
Lexington High School Bands



LEXINGTON
High School Bands

EXCELLENCE IS THE STANDARD

2026-2027 Handbook

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Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part -- The Lexington High School Band Program! More than ever before, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding, but rewarding activity. Studying music and performance helps students with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality and enjoyment of life! Then add on the benefits of social skills, team interaction, leadership training, travel opportunities, music-making, and the discipline of being in a marching arts program, it is a wonder as to why more people are not involved in programs like that of Lexington High School. Ultimately, the goal of this program is to create lifelong appreciation and love for music and performance!

This handbook provides information, dates, costs, expectations, and time commitment required for membership in the band program. This is a new year, information has changed, and it is important to stay informed. The handbook is used to keep us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions may be answered by consulting *the handbook*. The policies therein are updated annually to account for rising needs within the program.

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

By accepting membership in the Lexington High School Bands, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band and guard staff in making this year's band the finest ensemble that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students must be responsible, attentive, respectful, and have a positive attitude. The directors will do their best to ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation.

The Lexington Bands staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band and guard member with general operation and procedures of the Lexington Bands and standards by which all members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

We are excited that your family has decided to join the Cat Band family! This handbook should answer a lot of your questions and explain the world of marching band, color guard, winter guard, jazz,

percussion, and concert ensembles. If you have any questions, our band directors, booster club board, and even the other parents in your child's section are happy to answer.

Band overview

<i>2018-19 Results</i>	SAT	ACT	GPA
LHS Band Student	1182	25.7	4.107
LHS Students	1069	20.6	3.734
Lex 1 Students	1107	19.6	
SC Average	1060	18.3	
National Average	1090	20.9	

Students are placed into ensembles (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble) based on director recommendation and audition results. Percussionists are in a separate class to work on percussion methods. There is a Band Flags class for guard members. All classes combine to make up the marching band.

Students are eligible for varsity letters in band after two years of membership and performance with the Competitive LHS Cat Band. Students register for a letter through an application in the spring.

Performance positions in the competitive show are determined by:

- Visual and musical skills
- Rehearsal attendance
- Meeting deadlines for music and marching execution
- Being punctual

“In terms of brain development, musical performance is every bit as important educationally as reading or writing.”

- *Oliver Sacks*
<http://ow.ly/Ka9wEd>



#BePartOfTheMusic

MUSIC REPRESENTS A PARENT'S BEST HOPE AT:
KEEPING KIDS AWAY FROM
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL
KEEPING KIDS FROM BEING BULLIED
HAVING KIDS BE IN A SAFE SPACE
HELPING STUDENTS FIND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

BUT MORE THAN THAT, MUSIC ALSO REPRESENTS:
MORE LAUGHTER
MORE FRIENDS
MORE MEMORIES
MORE MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES
MORE INFLUENTIAL ADULTS IN THEIR LIVES

- Scott Lang

BEPARTOFTHEMUSIC.ORG

All Cat Band members participate in football pre-game shows, parades and in the stands. Competitive Band members learn and perform the competition show during halftime and st contests. Everyone has a role to play in our band's performances.

Marching band satisfies the PE graduation requirement. You will see marching band listed as a PE credit on your student's transcript, in addition to their band class.

Students who are also members of an LHS fall athletic team are eligible to be non-marchers in the band

program. These students must still enroll in band classes during both semesters and are expected to participate in all non-marching band functions.

Directors



Kolman McMurphy

Director of Bands

kmcmurphy@lexington1.net

- Program Administration + Booster Club liaison
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Wind Ensemble
- Marching Band
- Jazz Band



Ben Berry

Associate Director of Bands, Director of Percussion

bberry@lexington1.net

- Percussion
- Audio
- Purchase orders
- PSR (payment for services rendered)
- Logistics/Truck loading



TBA

Associate Director of Bands

xxxxx@lexington1.net

- Program administration + Booster Club liaison
- Symphonic Band, woodwinds + brass
- Marching Band
- Transportation + paperwork

Color Guard/Winter Guard



Julia Wakser

Guard Director

LHSguards.catband@gmail.com

- Fall Color Guard
- Varsity, JV and Spin Club Winter Guard

Band Booster Club Executive Board

2026-2027 Executive Board

- **President:** Paola Stewart - president.catband@gmail.com
- **Vice President:** Sharon Maxwell - vicepresident.catband@gmail.com
- **Past President (non-elected/non-voting position):** Russ Arant - Pastpresident.catband@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Dan Sobel - Treasurer.catband@gmail.com
- **Treasurer-Elect:** Matt Maxwell - Treasurerelect.catband@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Beth Ancone - Secretary.catband@gmail.com
- **Membership Chair:** Rebecca Cheek - memberships.catband@gmail.com
- **Concessions:** Jeremey Cheek (elected/voting) and Jessica Travis (non-elected/non-voting) - concessions.catband@gmail.com
- **Fundraising Chair:** Alana Jordan - fundraising.catband@gmail.com
- **Parliamentarian:** Gina Stevenson - Parliamentarian.catband@gmail.com
- **Member at Large:** LeRyah Arant - mal.catband@gmail.com



Our Ensembles

Marching Band & Color Guard

The marching band competes on a state and regional level and is made up of two groups: the competitive **Varsity Cat Band** and the **Football Band**. Rehearsals begin with a one-week spring camp near the end of the school year. There is no cost for potential members to attend. Registration for fall marching band usually opens during spring camp. We hope you will love the experience and decide to join us as a member of the fall marching band. Band camp begins in late July, when we spend full days for several weeks preparing for the season.

The **Varsity Cat Band** is the competitive ensemble. Members learn and perform a full competitive show at halftime during football games and at contests throughout the fall season. Competitions typically begin in late September and conclude at the beginning of November with the state competition. The Varsity Cat Band also performs in local and national events and parades year-round.

The **Football Band** is the non-competitive ensemble. Members perform in the stands, at pregame, and at parades alongside the Varsity Cat Band, playing an important role in supporting LHS athletics and school spirit throughout the season.

All Cat Band members — Varsity and Football Band alike — are a vital part of our performances. Eligible middle school students from our feeder schools may audition for either group.

The color guard is part of the fall marching band and adds an important visual element to the show with flags, weapons (rifle and sabres), costumes, and choreography. They perform as part of the marching band at football games, competitions, and other events. Members of the color guard attend all rehearsals and performances outlined in the marching band calendar. Students training

A note about weapon line (rifle & saber):

Weapon line members are selected from the members of the color guard or winter guard through an additional audition process.

Weapon line members are responsible for the replacement of their weapon(s) if lost, stolen, or broken. Sabers are the property of the school and must be returned at the end of each season. They will be replaced by the school if broken during normal color guard activity.

New weapon line members are required to purchase their own DSI Elite 37.5 rifle with a black bolt and black strap. More information will be given to the students once the weapon line rosters are made.

New weapon line members are required to attend a specified number of summer training rehearsals for

for the weapon lines have additional rehearsals over the summer.

Winter Guard

The winter guard is the most competitive and well-traveled edition of the color guard. The members of the winter guard are selected from the color guard during an audition in early to mid-November. There may be several winter guard teams hosted by the Lexington High School Band during any given school year. The winter guards will be created and maintained as student participation requires. This may or may not include a varsity winter guard, junior- varsity winter guard, and spin club. In order to be considered for the varsity winter guard, students MUST be a member of the fall color guard or marching band programs.

