

Lafayette Band Handbook

Pride of the Bluegrass ®



Lafayette Band Handbook
The “Pride of the Bluegrass®”

Director’s Note

Welcome to the Lafayette High School (LHS) Band, aka the *Pride of the Bluegrass*®! The LHS Band program consists of the marching band, concert bands, jazz band, percussion ensemble, and color guard. Band is a year round, **co-curricular** (includes activities done outside of school time that complement class curriculum) class for every participating student. Students who study a musical instrument are more likely to excel in all of their studies, work better in teams, have enhanced critical thinking skills, stay in school, and pursue further education (NAMM). These students also have the opportunity to develop social skills, leadership qualities, and lifelong friendships!

Your family is now part of a proud tradition of over 70 years of music excellence! The Lafayette Band has existed since the opening of the school in 1939! The Lafayette Marching Band competes in the **Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) 5A classification**. Concert Bands and Jazz Band perform from December through May and members regularly participate in KMEA festivals, solos and ensembles. The marching band, concert bands and jazz band all appear at school and community functions throughout the year.

We encourage you to read the information included in this handbook, review the web site (www.lafayetteband.org), and parental involvement in the Lafayette Band Association (LBA). The staff and I look forward to meeting you and working with students to create memorable and rewarding educational experience.

Charles M. Smith, Director
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Lafayette High School Band
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The Lafayette High School (LHS) Band Program is a year round, **co-curricular** (includes activities done outside of school time that complement class curriculum) class for every participating student. Students are eligible to audition for and participate in the following activities:

- ✓ Marching Band*
 - Musicians
 - Color Guard (Auditions held in March of the preceding school year)
- ✓ Concert Band* (3 Bands)
 - Concert Band
 - Symphonic Band
 - Wind Symphony
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Pep Band
- ✓ Percussion Ensemble
- ✓ Solo and Ensemble Performances
- ✓ Honors Band (All-District, All-State, and BOA National)

**Auditions held in late April or early May of preceding school year.* Students will be enrolled in band class based on their concert band assignment. Percussionists will also be enrolled in percussion class. Color Guard students will be enrolled in band class during the fall semester only. If they do not participate in concert band, they must register for a different class for the spring semester.

Fall Sports Exemption

Students participating in a **KHSAA recognized fall sport (<http://khsaa.org/sports/fall/>)** are exempt from the marching aspect of the Lafayette Band Program. Parents should notify Mr. Smith as soon as possible if your student meets this criterion.

Communications

The Lafayette Band communicates with band families and students via weekly e-news, Twitter, Facebook, monthly newsletter, the Band web site, and hard copies of information distributed to students.

Weekly E-News: Your contact information and preferred email address will be collected at your student's high school orientation (usually held in January) to ensure you are added to the database which will allow you to receive weekly e-news messages.

Band Web Site: Visit www.lafayetteband.org for current activities and information. .

Monthly Newsletters: The link to the Lafayette Band monthly newsletter will be delivered to all band families via weekly e-news. It will also be located and archived on the Band's web site.

Facebook: The official Lafayette Band Facebook page is named "Lafayette Band Pride of the Bluegrass". Please "like" this page to receive updates posted to Facebook by Band staff.

Twitter: How to Create a Twitter Account

1. Go to <http://twitter.com> and find the sign up box, or go directly to <https://twitter.com/signup>.
2. Enter your **full name**, **email address**, and a **password**.
3. Click **Sign up for Twitter**.
4. On the next page, you can select a **username** (usernames are unique identifiers on Twitter) — type your own or choose one we've suggested. We'll tell you if the username you want is available.
5. **Double-check** your name, email address, password, and username.
6. Click **Create my account**. You may be asked to complete a Captcha to let us know that you're human.
7. Twitter will send a **confirmation email** to the address you entered on sign up, click the link in that email to confirm your email address and account.

Tips for picking a username:

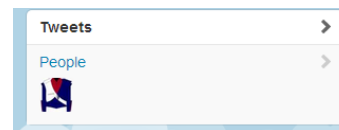
- Your **username** is the name your followers use when sending @replies, mentions, and direct messages.
- It will also form the URL of your Twitter profile page. We'll provide a few available suggestions when you sign up, but feel free to choose your own.
- **Please note:** You can change your username in your account settings at any time, as long as the new username is not already in use.
- Usernames **must be fewer than 15 characters** in length and cannot contain "admin" or "Twitter", in order to avoid brand confusion.

Important information about your email address:

- **An email address can only be associated with one Twitter account at a time.**
- The email address you use on your Twitter account is not publicly visible to others on Twitter.
- We use the email you enter to confirm your new Twitter account. Be sure to enter an email address that you actively use and have access to. Check your inbox for a confirmation email to make sure you signed up for your account correctly.

Follow @LAFAYETTEBAND

1. Follow the Lafayette Band by searching for @LAFAYETTEBAND in the search box at the top and then band jacket on the left.
2. Click the button to the right of the FOLLOW button and select option to turn on mobile alerts if you wish to receive the your cell phone.



