

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can you explain what bands are at Lakota?

At the junior schools we have concert bands for each grade and a jazz band for each grade.

Jazz band is seated by audition.

At the freshman school we have concert bands and jazz bands. Jazz band is seated by audition.

At East we have jazz bands, concert bands and marching band. All bands are seated by audition at East.

There are other ensemble opportunities such as Pit Orchestra that are seated by the directors.

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events and District 13 Honor Bands and other Ensembles (such as Ohio University Honor Band & Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra) are also available at the high school and sometimes junior high level.

2. Who are the band directors? The band directors for Hopewell Junior are Mr. Tignor and Ms. Fuqua. The band directors at Liberty Junior are Mr. Nordyke and Mrs. Kneeven. The band director at the Freshman School is Mr. Tanis, with Mr. Thomas as assistant director. The director of Jazz Studies is Mr. Hartman. The director of bands at Lakota East is Mr. Thomas with Mr. Tanis as assistant director. Marching band has the following additional directors: Mrs. Rexhausen (guard) and Mr. Chumley (marching). Other staff such as a percussion tech. are often utilized.

3. How much time does marching band require? Because the drill and arrangement are written by professionals for the actual number of students registered for marching band; your student must commit to the marching band season when registering for classes. Please discuss any marching band commitment concerns with Mr. Thomas during this time in the late winter or spring! When registering for marching band there is a non-refundable deposit and a payment schedule for marching band fees.

Marching band performances begin during the summer with the Independence Day Parade.

Mandatory rehearsals (pre-camp, band camp, post-camp, and sectionals) usually beginning in late July until school starts.

Pre-camp and post-camp are held at Lakota East in the mornings for approximately one week each. Band camp is held away from the school at Wright State University for approximately six days. Field Commanders attend an additional camp. Guard often attends an additional camp. Marching Band is held after school as an "8th Bell", but is a co-curricular class, meaning you will get a grade and earn credit for Marching Band!

When school begins, rehearsal is held Tues-Thursday for about 2.5 hours after school. We perform for all home football games, 1 or 2 away football games, several parades (i.e. Memorial Day, Independence Day, etc.), and field competitions. Other performances may be scheduled.

The season draws to a close usually in early November.

Students are expected to memorize their music and drill which requires individual study and sectional rehearsals. Private lessons are encouraged.

Lakota East is unusual in that concert band meets the entire school year along with marching band and jazz band.

More details are in the Marching Band Handbook and the Parent Handbook issued each year. See Forms page of this website.

The color guard is a section of marching band and meets during marching band rehearsals and their own sectionals.

Trips are taken as scheduled and are optional. All performances are subject to administrative approval. See the Trips page.

Any attendance issues must be discussed in advance by the parents with Mr. Thomas or Mr. Tanis for any rehearsal or performance, see #5.

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4. How much time does concert band require? All concert bands at the high school level meet every day the entire school year. Students audition into the band that meets their ability. Students are encouraged to take private lessons, teacher names can be provided by your director. Individual practice time varies of course by the individual musician.

Beginning in the fall of 2006 the East concert program will be configured as Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. This is a return of the Concert Band after several years of having two Symphonic Bands.

Jazz bands are 7 O'clock Jazz, 8 O'clock Jazz and Eastside Jazz Ensemble. The Freshman School has two concert bands and two jazz bands.

More details for the East concert program is included in the handbook that is issued at the beginning of each school year. All performances are subject to administrative approval. Trips are taken as scheduled and are optional.

Any attendance issues must be discussed in advance by the parents with the director. See #5.

5. What if my student misses band class, rehearsal or performance?

Attendance at all performances is required unless the student is ill or has been excused in advance by the director. All excuses from concerts must be presented in writing at least five days prior to the event or sooner.

Written excuses must be given to the director in charge. Work and baby-sitting are not excuses. Just because an excuse is turned in does NOT mean it will be automatically excused. Only last minute emergencies may be excused after an event is over.

All explanations must be made within two school days. This is the student's responsibility.

Missing marching band rehearsals requires speaking with Mr. Tanis. Missing band class follows the school policy of missing any other class. Missing a performance or a rehearsal effects the entire group. Consult the director with any questions.

6. Where can I get another band handbook? See the Forms page of this website or contact your director

7. What is "The Show"? "The Show" is the performance the marching band spends hours and hours and hours perfecting for OMEA marching competitions. The band performs "the show", or part of it, during half time at football games. The show is different every year and is written by professionals.

The "drill" is the marching pattern that your student will memorize while they play the music from memory. The drill is handed out to the student on "charts" with their positions in the drill.

Repetition of "chunks" of the show with and without their instruments or guard equipment enable the band to memorize the show.

Previous East shows have included "The Who", "The British Invasion", "The Music of the Beatles", "Motown", "That 80s Show", "Batman".

8. What is a marching band contest? All the work and concentration during Band Camps comes alive at the field competitions. Parents, family and friends are encouraged to attend to support your Marching Thunderhawks (wearing spirit wear of course). With a superior (1) rating from a field competition, the Thunderhawks travel to the OMEA State Finals in late October or early November.

Judges at contests rate the performances in several different areas such as music, marching, visual effects, percussion etc. Awards and trophies are given at the end of the contest.

The Marching Thunderhawks have received a superior rating at every adjudicated event.

9. What is an adjudicated event? Also known as AE or contest. These are events for solo, ensembles, large groups, marching, jazz or concert bands where the performers are critiqued by OMEA adjudicators (also known as judges) and receive ratings with 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest. Comment sheets from these events are usually posted for a

while afterwards in the band room. The public is invited to these events. Other music festivals, clinics or events may also be scheduled.