The winter guards rehearse from November to April and compete on a local, regional, and national level. Competitions begin in late January and conclude in April with circuit championships, regional championships or national championships (varsity only). The winter guards are currently members of Winter Guard International (WGI - a nonprofit organization that educates, evaluates, and tracks the progress of competitive units in preparation for national and world-level competitions) and the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association (CWEA - the local circuit that includes units from South Carolina and North Carolina).

By being a member of these state/regional and national organizations, we must abide by their rules. Among those rules is a limit on membership (no more than 30 students per ensemble) and a requirement to follow their specific competition schedule for educational and promotional purposes as well as to follow each group's progress.

Concert Bands

Once marching band concludes, and through the second semester, music students participate in concert band. Students are placed into either the Symphonic Winds (2nd Block Band classes) or the Wind Ensemble (3rd Block Band Classes Honors), based upon an audition. These ensembles present winter and spring concerts, and performances in March for Concert Performance Assessment. In addition, students may audition for the SC Band Directors Association Region 2 Honor Band (required for Wind Ensemble students to receive honors credit) and All-State Band (based on a call-back audition from honor band auditions). Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble students also participate in the SCDBA Solo and Ensemble Festival. These events are excellent opportunities for our students to get accustomed to a collegiate and professional audition process, and receive tailored feedback from third-party judges. Our Wind Ensemble has also auditioned for prestigious performance opportunities, including the SC Music Educators Association annual conference and the University of South Carolina Band Clinic. After-school rehearsals are called before concerts, and for additional rehearsal before invitational events.

Students may also pursue opportunities for additional band clinics and competitions, including the Newberry Band Clinic, the SCBDA Master's Recital and the Furman University Band Clinic. Please watch for details about audition materials and deadlines in the Cat Band Weekly Announcements.

Percussion Ensemble

All percussion students are expected to take the percussion class in the fall and spring semesters, and are placed based on audition results. Our percussion ensembles performs alongside the Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble for some concerts, and also perform their own concerts. In addition, those who audition into our Varsity Percussion Ensemble have performed at invitational events including the SC Music Educators Association annual conference.

Jazz Band

Our jazz band meets after school and is an opportunity for our students to learn a new style of performance or practice on a secondary instrument. Our jazz band has attended the Newberry Jazz Clinic and performed at gigs around the Lexington community. Jazz Band rehearses after school and during 4th Block in the Spring Semester.

Membership in our ensembles

Eligibility & Academic Requirements

All LHS students (grades 9–12) are eligible to register for band, percussion, or flags classes and will be placed based on audition results. Marching band participation is required for all semester 1 band students, in either the Varsity Cat Band or Football Band. Exceptions for medical reasons or fall varsity sports participation are at the director's discretion.

Color guard and winter guard members must enroll in the band flags class or a band class to receive academic credit. Private studio enrollment is also an option.

Marching Band & Guard

7th and 8th graders from Beechwood and Pleasant Hill Middle Schools are eligible to audition for color guard, winter guard, and (space permitting) marching band. All students must audition each season regardless of prior participation. Students who have previously quit or been removed from the color guard are not eligible to re-audition except for medical reasons. Winter guard membership is determined by audition in November. Middle schoolers participating in marching band or winter guard are not required to take band or flags classes during the school day.

Students are responsible for maintaining passing grades to remain eligible for all after-school programs. Behavior in academic settings that reflects negatively on the band program will be addressed at the next rehearsal or performance. All prior season fees must be paid in full before participating in a new season. Membership status is determined at the director's discretion.

Individual practice & lessons

In order to make sufficient progress, students are expected to practice on their own. Practice outside of scheduled rehearsals is imperative to the success of our program. Just like with anything else, you'll have homework occasionally. REHEARSAL is to go over again the things you practiced on your own!

The band directors also maintain a list of collegiate and professional musicians who offer private lessons. All LHS band students are highly encouraged to enroll in private lessons. Private lessons offer your child a unique experience that he or she cannot receive in a regular classroom setting.

While the band staff strives to work with each student regularly, we are limited due to class size and time constraints. We feel that private lessons are a wonderful resource that contributes greatly to musical development in our students. These educators come highly recommended as private tutors for your child on their instrument. Individual rates and lesson times will vary. Color guard lessons are also available. Reach out to a director for more information.

Physical Requirements

Members of the marching band, color guard and winter guard will be conditioned to develop the strength and stamina required to perform. However, prior to entering the ensemble, students must be in good physical condition. Students must be physically able to do the following:

- carry props, equipment, and/or instruments weighing up to 20 lbs. while moving quickly and/or dancing
- Sustain elevated heart rate during physical activity
- dance and/or march for up to one hour between breaks
- sit and/or stand for up to one hour at a time between breaks.
- perform lifts and/or gymnastic movements once proper training has been provided.

Physical Demands & Safety

- Band camp days are long and hot, and that's all part of the experience! Expect some sore muscles, bruises, blisters, and minor scrapes along the way — you've got this!
- You'll be marching, running, dancing, jumping, spinning, tossing, and conditioning your body in ways that will make you stronger every day.
- We encourage you to push yourself, but always listen to your body. If you're sick or hurting, please be honest with us — your health always comes first.
- Students with joint concerns (knees, ankles, or wrists) should wear a flexible brace to every rehearsal as a precaution.
- Our staff are dedicated teachers who will do everything they can to keep you safe, but please note they are not doctors or physical therapists and can only provide immediate first aid on-site.
- The band staff, Booster Club, school, and district are not liable for injuries sustained during rehearsals or performances. Accidents can happen, and we will always do our best to prevent them.

Healthy Habits for the Marching Arts

Rehearsals and performances are very demanding physically. Therefore, it is imperative that members take care of their bodies. Parents are asked to support their children in maintaining healthy habits.

- Stay hydrated: Hydrate throughout the day, starting in the morning. Please cut out energy drinks from your diet. These are detrimental to the individual student and the ensemble as a whole, and is unacceptable for the athletic work required in marching band. Waiting until practice to drink water is too late. Students should have at least a Half-Gallon Jug for rehearsal and performances. New members may contact the band director if a replacement is needed.
- Pay attention to nutrition: Eat at least two high-protein meals (breakfast and lunch) before each rehearsal and pack a healthy snack for before rehearsal.
- Sleep well: Healthy sleep hygiene is important to our overall performance. Go to bed at or before 10 PM each night so your body can rest and recuperate!

Preventing Injuries and Accidents

Band rehearsals follow district guidelines for use of the Heat Bulb and we will always place students' safety first. This includes managing intensity at rehearsals, scheduling regular water breaks, conditioning students to the athletic requirements of marching band, and regulating our musician-athletes' heart rates and muscle warmup/cool down.

If a student becomes injured or ill, that student would be taken to the health tent (if available) and the parent will be contacted by call or text by the supervising adult as soon as possible.

Scratches are not injuries that warrant a medical tent visit. However, a fall, hit, complaint of pain, or inability to bear normal weight would all be examples of events to warrant a visit.

LHS Cat Band Code of Conduct

As a member of the Cat Band, each student represents not only themselves but also our program, school, and community. The following guidelines ensure that all members contribute positively to our shared success. The code of conduct applies to all Cat Band-related activities, including official and unofficial online communications, like group chats. Members of the Lexington Band Program must abide by the Lexington 1 Student Handbook, policies, and guidelines therein.

