get up to speed and comfortable with marching before full camp. Days 3-5 of the first week will be full band music rehearsal. The second week is full band camp for the entire band. These 2 weeks allows for more rehearsal time than we have during the rest of the fall season. At the end of band camp, we perform for the parents at our annual Band Cookout.

**Q: If I can't make band camp can I still participate?**

A: Yes. Like sports, we carry several "second string performers" called alternates. Although these students do not have a "starting spot," they still get to rehearse and travel with the band. If a "starter" gets hurt, or is otherwise unable to perform, these alternates are used to fill in for the missing member.

**Q: Does the band travel?**

A: Yes. Although we do not take a big trip every year, we will perform throughout North Carolina and the Southeast during the fall season.

**Q: Are there fees involved with band?**

A: Yes. We have a band camp fee which helps to defer the cost of our program. We offer many fund raisers to families so that part, or all, of this fee can be earned without any out of pocket expense. This year's fee will be \$150.00 (not including personal items like shoes, windsuit, etc.). This fee allows the Wildcat Band Booster Association to cover music arrangements, choreography, drill, camp staff, uniform cleaning, gloves, and member shirt.

**Q: What is a band account and what is it used for?**

A: The band account is a student account that is held by the band boosters and used for any band related expenses. Members may choose to take out the cost of camp fees, trips, or other approved band related expenses. Many students fund raise year 'round so that they always have money available for their needs.

**Q: What kind of fund raising is available?**

**A:** We offer numerous opportunities for students and families to fund raise from candy sales, butter-braids, and a really cool gift card program. **Let us know if you may want to begin participating in fundraisers now to start building towards your camp and show fee!**

**Q: Can I letter in band or color guard?**

**A:** A student can earn a band or color guard letter after 1 year of participation in the marching band. The letter itself is exactly the same as the letter received by athletes. There are also other awards and citations that students can earn based upon their participation in our other performance ensembles.

**Q: Will my grades suffer from doing band? Will I have time to study?**

**A:** **FACT:** When you dedicate your time to your studies and also to your band activities, your grades are usually higher. There is far less time to procrastinate during marching season. **Marching students receive 1/2 credit for each year that he/she marches. (4 years in marching band=2 additional high school credits.)**

**Q: Why does the band rehearse so much? Will I have time to be with my friends and family?**

**A:** The band actually spends far less time rehearsing in school (class) and after, than the sports teams practice after school alone. We strive for excellence, and being the best at what we do takes time. The schedule is designed to not take all of your time, but attendance at all functions is expected.

I hope that these questions and answers have been helpful- you will understand all of the time and hard work the very first time you perform in front of a large crowd for a game or competition. There is nothing better!