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Marching Band

A student's marching band career begins with Band Camp. There are three weeks of band camp. Students are expected to participate in band camp as follows:

Week One - Mandatory for "first time" marchers, all percussion, and color guard. Lunch is not provided to students; therefore, they need to bring lunch or are permitted to leave campus as listed on the provided schedule.

Weeks Two and Three – Mandatory for all marching band students. Lunch is provided – students are not permitted to leave campus.

Band camp dates are provided the preceding school year to allow families to plan vacations and other activities. The band camp schedule will be distributed to all students, posted on the band web site, and distributed via weekly e-news.

Tips for a Successful Band Camp

- ✓ **Pre-Band Camp:** Get active to increase strength and endurance.
- ✓ Expect and dress for high temperatures and humidity.
- ✓ Wear supportive tennis shoes and socks every day. NO open-toed shoes are allowed.
- ✓ Wear sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher.
- ✓ Bring and wear a hat.
- ✓ Drink lots of water each morning, during the day, and after practice!
- ✓ Eat a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- ✓ Get plenty of sleep.
- ✓ **Be on time!** Band Camp **begins** at 8:00am. Be on the field ready to learn!

End of Camp Performance

A performance will be held the final evening of band camp. This annual event includes a demonstration of basic skills learned and a preview of the field show.

Schedule

Marching season typically lasts from July through November. Concert season is from November through the end of the school year. A rehearsal/event calendar will be provided to students at the beginning of the school year. This calendar is also located on the Band web site and will be linked in weekly e-news. **Rehearsals are mandatory. Parents should notify Mr. Smith via email (chuck.smith@fayette.kyschools.us) as soon as possible regarding any schedule conflicts.**

Uniforms

Students are issued **two uniforms** with a unique numerical identifier which is located inside each piece of the uniform. The traditional uniform will be worn at concerts only and the competition uniform will be worn at contests, football games, and parades. Uniforms are stored at school

Uniform Fittings – Uniform fittings are conducted in mid to late July. While some fittings will take place during band camp, others may occur on a Saturday in order to get all students fitted. Students will be contacted if a Saturday appointment is necessary. Fittings can take anywhere from 20 – 45 minutes.

Lafayette Band polo shirts and white shorts are provided free of charge to new students. All new and returning students will be issued Band Camp t-shirts free of charge. **White shorts and band camp T-shirts are to be worn under the uniform during performances.** Extra shorts and /or t-shirts can be purchased for

\$10 each. Contact the Uniform Crew Chief to purchase extras. Your student may wish to change his or her shirt in between performances on days where multiple performances take place.

Shoes – RRR Band Accessories is on campus every year during band camp (usually the 1st Wednesday of full band camp) to fit students for white marching or color guard, and black concert shoes. Payment is required at the time of ordering. New students will need to order shoes their 1st year, however, new shoes are not required every year unless they are worn out, too small or lost.

Shoes are to be kept at home until needed for a performance. Shoes should be allowed to dry out after each performance. Placing newspaper inside the shoes will help to absorb moisture and neutralize odor. The student's name should be written with permanent marker on the inside of the tongue of BOTH shoes. One or both the shoes have a tendency to grow legs and jump in someone else's bag or get left behind on the band room floor. Shoes marked with a name can easily be returned to their rightful owner. Shoes must be cleaned before arriving to dress for each performance (See cleaning instructions below).

Dressing in Uniform – Students will dress together prior to each performance. Students should arrive in their band camp T-shirt and white shorts. These items may be worn under street clothes if necessary. Due to limited facilities and time allotted for dressing, students should not count on having enough time to change into these items once they arrive for a performance. After each performance, students are required to properly hang their uniform on their hanger and return the uniform to its designated spot. Personal items should not be kept in the pockets of the uniform. Uniforms are sent for cleaning after some of the performances. Items left behind could be ruined and / or the item such as gum or mints could ruin the uniform.

Gloves – Gloves are worn at all performances and can be purchased from the Uniform Crew before each performance. Non-grip gloves sell for \$5 and Grip gloves sell for \$6. Students are not required to purchase gloves each time. Gloves can be washed and worn several times.

Hair – Hair cannot touch the collar of the uniform. Students (both male and female) can place their hair in ONE ponytail which needs to be under their hat. No multiple ponytails allowed. Students may choose to wear a wig cap which can be purchased from the Uniform Crew. Wig caps are 2 for \$1 and can be worn multiple times. Bobby pins can also be used to tuck hair under the hat.

Jewelry – Visible jewelry cannot be worn. This includes ear rings, necklaces, watches, and facial jewelry. Finger nail polish must also be removed before performances.

Socks – Students are to wear plain long white socks for all performances. "No show" socks are not allowed as no skin should be visible. Students may want to keep an extra pair of socks in their red bag.

Hygiene – The uniforms are hot, especially during the first part of the marching season when the weather is hot. Students will perspire and will need extra deodorant and/or wet wipes in their red bags.