Behavioral Expectations

- Show respect for directors, staff, peers, and property at all times.
- Maintain a positive attitude and encourage fellow members.
- Use professional and appropriate language in rehearsal, performances, and public spaces.
- Actively contribute to a focused and productive rehearsal environment.
- Uphold the integrity and reputation of the Cat Band at all school, community, and competitive events.

- Standards for Interaction: The Cat Band has zero tolerance for verbal, physical, social, or digital harassment. Members must:
 - Treat every peer with dignity and kindness.
 - Avoid gossip, name-calling, exclusion, or intimidation.
 - Refrain from using phones, social media, or online platforms to harass, embarrass, or target others.
 - Refrain from any inappropriate physical contact or verbal interactions with others.
 - Report any incidents immediately to a director or trusted adult.

Attendance

- All rehearsals and performances are mandatory unless previously excused by a director.
- Arrive on time, prepared, and ready to play with instrument, music, and necessary materials.
- Absence Notification Policy:
 - Planned absences (appointments, standardized testing, etc.) must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance using the [Official Absence Form](#), email, and direct communication with a director.
 - For illness or emergencies, notify a director before the rehearsal or performance begins whenever possible.
 - Failure to communicate an absence in a timely manner may result in it being recorded as unexcused, which can affect performance eligibility.
- Family Trips Policy: Family trips/vacations are not considered excused absences, except in cases of:
 - Weddings of immediate family members
 - Bereavement situations
- Excessive absences, tardiness, or unexcused conflicts may result in reassignment of parts, loss of performance opportunities, or removal from leadership roles.

Unexcused Absences	Excused Absences
Scheduled Doctor Appointments (eye, dentist, orthodontist, etc.)	Emergency Doctor Appointments
Concerts (non-school related)	Family Death/Bereavement
Personal Plans	Illness with Doctor's Note
Babysitting/Watching Siblings	Approved School Function
Work	Family Emergency
Unable to get a Ride	Religious holiday

Drivers Test	Special circumstances pre-approved by the director (i.e. an LHS athletic or fine arts game/performance)
Family Vacation	
Sporting Events	
Oversleeping	
Any other avoidable scheduling conflicts	

Progression of Consequences

The Cat Band values growth and accountability. Consequences are designed to encourage learning from mistakes while protecting the integrity of the ensemble, and to promote unity and forbearance wherever feasible.

General Infractions:

- First Offense – Verbal warning and discussion with director/staff member; clarification of expectations.
- Second Offense – Parent/guardian contact and student conference with director; possible loss of privileges (e.g., leadership role, spot in performance, sectional responsibilities).
- Severe or Repeated Offenses – Meeting with student, parent/guardian, and director; possible removal from a performance or temporary suspension from the band. Continued issues may result in removal from the ensemble for the remainder of the season.
- Parents may contact the director to schedule a meeting to discuss disciplinary actions.

Infractions Regarding Harmful Behavior/Harassment:

- **First Report/Incident** – Immediate parent/guardian contact, student conference with director, and documentation of the behavior, and a mediated discussion with the person(s) harmed to understand the impact of the behavior.
- **Second Report/Incident** – Loss of privileges, suspension from performance(s), and referral to school administration if necessary.
- **Severe or Repeated Offenses** – Removal from the Cat Band and referral to school administration for disciplinary action in line with district policy and the Lexington 1 Student Handbook.

- Parents may contact the director to schedule a meeting to discuss disciplinary actions.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance

Attendance is required at all rehearsals. Remember, participation affects your performance eligibility. Please pay close attention to the master calendar, Booster Hub calendar and standard rehearsal schedules to be sure you are aware of all required activities. Schedule changes will be shared in the Cat Band Weekly Announcements, Booster Hub app and/or email as soon as possible. Last-minute changes (i.e. cancellations due to weather, or a late return from an event) will be communicated via Booster Hub text.

Rehearsal Expectations

1. Stretching and conditioning will begin ON TIME! Students should arrive early enough (30 minutes in most cases) to gather and prepare their equipment/instrument, help move items and prepare rehearsal spaces. Remember the Cat Band mantra: “Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.”
2. Chewing gum is not allowed at any time during rehearsal.
3. All members must bring a water jug that holds at least half a gallon. The jug should be full of water before practice starts. Members are not permitted to share water jugs.
4. Dress appropriately for all rehearsals:
 - a. Wear athletic apparel suitable for the level of exertion and movement required. Jeans, dresses and any restrictive clothing are not appropriate. Depending on the weather, hats and sunglasses, or light layers are recommended.
 - b. Wear supportive athletic shoes and socks: flip flops, crocs, slippers, boots and other casual or slip-on shoes are not appropriate and can contribute to injuries.
 - c. Hair must be pulled back and secure.
 - d. Dangling jewelry should NOT be worn at rehearsal.
5. If you are leaving the school (riding) or driving to a meal during an all-day camp, a signed note by a parent or guardian must be submitted to the director prior to the rehearsal start time.
6. If the staff is working with another group that does not involve you, you should be working silently on parts of your show while paying attention in case the staff needs you.
7. Do your assigned duties (guard box, staff bag, music, etc.) without being asked.
8. There is a difference between being given time for water and being given a “break.” Time for water is short and mandatory (“Gush and Go”). Breaks may be a bit longer and are optional.

Rehearsal etiquette:

- Maintain eye contact and silence while staff members are speaking.
- Maintain performance posture at the end of a repetition until “relax” is called.
- Do not spin equipment or play an instrument while the staff is giving whole-group instruction.
- Maintain a respectful demeanor towards staff and instructors.
- Receive and apply feedback with a positive attitude.
- Be dependable and be your best.

Performance Expectations

1. You are never to be in “partial uniform.” The uniform is either entirely on or entirely off. (see the uniform section for further guidelines)
2. You are not to run in uniform.
3. You are not to eat in uniform. You will need to wear a jacket or shirt to cover up if you want to eat.
4. You must be on your best behavior while at a performance venue. Making negative comments about other performing groups is not permitted. You represent not only our program but LHS as a whole.
5. All students must stay with the group for the entire day. You may not leave the performance venue early unless you have an extenuating circumstance approved in advance by the directors. If applicable, the proper dismissal form must be completed at least two days before the event.
6. You may not go anywhere alone while at a performance venue. You must always be with another guard member following the buddy system.
7. All members will show respect and appreciation to the staff, bus drivers and volunteers who assist us throughout the day.

Parent & Guardian Expectations

Our program relies heavily on volunteer support throughout the year. We welcome all parents and supporters to get involved and stay involved in a positive manner as you support your student. Prior to volunteering, all adults age 21+ must complete the district background check at <https://www.lexington1.net/lex1family/communitymembers/volunteer>

As part of the LHS band program, all families are required to volunteer for three concessions shifts per semester. This is a major source of revenue for our program, and 100% participation is expected. In addition, we invite and encourage parents and guardians to volunteer with any of our committees – chaperones, props, hospitality and fundraising.

In all interactions with staff, booster club board members, and students, parents are expected to:

1. Communicate openly and freely with staff and administrators.
2. Be honest and communicate with respect.
3. Communicate issues and concerns in a timely manner, including those of the student’s physical and emotional well-being.

