

LAKE MARY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

David Norona, Director of Bands

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COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY INCOMING FRESHMAN AND THEIR PARENTS

- 1. Am I good enough to be in high school band?** Yes! Your attitude and effort matter far more than anything else. Students with as little as one year of playing experience can be successful in high school band if they work hard at it.
- 2. Do all band students get to be in marching band?** Yes! Regardless of which concert instrument you play, there is a place for you in the world traveled, "The Pride of Lake Mary" Marching Rams. Some concert instruments (oboe, bassoon, etc.) are not utilized in marching bands for multiple reasons. Students who principally play those instruments can play a secondary instrument for marching band. Those that do not wish to learn a secondary wind instrument can participate in the front percussion ensemble (sometimes referred to as "The Pit").
- 3. Do I have to audition to be in band?** Yes. There will be an audition for your placement in one of the concert bands. Placement in a concert band automatically establishes your membership in the Marching Rams.
- 4. Do I have to take private lessons to be in band in high school?** Private lessons are not mandatory but are HIGHLY recommended. There is no quicker way to improve your performing ability than one-on-one instruction with a professional musician who specializes in your instrument. Most private instructors have openings in their studio at the end of the school year. If there is not a list of private instructors on www.marchingrams.org when you read this, contact Mr. Norona and he will be able to give you contact information for a quality private teacher.
- 5. How much time does band take up?** In addition to daily class time and individual practice time, there are required after school rehearsals to help us fully prepare for our many performances. Except in occasional situations where our performance needs some extra rehearsal time, there are typically no more than two required after school rehearsals per week.
- 6. What/When is Band Camp?** Band Camp is a vital period of time for The Marching Rams which takes place just before the beginning of the school year. It begins with Tuesday night summer rehearsals which take place nearly every week over the summer. Freshmen Band Camp runs from Wednesday August 5th through Friday August 7th and is where new members learn the fundamentals necessary to perform in a marching band. Freshman Band Camp is followed by Full Band Camp where The Marching Rams learn the main half-time show for marching season. Full Band Camp is the week after Freshman Band Camp, Monday August 10th through Friday August 14th.
- 7. I plan on taking advanced academic courses. Will I have time for band?** As shown in multiple educational research studies, band students earn the highest test scores and GPAs of any high school group. Many band students successfully take the most advanced courses in high school. Managing your time efficiently is the key to success.
- 8. Is there time in my schedule to take band all four years?** Absolutely! By their senior year, many high school students find themselves with the time to take two or even three elective classes at a time. The key is to plan your high school schedule far in advance in order to fulfill all graduation requirements efficiently.
- 9. Can I be in band and play sports?** Of course! Please contact Mr. Norona **before band camp** to discuss coordinating your band and sport schedules. In most cases students are able to work out a method to participate in both band and a sport.
- 10. Are there after school rehearsals after marching season?** Yes. Marching season usually ends in November and Concert Season begins immediately after and lasts for the remainder of the school year. Concert season is the most important time of year for the band program. The vast majority of musical learning and growth takes place in the spring. We take our concert performances very seriously and put in a huge amount of effort to continue our tradition of having outstanding concert ensembles.
- 11. How much does it cost to be in band?** We are very fortunate to have *extremely* supportive administration at LMHS but only a very small amount of county money is available to SCPS bands. Our Band Booster organization works tirelessly to help our students raise funds so we have the advantages of a fully funded band program. To do so, each band student takes on the responsibility of providing a small percentage of the budget. Each student's "Fair Share" of the necessary funding varies from year to year, but is usually about \$200. This "Fair Share" responsibility **does not necessarily have to be paid out of your pocket**. Our Band Boosters facilitate multiple fundraisers throughout the year. The majority of these fundraisers give each student the opportunity to earn money towards their "Fair Share." If a student earns the entire "Fair Share" amount through fundraisers, they do not have to pay any "Fair Share" expenses out of their own pocket. It is not uncommon for a student, after making some initial payments their freshman year for Band Camp and various band accessories, to go all four years of high school without having to make a single out of pocket "Fair Share" payment.
- 12. I have a lot more questions. Will there be an opportunity to get them answered.**
Yes! **Tuesday, August 4th there will 2009 – 2010 Marching Rams Orientation which is MANDATORY for all band students and their parents.** This meeting will cover all band policies and procedures and give parents a chance to complete medical forms for free with provided notary publics.

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LMHS Band Graduation Information

1. If you did not sign up for band when you registered, but decide you want to be in band, you can change your schedule. Contact the Guidance Department (407-320-9513) to do this. If necessary, contact Mr. Norona and he will be glad to help you.
2. Although you are required to select a major and take 4 electives over 4 years in that major, it has no effect on your graduation. You can take band with any major that is selected since you have time for more than one elective in a seven period day and you can change your major each year if you choose to.
3. Marching band satisfies the ½ credit of P.E. requirement. You must still take the ½ credit of Personal Fitness.
4. Summer School is now for remediation only. If you want to get ahead, check out the Florida Virtual School - <http://www.flvs.net/> . For instance, you can earn your ½ credit of Personal Fitness online and use that school day time to take an extra elective, like Jazz Band.

Class of 2013 Graduation Requirements

Subject	Courses
Language Arts	4 credits with major concentration in composition, reading for information and literature
Mathematics	4 credits, one of which must be Algebra I or its equivalent, earned grades 9-12
Science	3 credits in Natural Science, two of which must have a laboratory component
Social Studies	1 credit World History 1 credit American History .5 credit American Government .5 credit Economics
Foreign Language	Not required for high school graduation; 2 credits required for admission into Florida's State University System (SUS)
Performing Arts	1 credit Fine Art - Earned through full year in Band
Physical Education	.5 Personal Fitness - Earned through Marching Band .5 Physical Education
Major, Minors, or Electives	10 credits 4 credits in a Major Area of Interest 6 credits in a second MAI, a MINOR area of interest (3 credits), or electives - Can be used for band classes regardless of major.
Total Credits	26 credits needed for graduation
State Assessments	Pass the grade 10 FCAT Reading and Math
GPA Requirements	Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

All required graduation coursework MUST be completed prior to participation in the graduation ceremony.