



Welcome to the 2021 Lakota West Marching Band!

Get Connected/Stay Connected

Charms Office Assistant – www.charmsoffice.com - the Band Office Management and Communication System. You will get an email from Andrew Carr, Director of Bands, with instructions on how to set up your student's account in Charms. Charms is a stand-alone office system that the Band Directors use for a variety of purposes like communication, copies of show and pregame music, and uniform inventory. It is CRITICAL for you to set up your student's account as soon as possible and it is YOUR responsibility to keep it accurate. Critical and important information is shared via Charms all year long. To Log in - go to the Resources tab on the band website and go to the Charms Music Office page for directions. You must have your student's ID to set up the account. Once the account is set up you may add multiple email addresses to this one account for anyone wishing to receive updates. Note, calendar in Charms is not used.

Remind Text

Subscribe to short text updates with Remind by texting @lwmb2021 to the number 81010. This is used primarily for rehearsal time or location changes, trip travel times, weather cancellations and other last-minute changes. This is optional but highly recommended. Downloading the App is optional and not required to receive texts.

Website and Band Calendar - www.lakotawestbands.org

Our **website** includes information for all Lakota West Bands including Marching, Concert, Freshman, Jazz, Colorguard and Winterguards. Tons of information including year-round master calendar, resources, contact info, uniform info, honors, volunteering opportunities, photos of events, and much, much more. Email blasts are sent out from the website (see below for subscription directions) and are then posted on the front page of the website.

The **calendar** we use is accessible from the front page of the website. For information about an upcoming event, click on the event and you will find a description of the event, special instructions, time, location, web site links, or maps/directions. Most up to date information will be here. Option also available to subscribe to calendar, and/or receive notifications of new posts or changes.

Lakota West Band News via Email Blasts from Website

It is important to also sign up for emails sent from the Directors and Upbeat Club via our website. Valuable and timely information is shared via this tool all year long. The home page of the band website currently shows the last two email blasts that have been sent to those that have subscribed to receive them.

To subscribe to the Lakota West Band News via Email, go to www.lakotawestbands.org and see "Subscribe for News" at the bottom of the home page. This is a two-step process. First, choose email and follow prompts to enter your email address. Second, you will immediately receive an email asking you to verify your email address. Please follow the steps to complete your subscription to the web emails.



Social Media

Additional social media options are also available and used often for updates and sharing with the community. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at [@lakotawestbands](https://www.instagram.com/lakotawestbands).

2021 Marching Band Handbook

Please read it carefully and use it as a reference throughout the season. Additional band camp schedule details will come out in July.

Band Camp – At Freshman School unless noted

- **Mini Camp**
 - Mr Carr to review
- **Music**
 - All pregame and show music will be found in Charms.
- **Get healthy and hydrated BEFORE Band Camp**
 - Increase the water intake at least 2 days prior to camp
 - Eat a good breakfast (no milk on hot days)
- **Items to bring to **EVERY** rehearsal including mini camp**
 - Flip Folder and pages (buy 2, they can break)
 - Sunscreen
 - Hat
 - Sunglasses (optional)
 - Neck straps (2 for cleaning between)
 - Thick cotton socks and sturdy athletic shoes
 - Rain gear and/or large plastic bag for items brought to the field
 - Coordinates (will be distributed at band camp)
 - 64oz Water Jug (labeled with student's name)
- **Uniforms**
 - **Uniform fitting days** will be scheduled by section in the evenings during pre band camp week and take place at the High School Band Room (not Freshman Bldg). This includes summer uniform and marching uniform.
 - Certain items are your responsibility to purchase (approx \$105-140)
 - Purchases can be made by credit card, cash, or check at designated fitting time
 - Color Guard should check with Color Guard staff
 - More information on website and handbook

Marching Band Season

- **Sectionals**
 - Section Leaders will schedule several section rehearsals throughout the summer. Attendance is taken, and students are encouraged to attend as many as possible.
 - Start learning and memorizing pregame music over the summer.
- **Rehearsals**
 - Some are at freshman building, some at main campus. Check handbook, then band calendar for updates or changes once the season starts.
 - There is an activity bus that travels from the freshman building to the high school every day. The students **MUST** sign up to ride it each day during their lunch.
 - Remember to bring water jug and other rehearsal items to school when there is a rehearsal or sectional after school.