4. Read all information disseminated by staff and the Band Boosters, and are encouraged to attend booster club meetings.
5. Display good sportsmanship and behavior by doing the following:
 - a. Understanding that marching band, color guard, winter guard and concert ensembles are for the students, not the adults.
 - b. Recognizing that student participation is a privilege.
 - c. Displaying good sportsmanship as a spectator and conducting yourself in a manner that reflects positively on both the team and school. Cheer for all performing ensembles, and refrain from any critical remarks about any program or its participants.
 - d. Promoting the team by being supportive and positive when helping the program.
 - e. Speaking and communicating respectfully and appropriately to all other stakeholders, including students, staff, and other parents.
 - f. Only address students in a public setting, and never privately. All interactions between adults and students should be observable and interruptible in all circumstances. Understanding and assisting students in fulfilling their obligation to attend all practices and competitions.
6. Create a positive and supportive environment to promote their student-musician's well-being by:
 - a. Supporting good conditioning and a healthy lifestyle.
 - b. Placing the emotional and physical well-being of your student ahead of any personal desire to win.
 - c. Supporting your student to be successful in the classroom, given the demands of training, rehearsals, and performances.
 - d. Being a role model for other parents by remaining positive at all events.

Marching Band: What to expect at band camp

Students should be dropped off/picked up in the staff parking lot off Olde Farm Road. Students who drive should also park in the staff lot. **Please do not drive on the access road that leads to the gravel lot and tennis courts during band camp.** THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE, as students will be walking along this road and pushing instruments before and after practice.



Plan to arrive early to help move gear from the band room to the practice field.

The sessions begin with warm-ups and stretching.

Sections will work together to learn both choreography and music.

The days are LONG and HOT. You can prepare for this by getting in shape over the summer, spending time outside to get used to the heat, and hydrating frequently in the days leading up to camp.

During all-day camps, students will get a one-hour lunch break. Students need to bring their own lunch or make plans to buy lunch nearby. Students who drive are permitted to leave campus for lunch. **In order for students to ride together in a car, both the parents of the student driver and the parents of the student passenger must send a written permission note.**

During band camp, student leaders will plan some fun theme days (Tropical Tuesday, Twin Thursday, etc.). We encourage students to dress up. Some sections coordinate their outfits and accessories. This is a great team-building exercise, and makes for great memories.

What to bring to camp:

- Large jug of water (filled before you arrive)
- Sunscreen, hat & sunglasses
- Bug spray
- Your instrument & any needed supplies (valve oil, etc.)
- Lunch, or lunch money
- 1" black binder with page protectors & dividers, pencil
- Cell phone for the Ultimate Drill Book app (login provided at camp)



Marching Band: What to expect on Football Fridays

On Football Fridays (home games only), band students will stay after school until game time. Middle school students can ride the activity bus to the high school.

We will eat dinner together as a band. Band students also have a break during 3rd quarter and can get something to eat from concessions. Watch your email for forms to pre-order in the week leading up to the game.

The band usually performs part or all of its competitive show at halftime. However, there are some games when we can not perform at halftime due to other halftime ceremonies/activities. In those cases, the directors decide whether we will perform after the game, or just play from the stands. There are many factors that go into this decision, including requests from administration, the need for performance time vs. the need for rest, the weather, where we are in the season in terms of developing our show, and whether we have a competition the next day.

After the game, we walk back to the band room as a group, put away instruments, and have a brief meeting. Parents can pick up their students in the staff parking lot off Olde Farm Rd. Please do not drive/park on the road that leads to the gravel lot/tennis courts.

This is a **sample itinerary** for Friday nights. A specific itinerary for each football game and competition will be shared in the weekly announcements (CBWA). Itineraries are always tentative until two days before the event.

- 4:00-5:30 Rehearsal
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 Change
- 7:00 Stadium Walk
- 7:20 Pregame
- 7:30 Game Starts
- 8:30 Half Time
- 9:45 Game Ends
- 10:15 Dismiss



Marching Band: What to expect on competition days

Band students should reserve the entire day for competitions. Often, sections will gather for breakfast/brunch at one member's house before they have to report to school. Please contact the section parent if you'd be willing to host or contribute to a meal during the season.

Typically, students arrive at school in the morning to rehearse and share a meal. The hospitality committee plans, sets up and serves the meal. The cost of the meals is covered by annual fees and meal sponsors, but we occasionally ask for donations of chips, drinks, desserts, etc. If you have a connection with a food vendor or restaurant that would be willing to offer a discounted rate on the meals, please email the hospitality chair at hospitality.catband@gmail.com.

While students are rehearsing and eating, the props committee loads props, instruments and gear into the trucks.

See the volunteer section if you would like to help with meals or loading on competition days

Students dress for competition at the school.

The band travels by bus to the venue and usually competes late in the day or early evening. Band staging and warm-up areas are away from the performance stadium, and are not open to the public. Only official, approved volunteers for that day will be permitted in these areas.

The band is provided a light meal or snack while we wait for the awards ceremony. We return to school on the bus together, usually after 10 p.m. Students help put instruments, uniforms and gear away, and attend a team meeting before they are dismissed. Students can be picked up in the staff parking lot.

Please do not pick up your student on the access road that leads to the gravel lot near the band room/tennis courts. Our trucks and buses need this space to turn around and unload.

A specific itinerary for each competition will be shared in the weekly announcements (CBWA). Itineraries are always tentative until two days before the event.



Uniform – fit and care

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. A unified look is an important element in the marching arts. No variations will be allowed.



General

1. Students will be measured for marching band uniforms during summer band camp (during rehearsals for winter guard).
2. Band uniforms will be stored in garment bags at school in the uniform storage area.
3. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components. Loss or damage to the uniform will be charged to your account.

Issue and Return

1. Students will pick up uniforms from the storage room or Z rack at least 15 minutes prior to report time for any event.
2. Students should follow the posted pick-up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick-up/return line.
3. Students not properly hanging the uniform will receive a community service assignment.

Donning the Marching Band uniform

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures.
2. **Absolutely no running in uniform.**
3. The blue band tee-shirt and black athletic shorts are to be worn under your uniform. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections. The blue band shirt is provided as part of the band fees. Students must provide their own black athletic shorts.
4. You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks WITH NO LOGOS (socks must be purchased/provided by the student).
5. Jewelry, hair ribbons, bright colored nail polish and face paint etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.

6. Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on the forehead.
7. If the uniform calls for not using a shako (band hat), students are responsible for maintaining a tidy hairstyle. Hair should stay off of the ears and be maintained with hair product such as hairspray, clay, or gel. Long hair should be pinned or held back in a bun or high ponytail.
8. Facial hair should be well groomed and maintained to be clean shaven or trimmed.
9. On game/competition days, the uniform chair and volunteers ensure pants are hemmed to the correct length, uniforms are complete, and students are wearing all items correctly.
10. No consumption of food and drinks (other than H2O) while in uniform without permission.

Donning the Color Guard or Winter Guard uniform

1. Make-up will be worn as instructed by the director.
2. Hair will be styled as instructed by the director.
3. Only prescribed accessories that are part of the uniform may be worn.
4. Changes in hairstyle should be approved by the Guard Director prior to making any change. This could affect the performances for both marching band and winter guard.
5. You are never to be in "partial uniform." The uniform is either entirely on or entirely off.
6. You are not to run in uniform.
7. You are not to eat in uniform. You will need to wear a jacket or shirt to cover up if you want to eat.

Donning the Concert Blacks

For the concert band season, students in Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Band have a choice of uniform:

- Option 1: Black dress pants, black long-sleeve button-down dress shirt, black tie, black socks & shoes, black belt
- Option 2: Black palazzo pants, black blouse, pearl necklace, black socks & shoes

The band program provides all pieces except socks/hosiery, shoes, belts, and black ties.