Accessory Bag – Students may purchase a red bag to keep or they are issued a red accessories bag to keep all personal items as well as extra supplies (deodorant, wet wipes, shoes, extra socks, etc). Students who do not purchase a bag will be issued a school-owned bag that must be returned at the end of marching season. Failure to return the bag could result in a charge of \$25.

Last but not least – Things happen. Items get lost or forgotten. If your student forgets an item, they will first be asked to call someone to have it brought to them. If this is not possible, we have a limited supply of items that will be loaned to your student. Keep in mind; extra shoes are limited in sizes. If your student arrives without shoes, they may have to wear a size smaller or larger.

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

ITEM	WASH	BLEACH	DRY	COMMENTS
Gloves	Machine	Yes	Dry Flat	Will shrink in dryer
Shoes	Mr. Clean Magic Easers or damp soap cloth can be used to clean shoes. Wipe dry. Scuffs can be removed with shaving cream or finger nail polish remover. Paste type tooth paste and an old tooth brush can be used to clean the outer edge of the soles. White shoe polish may be used after cleaning if necessary.			

Marching Competitions

The Lafayette Band competes in the **Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) 5A classification and Class 3A of the Bands of America (BOA) competitions.** KMEA classification is based on high school enrollment (grades 9-12). BOA classification is based on enrollment (grade 10-12). Competition dates will be provided on the Band calendar. Itineraries will be distributed via weekly e-news and provided on the band web site prior to each event. The itineraries will include a schedule and admission information (if available at time of distribution). Your student's lodging and food will be provided by the parent association. Students will be supervised by chaperones at all times.

Competition Etiquette

As Lafayette Band fans, we have an opportunity to set the standard for fan behavior at competitions and events.

- ✓ Recognize and support the efforts of other students, band families and schools! Remember you are representing the Lafayette Band "Pride of the Bluegrass" tradition!
- ✓ Don't talk or enter/exit the stands during performances.
- ✓ Silence cell phones.
- ✓ Choose words wisely when speaking about other bands.
- ✓ Be cautious about comments made on social media outlets (i.e., Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Instagram, band blogs, etc.).
- ✓ Always applaud a band's performance. Students will appreciate our support and recognition of their efforts.
- ✓ The Lafayette "flag in the stands" tradition continues. Distribution will occur just before Lafayette performs. **Please do not raise your flag until the band that performs before us has completely exited the field.** After the performance begins, lower your flag so that everyone can see the show. When the performance ends, raise your flag until Lafayette leaves the field. Flags will be collected after the performance for distribution at the next competition.
- ✓ Please refrain from yelling a specific student's name when the band is set to perform. This can be a distraction to your student and others. They are prepared to deliver an excellent performance and this requires concentration.
- ✓ When photographing or recording a performance, be careful not to block the view of the people seated around you.
- ✓ Let's represent Lafayette and ourselves by exhibiting good manners and respect for others.

Lafayette Band Association

The parent booster organization, the Lafayette Band Association (LBA), exists to support the Lafayette High School Band Program; to encourage and aid, financially and otherwise, the study of music; and to furnish means, equipment and property necessary for the conduct of the band program. LBA is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under this section of the Internal Revenue Code. LBA Bylaws are available for review the Band web site.

All band families are encouraged to join the Lafayette Band Association (LBA) to become an integral part of the decision-making process affecting your student's music education experience. Annual Membership (June 1 - May 31) is \$10.00 per household and includes the following benefits:

- ✓ LBA Voting membership (one vote per household)
- ✓ Eligibility to hold LBA offices and participate in volunteer activities.
- ✓ LBA name tags for each member of your household identifying you as a supporter of the Pride of the Bluegrass. **Band students do not need nametags.**
- ✓ Your child's instrument may be covered against accidental damage by LBA's insurance coverage during band trips. Personal instruments of non-LBA members are not covered.

Please note Fayette County Public Schools require all volunteers to complete a background check. The application is available at webapps.fcps.net/volunteer.

A meeting schedule and contact information for LBA officers, crew leaders, and committee chairpersons, is available on the Band web site. Parents are encouraged to get involved as there is a place for every skill, talent, and interest!

Fundraising

The members of the Lafayette Band give 100% effort on the marching field and in the concert hall. Parents and band families must give 100% effort to the fundraising opportunities that are provided throughout the year. As you can imagine, in an organization of this magnitude, **fundraising is key to our financial success** and is one of the primary responsibilities of the Lafayette Band Association.

Remember... **Successful Fundraising = Successful Band Program.** Visit the Band web site for additional information about LBA fundraising programs.

Pep Wear

The LBA operates a Band Store which sells Lafayette Band merchandise. This includes the annual "show shirt" which is often worn by fans at performances and competitions. Visit www.shop.lafayette.band.org to view available inventory. The Band Store opens at many performances and before competitions. Dates and hours of operation will be provided in weekly e-news and the monthly newsletter. Note: Band jackets are not available for purchase through the Band Store. A representative of Sharpe Resources, Inc. will visit campus in late summer/early fall to accept band jacket orders.

Welcome to the Lafayette Band – the Pride of the Bluegrass!