- **Competitions**

- On almost every competition day, there is a rehearsal at the school prior to the band departing for the competition
- **Remind Text** will be used for communicating expected return time for busses following a competition as well as any last-minute location updates or time changes throughout the season

- **Costs** (for any questions or concerns, contact the director at andrew.carr@lakotaonline.com)

- Required
 - \$200 activity fee due in full and payable in EZPay- District is still decided on dates
 - Uniform pieces noted above
 - BOA Regional Band Competition Trip Costs TBD
 - Uniform replacement fees if lost or damaged
- Optional
 - Spiritwear and Yard Signs
 - Band Jackets appx \$70
 - Pictures from picture day before school starts
 - Tickets to competitions (attendees only)
 - Spending money or meal money for a couple days at camp, or at a competition

Parents/Guardians

- **Lakota West Upbeat Club**

- The Upbeat Club **raises significant funds and provides hundreds of hours of support** which enables the excellence we see on the stage and on the field. The funds for the new marching and concert uniforms, as well as our new tractor trailer and box truck, were all raised by band parents and students! Please join us in supporting our fantastic band program!
- **Attend Upbeat Club Meetings:** Third Thursday of every month, at 6:30pm. During marching band season, they are at the freshman building in the band room. The remainder of the year they are at the main campus. You'll hear from the directors and hear about upcoming events, and get your questions answered. Meetings are held August through May.
- **Upbeat Club Leader Position Openings**
 - Photographer Crew Leader
 - If you are interested in an open position or have questions, please contact president@lakotawestbands.org or WUpbeat@gmail.com

- **Volunteering and Fundraising Participation**

- There are a lot of fun opportunities to help support the band program, while also helping the Upbeat Club raise needed funds. All active signups are on the band website under the Support Tab, look for Parent Volunteer Opportunities. Many are sent out through Facebook too.
- Click [here for descriptions](#) of all the various roles our parents take on throughout the year.
- Here are some of the larger events you will hear more about in the fall:
 - Tag Day 8/21/21
 - Jazz Swing Dance (December)
 - Solo & Ensemble Contest (January-February)
 - Jazz 'n Cakes (March-April)
- If you want to be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities as they come up, email us at president@lakotawestbands.org and we will add you to the list.

- **Paperwork and Final Forms**

- Look for direction and deadlines from Andrew Carr via Charms email

FAQ

Q: Do they have planned meals during camp or do we send them with a packed lunch/dinner?

A: When a meal is provided, it will be noted on the schedule. If the students are on their own, they can pack, you can bring, or send money if some run out for food.

Q: Are there extra costs during band camp

A: Each section will design and order their own section shirts. Cost is \$12-15.

Q: What happens during bad weather?

A: All rehearsals will take place as scheduled. Accommodations have been made for indoor rehearsals.

Q: Should my student bring his/her own water?

A: YES!!! All students MUST bring a full water jug with his/her name in permanent marker to EVERY rehearsal. A 64oz (half gallon) jug is highly recommended. Plenty of cool water will be provided for refilling jugs at the field.

Q: What if my student is sick?

A: Illnesses should be reported to the student's section leader prior to the start of rehearsal. (Alternates will fill your place so get back on your feet as soon as possible!)

Q: How can I reach my son/daughter during rehearsal?

A: Students take the field with cell phones off for long periods of time. In the event of a family emergency or urgent need to contact your student, please contact camp coordinator Jen Best @ 814-969-1379. The director(s) will be notified immediately and will have the student contact you. The same chain of contact should be used in-person, at the field.

Q: Is participation in team-building activities required?

A: Yes. Attendance will be taken.

Q: If something changes as far as time or location – where will the most up to date information be?

A: Always check the website and calendar (on the band website NOT the calendar in CHARMS) for the most up to date information. This handbook will not be updated to reflect changes once it is published.

For more information or questions, contact president@lakotawestbands.org LWUpbeat@gmail.com

www.lakotawestbands.org