Alterations and Care

1. The LHS Band Boosters will hire tailors or use experienced volunteers to perform uniform alterations. In the unusual circumstance that you are asked to alter your own uniform, never cut any material from the band uniform. Marching band bibbers may be adjusted with internal snaps so that the crease does not "break" when you are standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe.
2. Always hang the pants by the crease, careful to avoid wrinkles, and lock the dowel into the metal catch to keep the pants secure.
3. Label your uniform garment bag.
4. If dry cleaning is deemed necessary for all uniforms, the booster club will cover the cost. Typically, we ask parent volunteers to launder 10-12 uniforms each. Please take care to wash any uniform separately in "cold" water on the "delicate" cycle. Use a mild detergent such as Woolite. The uniform should be laid flat to dry. DO NOT hang uniform to drip dry. The uniform material will stretch out of shape if you hang to dry. On rare occasion, we may ask members to each

launder their own uniform (for example, if the uniforms were soiled during inclement weather and are needed for another event in the coming days). Please follow the care instructions.



Additional equipment

The gear you used in middle school band or as a novice guard performer member may have been a great starting point, but as you grow as a musician and a performer, your equipment needs to grow with you. In many cases, older or beginner-level gear can actually hold you back from reaching your full potential. This list is designed to recommend higher-quality items that will support your progress and enhance your performance. Remember, when you have better equipment, we ALL get better!

Recommendations for all musicians

1. [Tonal Energy Application](#) on your Cell Phone or Smart Device- This is your Swiss army knife practice tool. Includes a tuner, customizable metronome, recording device, and much more - \$5.99 on App Store
2. [High Quality Cleaning / Maintenance Supplies](#) - Maintaining your instrument is key to sounding your best and making your instrument last. Please ask any of the directors if you're interested in upgrading your supplies. Valve oil, rotary oil (horn/tuba/trombone), key oil (woodwinds) and slide grease are required for your instrument to play properly and last for many years. Music & Arts, Pecknel Music, Musicians Supply, and Star Music are all music stores in the greater Columbia area that can provide maintenance supplies and accessories for high school musicians.
3. [Reed cases](#) and reed rotation - each woodwind instrument family needs a reed case to properly ventilate and refresh reeds when not in use. Proper rotation of cane reeds is necessary for "breaking in" the reed, and having backup options if a reed were to be damaged, cracked, or worn out. Old reeds have a softer, fuzzy sound, and brand new reeds sound bright and brittle.

Healthy rotation of 3-5 different reeds leads to consistency of sound and longevity of each individual reed. Plus it keeps them from MILDEW!! Gross!

For Brass Musicians

Mouthpiece: Quality Mouthpieces are the single most important and cost efficient way to upgrade your playing (All mouthpiece will be hyperlinked to a trusted website to purchase)

- Trumpet Mouthpieces: [Bach 3C - The industry standard mouthpiece](#) or [Faxx 3C](#)
- French Horn Mouthpieces: [Schilke 29](#) or [Holton Farkas](#)
- Euphonium/Baritone Mouthpieces: [Schilke 51D](#) (large bore shank) or [Dennis Wick 4AL](#) (large bore shank)
- Trombone Mouthpieces: [Bach 5G](#) - recommended large bore shank, (check your specific instrument to match)
- Tuba Mouthpieces: [Hellenburg 7B - The industry standard mouthpiece](#)



Brass Instruments: A step-up or professional model instrument is HIGHLY recommended for High School Band and beyond into College Band (Playing in College = Scholarship \$)

- Trumpet: [Professional Model - Bach Stradivarius](#) or [Step-up Model - Jupiter Performance](#)
- French Horn: [Professional Model - Conn 8D](#) or [Step-up Model - Holton H379](#)
- Trombone: [Professional Model - Shires Professional](#) or [Step-up Model - Yamaha Intermediate](#)
High School musicians should have an F-attachment common on professional and step-up instruments
- Euphonium: [Professional Model - Yamaha Neo](#), J.D. Packer
- Tuba: [Professional Model - Eastman Professional](#)

For Woodwind Musicians

Mouthpiece: Quality Mouthpieces and ligatures are the single most important and cost-efficient way to upgrade your playing (All mouthpieces will be hyperlinked to a trusted website to purchase)

- Clarinet Mouthpieces: [Vandoren B45 - Industry Standard Upgrade](#)
- Clarinet Ligatures: [Vandoren Ligature](#)
- Bass Clarinet: [Black Diamond 5 - BD5](#)
- Ligature: [Rovner Versa Ligature and mouthpiece cap](#)
- Alto Saxophone Mouthpieces: [Selmer C Star S80 - Industry Standard Upgrade](#)



- Alto Ligatures: [BG Tradition](#)
- Tenor Saxophone Mouthpieces: [Vandoren Optimum](#)
- Tenor Sax Ligatures: [Vandoren Ligature](#)
- Bari Saxophone Mouthpieces: [Vandoren Optimum](#) or [C Star S80](#)
- Bari Sax Ligatures: [Vandoren Ligature](#)
- Oboe and Bassoon Reeds: Professionally handmade reeds are a necessity for high school double reed players. Please reach out to the directors for more information on how to purchase them.

Instruments: A step-up or professional model instrument is HIGHLY recommended for High School Band and beyond into College Band (Playing in College = Scholarship \$)

- Flutes: [Pearl Flutes 665 - Open Holed Flute](#)
- Clarinets: [Buffet R13 - The Industry Standard](#)
- Alto Saxophone: [Professional - Selmer SAS711](#)
- Tenor Saxophone: [Professional - Yamaha YTS-62](#)
- Oboe: [Yamaha - YOB-441](#)
- Bassoon: [Fox Model 240 - The Industry Standard](#)

For Percussionists

Practice Pad: Having a great practice pad is key to leveling up your playing as a percussionist! These are the two we recommend the most!

- [drum pad](#)
- [keyboard pad](#)

Our Associate Director and Director of Percussion will review stick and mallet options in class during week 1 of school.



For Color Guard & Winter Guard Members

Rifle: All weapon line members are required to have a DSI Elite 37.5 rifle with a black bolt and black strap.

Electrical tape: all members are required to have two rolls each of white and black electrical tape to maintain their equipment.

Certain items are required as a member of the color guard team and are subject to change from season to season. Most of these items are available through the band program, and information will be provided with more details on items and pricing. In the past, this has typically included a tracksuit jacket and pants, a guard bag, an equipment bag, knee pads,



and gloves. A student who fails to complete the season for any reason is still responsible for any fees and/or costs subjected to the band program from that student's dismissal from the program.

Other equipment for the performance will be provided by the band program. All equipment should be cleaned and handled with care per given instructions. Flag stoppers and silks must be taped on securely, saber tips must be covered, and rifle straps need to be secured and sturdy. Only current color guard members are permitted to practice with the equipment. No member should ever allow another person to spin their equipment, including a previous color guard member.

If your equipment is lost or stolen, you are held responsible for the cost of the equipment.

- Flag - \$25.00-\$50.00
- Rifle - \$35.00
- Saber - \$200.00
- Flag poles- \$15.00
- Other Assorted Props – Varies by season.

Band Finances

2025-26 Budget overview

The revenues that support our budget fall roughly into four categories:

- *student fees*
- *fundraising (including sponsorships)*
- *concessions*
- *School district support (a portion of contract staff and transportation)*

Revenue		Expenses	
Concessions (net COGS)	\$ 31,945	Marching Band	\$ 84,007
Fundraisers & sponsorships	\$ 14,505	Winter Guard	\$ 65,833
Booster Blitz	\$ 27,240	Concert Band	\$ 2,500
Student Fees	\$ 89,004	Special Events	\$ 10,500
School District Staff & transportaion support	\$ 30,500	Admin/Misc	\$ 12,250
Dayton Trip	\$ 10,500	Clinicians & Techs	\$ 27,784
TOTAL	\$ 203,694	TOTAL	\$ 202,874

Student Fees

Marching Band:

All students and parents need to review our [Cat Band Family Handbook](#) before registering for band to understand the commitments involved.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The school nurse will collect and store all medical information, and will share with the band directors as needed. However, if your child has a medical condition, injury, allergy or dietary restriction that you'd like the staff to be aware of during band camp, please send the relevant details to Band Director Kolman McMurphy at kmcmurphy@lexington1.net.

Varsity Competitive Band

Band fees for fall 2026 are \$725 per student, payable in installments. A non-refundable deposit of \$225 is due at the time of registration. Each student will be registered individually.

The registration deadline is Saturday, May 31.

Band camp begins on Monday, July 13. *All registration information and the deposit **must** be received before a student can participate in camp.*

Non-Competitive/Football Band

Non-competitive band fees for fall 2026 are \$200 per student, payable in installments.

A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at the time of registration. Each student will be registered individually.

The registration deadline is Saturday, May 31.

Band camp begins on Monday, July 13. *All registration information and the deposit **must** be received before a student can participate in camp.*

What do fees pay for?

- Competition registration fees
- Adjunct faculty & clinicians
- Marching show design & musical arrangement
- Props, flags & other equipment
- Uniforms + dry cleaning
- Solo & Ensemble audition fees
- Region Band audition fees
- Meals before performances
- Transportation
- Recreational events
- Banquets and other social events
- Annual scholarships
- Savings for the four-year trip

Fees are broken into multiple installments including the initial registration and are paid by credit card or ACH transfer through the Booster Hub platform. Fundraising and volunteer credits will be deducted from the final monthly payment. Check and cash payments will only be accepted if paying the full balance.

Incentives are available for paying in full by May 31st (\$5 meal voucher to the student for each Home Varsity Football Game), siblings discount (\$25 off each sibling).

Winter Guard: For the 2026-27 season, the winter guard fees are:

- Varsity: TBD
- Junior Varsity: TBD
- Spin Club: TBD

A \$200 deposit is due upon registration for auditions, and is fully refundable if your student is not placed on a winter guard team. Remaining balances can be paid in full or according to the installment plan via credit card or ACH transfer through the Booster Hub platform. Fundraising and volunteer credits can be applied to fees.. Check and cash payments will only be accepted if paying the full balance. Please see the winter guard registration flyer for more details.

Helping Hands Fund

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate based on financial constraints.

Upfront communication is paramount to make sure a plan is in place. If you have any financial concerns, please complete the Helping Hands application at tinyurl.com/CatBandHelpingHands or speak to the band director or the booster club president or treasurer to make alternative arrangements before the registration deadline.

If you would like to donate any fundraising/volunteer credits to our Helping Hands assistance fund, please contact the booster club president or treasurer: <http://tinyurl.com/CatBandHelpingHands>



Fundraising

We hold fundraisers throughout the year to give families a variety of opportunities to support all of our programs and ensembles, and to allow for a steady cash flow. The fundraising calendar is subject to adjustments, but our tentative plans for 2026-27 include:

- Booster Blitz (100% benefits the band) – September

- Fruit (90% of profit credited to student) – starts in late October with early December delivery
- Honeybaked Ham gift cards (student credit amount TBD) – throughout school year
- RaiseRight (ongoing – a platform to purchase gift cards with a portion of sales benefiting the band)
- Events: Summer and Spring Car Wash, Jazz Concert and Spaghetti Dinner in the Spring, Bingo Night and a Winter Ensemble Association (CWEA) contest, sponsored by the Cat Band (sponsors and volunteers welcome!)

The Booster Blitz is the only mandatory fundraising activity. Students will gather after band practice one evening to call their family and friends to ask for donations. Donations can be collected throughout the month and are payable through a secure online link. 100% of proceeds benefit the band and allow us to keep overall student fees lower than the true cost of participating.

The remaining fundraisers are all optional, and allow students to receive fundraising credits (varies by fundraising company) for items sold.

Sponsorships

We appreciate the faithful support the Lexington High School Band has received from the community over the years. Support from our community enables music education to thrive and grow here in Lexington.

All band families are encouraged to seek sponsorships from local businesses. Families will have the following credits applied to their fees for securing business sponsorships:

- First sponsorship: 25% of sponsorship value, up to \$500
- Second sponsorship: 35% of the combined value of the sponsorships, up to \$1,000
- Third (or more) sponsorship: 50% of the combined value of the sponsorships, up to \$1,500

Please see the sponsorship levels and benefits for 2025-26. This chart, along with a sponsorship registration form have been shared with all members via email, and are stored in the Files tab of the BoosterHub app. Sponsors can also visit **tinyurl.com/CatBandSponsors** to learn more about the sponsorship levels and benefits, or to make an investment in the Cat Band.

Please contact fundraising.catband@gmail.com with any questions or ideas.

2026-27 Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

	Investment amount	Banner on fence	Social media posts 5-7X	Ad in concert program Spring & Winter	Video sign at basketball	Logo display at football concessions	Logo on website	Business name / Logo on Parent shirts	Jumbotron during football games	Booth at event
MEAL SPONSOR	\$500/meal \$250/snack	-	On day of game/contest			-	-	-	-	-
FRIEND OF THE BAND	\$1,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-		-	-
SENIOR BANQUET SPONSOR	\$2,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
SUPPORTING SPONSOR	\$2,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	Cat Band Day
ANNUAL BANQUET SPONSOR	\$4,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		-	Booth at Awards
GOLD SPONSOR	\$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cat Band Day

tinyurl.com/CatBandSponsors

Concessions

The Cat Band Booster Club runs the concessions stands for all major sporting events at Lexington High School (football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer). This is one of our LARGEST fundraisers and we need everyone's help! **We ask every band family to volunteer at least three times each semester to run a concession stand.**

Concessions Steering Team

Concessions.catband@gmail.com

Jeremy Cheek (chair)

Jessica Travis (co-chair)

Below is a brief overview of what our concessions workers do during a shift. If it's your first time working, you will be trained in operating equipment, cleaning and accounting practices. We also plan to hold in-person training sessions at the start of each season, and will also make training materials available via printed material.



Football Games

For most football games, we need 22-28 volunteers to be able to open all windows in the home and visitors stands. The concession steering team will ensure the concession stand is fully stocked before each event. When you arrive, the concessions chair will let you know which station you'll be working in:

- **Register:** Begins the night by verifying the cash in the drawer and completes the accounting sheet. Takes orders from customer. Gathers candy and sodas, and calls out hot food items to the runners. Takes payment from the customer (via cash or Square app). Receives food from the runner and delivers it to the customer. (In the snack truck and visitors side, there is no runner). At the end of the night, counts cash in the drawer (with a second counter unrelated to you) and completes accounting form.
- **Runner** (home stand only): Serves as the go-between between the volunteer at the window and the volunteers prepping the hot food. Replenishes beverages and candy/snacks as needed. May be pulled from your location to prepare food pre-ordered by band students for the third quarter. Assists with clean-up at the end of the night.
- **Food prep:** prepare and fill orders for hot dogs, nachos, chicken tenders, fries, popcorn, or any other hot items we serve in a given week. May be pulled from your location to prepare food pre-ordered by band students for the third quarter. Ensures your area and equipment are cleaned at the end of the night.

- **Fryer:** Cooks chicken tenders, French fries and corn dogs in the fryer. This person receives extra training if needed, and will receive additional credits to their student's account.

Soccer (football stadium home stand), Basketball/Volleyball (indoor gym) and other special tournaments

- For events other than varsity football, the concessions chair, treasurer or another board member will ensure you receive the cash envelope at the start of the event and unlock the concession stand. They will give you any training or instruction needed.
- Before opening the stand, you will need to make popcorn, and bring hot foods (hot dogs, chili, nacho cheese) to temperature in the microwave, and transfer to crock pots to maintain temperature. We do not typically fry foods for events other than varsity football games.
- We aim to have at least two volunteers at each event – one to work the window (take orders and payments) and one to prep the food.
- At the start of the event, you will verify the cash in the drawer and complete the accounting sheet. At the end of the event, you will both count cash in the drawer and complete the accounting form and prepare the deposit bag. A board member will pick up the deposit at the end of the event.

***If the volunteers working are related or live in the same household, the board member will serve as the second counter. Please do not seal the deposit bag until they arrive.*

As with other volunteer opportunities, we will use BoosterHub for signups and tracking hours, and the QR code/Google form for check in/out of your shift. The membership chair will record hours worked, and you will receive \$1 of credit per hour for your time, which can be applied to your fees. Please contact the concessions chair with any additional questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

The logistics of the band season depend on lots of helping hands. We appreciate all our volunteers for helping band camp, football games and competitions run smoothly!

ALL VOLUNTEERS (with the exception of current Lexington 1 employees) need to complete the district background check form before volunteering, as all volunteers will be in contact with students as they work. The form should be completed on the Lexington 1 website after July 1 each year.



You can sign up for committees in the annual registration form. Committee groups and sign up forms will be created in BoosterHub, and committee chairs will communicate through BoosterHub chat groups and emails. We use a Google form to check in/out via QR code each time you volunteer. The membership chair will track your hours, and you will receive \$1 of credit per hour for your time, which will be applied to your fees. Please reach out to the committee chairs for any additional questions.

- **Uniforms:** The uniform committee measures students for size, ensures all uniform pieces are clean and in good repair, and checks the students for fit before a game, competition or concert.
- **Spirit:** The spirit committee organizes spirit wear orders, and spirit events throughout the season, including yard signs for band members before the state competition, and a “Spirit Trail” to cheer on the buses as they leave town for the state competition.
- **Hospitality:** The hospitality committee plans, sets up and serves meals to the band on Football Fridays and competition days. We typically serve lunch before leaving LHS, and then another snack during/after competition, depending on timing. The hospitality committee also assists with meal planning for celebrations and other events throughout the year.
- **Chaperones:** Chaperones sit with the band during football games, and travel on the buses with the band to and from competitions. It is a long, busy, fun day that includes making sure students eat and stay hydrated, making uniform adjustments or quick fixes, moving props and equipment, caring for students who become ill or injured, making sure nothing is forgotten or left behind, enjoying the teenagers’ sense of humor and seeing friendships develop.
- **Props & Logistics:** The props & logistics committee creates, builds and paints the props used for the competitive show beginning in the summer months. The committee also helps load and unload props and instruments for competitions and football games. We need Lexington 1 employees to drive the box truck..

Committee Chairs

Hospitality: Sharon Maxwell
hospitality.catband@gmail.com

Chaperones: Quinton Tucker
chaperones.catband@gmail.com

Spirit: VACANT
spirit.catband@gmail.com

Props & Logistics: VACANT
props.catband@gmail.com

Uniforms: VACANT
uniforms.catband@gmail.com

Hospitality, chaperone and prop volunteers have the added benefit of being the only parents who are able to mingle with the performers during games and competitions, and receive free admission to the event. Other fans are not able to access the band section of the stadium or areas where the band or guard is located before and after a competition.



Band Trips

Every four years, the band offers the opportunity to band students and their families to participate in a band trip that includes both performances and free time for fun. The booster club sets aside money in each year's budget to help offset the cost of the trip.

In the spring of 2023, the band traveled to Universal Orlando. The next trip will be in the spring of 2027, and we are attending the one and only, **Disney World!!** Details are in the works, and will be emailed out to families over the summer to log into the Travel Company Portal and begin making installments for the trip.

Communications

Cat Band Weekly Announcements (CBWA): The band directors send a weekly update with information and calendar items for the coming weeks and months. This email is sent via BoosterHub, so please be sure you are registered in BoosterHub with a current, correct email address. It's a good idea to include both student and parent email addresses so that you'll all get the updates. BoosterHub emails will be blocked by Lexington 1 student email addresses, though, so a personal address is best for students.

Social media: Follow the Cat Band on Facebook and Instagram. We also have a private Cat Band Family group on Facebook. With the addition of BoosterHub, this group will transition to a Cat Band alumni group in the coming year.



BoosterHub: When you log into BoosterHub, you can find lots of helpful information on your dashboard. The documents section includes the booster club bylaws, this handbook, minutes from booster club meetings and more! You will

also be added to groups based on your student's section and the committees you join to facilitate group emails and chats. BoosterHub includes a calendar of events, with volunteer opportunities listed with each date. Be sure you adjust your notification settings to receive texts from BoosterHub. We will reserve the use of texts for last-minute or urgent updates (i.e. ETA after a competition, weather cancelations, etc.)

Website: Our website is currently under construction. Stay tuned for a new and improved lexingtonhsbands.org.

Student leadership: Our student leaders are a great resource of information and communication for new band members! They should be your student's first source of news and information, especially related to team building, spirit or social events. These activities are largely organized and led by student leaders. Many sections group chats set up to message each other and share information (with director oversight). Please see the following section for additional details on our leadership program.

Instagram: @LHSCatBand,
@LexingtonColorGuard,
@lexington_hs_percussion
@lhs_jazzband

Facebook: LHS.Cat.Band
Private FB Group: CatBandFamily
(must answer security questions)

2026-27 Section Parents

Section parents: Section parents are a great resource for new band families who are learning the ropes. Section parents also occasionally host breakfast before a competition day, or other get-togethers for each section. If you are interested in being a section parent, please select this option from the list of volunteer opportunities in the annual registration form.

Volunteers for the upcoming school year are needed. Please reach out to kmcmurphy@lexington1.net for inquiries.

Saxes/Low reeds (bari sax, tenor sax, bass clarinet)	TBA
Double Reeds (oboe, bassoon)	TBA
Low brass (baritone, trombone, tuba, euphonium, sousaphone)	TBA
Clarinets	TBA
Trumpets/Mellophones/French horns	TBA
Flutes	TBA
Percussion	TBA
Color Guard / Winter Guard	TBA
PHMS parent rep	TBA
BMS parent rep	TBA

Student Leadership

Each season, the staff choose members of the marching band, color guard and winter guard to provide leadership to the group. Being chosen as a student leader is a privilege and can be revoked at any time if the staff sees fit. It is a leadership role that requires self-discipline and dedication. As a member of the leadership team, these students must fulfill any leadership duties assigned by the band director, staff, or drum major(s). Student leadership responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Leading stretches
- Starting rehearsal if the instructors have a staff meeting or will be late
- Assisting the staff in identifying problem areas or concerns within the show/work
- Encouraging all team members to achieve their full potential
- Being an example of positive attitude and appropriate conduct for all members of the band program.

The leaders work directly under the staff. They are to be respected and listened to. If the staff is not present, the leaders are in

LEXINGTON CAT BAND
STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
 FALL 2026 SEASON

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

DRUM MAJORS Kenuia Hernandez-Aguirre Jenna Froese Ryan Bussell Sam Nicklin	BRASS CAPTAINS Adam Hall Owen Maxwell Navy Arant	WW CAPTAINS Emma Blair Stenstrom Rebecca Stevenson Anna Grace Martin
GUARD CAPTAINS Ta'Niyah Dennis Skyler Thornton Yumna Rehman Layla Crofutt	PERCUSSION CAPTAINS Xavier Daniels Grant Guest Daniel Sobel	

SECTION LEADERS

Flute Stella Faiello Bethany Chavis	Clarinets Anna Grace Martin Colton Villamar	Alto Sax Aydin Evans Noah Cheek	Low Reeds Evan Block Meili Brace	Flagline Lexi Tolasch Arianna Ramos
Trumpets Owen Maxwell Kaitlyn Williamson Clark Cutter	Mellos Adam Hall	Trombone/Bari Gabriel Taylor Connor Tonkin	Tubas Navy Arant	Weapon Ta'Niyah Dennis Elsie Sinner

CREW LEADERSHIP

Librarian Grace Lindquist	Field Lining Clark Cutter Timothy Brady Shayla Poellot Harmony Ross	Prop Crew Riley Braswell Tristan Fender Cooper Labelle	Field Maintenance Ella Pye Jordyn Yarbrough
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 LEADERS!

charge. More often than not, the leaders directly relay information that was given by the staff. Disrespecting the leaders is disrespecting your staff and their decisions.

Leadership Process

Leadership roles are determined by interviews with staff members. A leadership form must be filled out to be considered for a leadership position. A leadership spot is not guaranteed for anyone, including previous leadership. The directors take the leadership form and interview into consideration, but they also look at attitude, work ethic, and interaction with other members through previous years. *If a student is given a leadership position and breaks rules in school or in our handbook, their leadership position may be revoked.*



Band Glossary

CBWA: Cat Band Weekly Announcements. They'll arrive in your inbox each Sunday/Monday. Be sure to read them for all the news you need to know.

Uniform

- **Bibs or "bibbers":** the adjustable overall-style pants that are worn under the performance top or full dress jacket. The pant length is adjustable with internal straps and snaps. Shoulder straps are also adjustable. ALWAYS wear athletic shorts and the dri-fit summer top under your bibs.
- **Performance top:** The top worn over the bibs for the competition show. It usually matches the theme of the show in some way.

- **Under shirt:** A blue dri-fit shirt with Cat Band logo that we wear for football games in warmer weather, and under the uniform at all times.
- **Full dress:** The traditional marching band uniform that includes bibs, a jacket and a shako.
- **Dinkles:** the brand name of the black marching. These are ordered by the band.
- **Shako:** that tall, funny hat with a feather that marching band members wear. Some years our competition uniform includes shakos, and other years, we have a different hat.

CWEA: Carolina Winter Ensemble Association is a regional competition circuit for winter guard. Equivalent to state championships.

Drum major: This is the student leader(s) who stands on the tall ladders/scaffolding to direct the band during performances. Drum majors are selected through a competitive application process in the spring.

Section leaders: Each instrument section also has student leaders. These students are responsible for supporting and encouraging younger/newer members, making sure all section members have the information they need, and organizing some section bonding/social activities. If you have any questions or concerns, your section leader is your best friend!

Sections:

- **Low reeds** – This category includes bari sax, tenor sax and bass clarinet
- **Low brass** – Includes baritone, trombone and tuba
- **The Pit** – stationary percussion. The vibraphones, xylophones, chimes and other mallet instruments located at the front of the performance field. Also called the Front Ensemble.
- **Battery** – marching percussion. The drumline.
- **Flute/Clarinet/Trumpet/Mellophone** – These are each their own section.

SCBDA: The SC Band Directors Association, the governing body for marching band competitions, as well as regional and statewide concert band assessments and contests such as **Solo & Ensemble, Region Band** and **All-State** band clinics, and **CPA** (concert performance assessment). Learn more at bandlink.org.

WGI: Winter Guard International is a national competition circuit for winter guard.

Cat Band Day: A day-long rehearsal the week before the state competition. We end with a free community performance in the stadium, and Trunk or Treat for our band families.

“Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.” Cat Band mantra.

Appendix A - Winterguard 2025 registration flyer*

*Updated Version To Be Announced for 2026-2027

LHS Winter Guard 2025-26 Registration



Varsity fees: \$1300 total
Junior Varsity fees: \$650 total
Spin Club fees: \$450 total

**AUDITIONS ARE
NOV. 11, 12, 14, 15**
The registration form
and \$200 deposit
must be complete to
audition

**Register for auditions by Nov. 8
and sign up for the base payment plan:**

- **Deposit:** \$200 due with registration by November 8
- **Payment 1:** \$62.50 due Dec. 15
- **Payment 2:** \$62.50 due Jan. 15
- **Payment 3:** \$62.50 due Feb. 16
- **Payment 4:** \$62.50 due March 16

Once rosters are announced, JV and Varsity members will
pay these additional fees *concurrently* with the base plan.

Varsity

- **Deposit:** \$250 due upon placement
- **Payment 1:** \$150 due Dec. 15
- **Payment 2:** \$150 due Jan. 15
- **Payment 3:** \$150 due Feb. 16
- **Payment 4:** \$150 due March 16

Junior Varsity

- **Deposit:** \$100 due upon placement
- **Payment 1:** \$25 due Dec. 15
- **Payment 2:** \$25 due Jan. 15
- **Payment 3:** \$25 due Feb. 16
- **Payment 4:** \$25 due March 16

**IN ADDITION, ALL FAMILIES MUST WORK
THREE CONCESSIONS EVENTS PER SEMESTER**

NOTES:

- In the event that your student is not placed on any of our teams, any payments are fully refundable.
- Credits on your account can be applied to any payment plan. Any payment plan can be paid in full at any time.
- Any fees incurred due to bounced payments will be added to your account as an additional charge.
- We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring timely and successful payments.

What do your fees cover?

Competition registration,
adjunct faculty, clinicians,
props, flags, rifles + sabers,
show design, uniforms,
student theme shirts,
transportation,
accommodations, meals
...and more!

Be sure to
**DOWNLOAD THE
BOOSTERHUB APP**

- and log in to:
- view the calendar
 - volunteer
 - get updates and announcements!

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
SAT., NOV. 8**



Scan the QR code or visit:
tinyurl.com/LHS-WG2025

If you need assistance or would like to
discuss an alternative payment
schedule, please fill out our
Helping Hands application
by Saturday November 8:
tinyurl.com/CatBandHelpingHands



QUESTIONS? memberships.catband@gmail.com | treasurer.catband@gmail.com | kmcmurphy@lexington1.net