10. What is a concert contest? See adjudicated event above.

11. When is concert season? Unlike many schools, Lakota East has a concert band program during marching season. All concert band students are also expected to participate in the LEHS Pep Band (subject to administrative schedule) by playing at a specified number of basketball games. Freshmen are also encouraged to join in. There is usually a game where LEHS alumni and/or band parents are encouraged to dust off their horns and play. Check the calendar page for dates and times.

12. When is marching season? Marching band performances begin during the summer with the Independence Day parade, then rehearsals (pre-camp, band camp, post-camp) usually beginning in late July. Pre-camp and post-camp are held at Lakota East in the mornings for approximately one week each. Band camp is held away from the school at Wright State University for approximately six days. These camps are mandatory, they are not optional "skill building" camps. They are instructional, this is when you learn the drill and music. There is a fee for marching band payable through the Upbeat Club, and it must be paid in full before the student will be admitted to band camp at Wright State. When school begins, rehearsal is held Tues-Thursday for about 2.5 hours after school.

We perform for all home football games, 1 or 2 away football games, several parades (Memorial Day, Independence Day, sometimes more), and field competitions. The season draws to a close usually in early November.

Because the drill and arrangement are written by professionals, your student must commit to marching band when you sign-up and begin payments. Please discuss any marching band commitment concerns with Mr. Thomas in the spring!

13. What is "The Pit"? The Pit, also known as the Front Line Ensemble, is the stationary percussion instrument section for marching band. They are set up along the sideline, usually between the 40 line markers for the performances.

14. What is the "Pit Crew"? The "Pit Crew" is made up of marching band parents who volunteer to help move the pit instruments. The Pit Crew moves and helps to position the vast array of instruments along the sideline following the regulations stated for competitions. They watch the show from the sidelines and then help to quickly clear the instruments away after the show. They also load/unload the larger instruments, guard equipment, field commander stands, and uniforms into the truck for contests and away games. The Stage Crew performs similar duties for concert performances off campus. Contact the Pit Crew chief for more information.

15. What is "Upbeat Club"? The Lakota East Upbeat Club is the band booster organization that supports the concert bands, the marching band, the jazz bands and the Winter Guard for Lakota East High School, Lakota East Freshman School, Hopewell Junior School, and Liberty Junior School located in Liberty Township & West Chester, Ohio.

If you are a parent or guardian of a band student, you are a member of the Lakota East Upbeat Club!

We provide the financial (approx. \$45,000 a year) and physical support for ALL the bands, ensembles, jazz groups and guard programs. We work year round to support the bands and have monthly meetings (except Dec.) usually on the third Thursday at 7:30 pm in the LE Band Room.

A new era in the Lakota music program began in the fall of 1997 as Lakota East and Lakota West High Schools opened and replaced Lakota High School. That building became the Lakota Freshman School. In 1999 the Lakota Upbeat Club, Inc. a non-profit corporation voted to split into

two divisions to allow better management of booster activities. The administration, directors, students, and Upbeat all work to create music programs that are among the finest in the US. In other words: Parents, step-parents & grandparents of band and guard members (sometimes they are parents of graduated band members) who are the people who work tirelessly to raise money to pay for the band program, they repair uniforms, provide shoulders to cry on, cheer & record at games, competitions and performances; they move equipment and instruments, bring food and water, and provide taxi and chaperone services.

16. What does the band do at football games? The band marches into the stadium and performs the pre-game show for home games. They play stand tunes during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters. They perform during half time and have free time during 3rd quarter. For home games the band sections provide 3rd quarter refreshments and invite the visiting team's band to join in devouring these cookies and pop. Sometimes the band will perform the show after a home football game.

17. Do we march in bad weather? That decision is made by the director. Unless your section leader or other person of authority has called, you should show up at the appointed time ready to go and hear what the decision will be. The inclement weather uniform consists of your parka, blue jeans, black socks, marching shoes, show shirt, marching hat. The standard uniform rules apply.

18. What are "stand tunes"? The short pieces of popular and rock music played by the band during the games, your student will need a lyre etc to hold the stand tune music.

19. Why does the band need so much money? Just like with any family, it takes a lot of money to keep things "up and running", to be the band we have come to love and respect - the kind of band opportunity we want for our children -- or the kind of program that could keep pace with other schools in our state. The funds we raise go to purchase music, pay entrance fees, provide student awards, professional development, uniform purchases and maintenance, guard equipment, instruments, drill writing & parent newsletter mailings. The budget and financial decision making is an important part of Upbeat!

20. What is "Split the Pot"? At football games you buy chances to split the winnings 50/50 with the Upbeat Club. We can always use ticket sellers at the games, as this can be a major fundraiser. See the chairperson on the Contacts page.

21. What are "student accounts"? Student accounts have been established with the goal of allowing band members to earn money for major band expenses such as band camp and overnight trips.

Some of the revenue earned by individual students participating in designated fundraisers will be credited to the student's account for future use.

There are set policies about student accounts concerning what expenses may be paid from the account and what may not, what options seniors have who have student account balances, and how students are responsible for band expenses in general.

Please refer to the parent handbook or contact the current Upbeat Club Treasurer. *Student Account Policy (PDF)* [here](#)

22. Can parents go to band contests? Yes! Musicians love a full house! Maps and directions are usually available several days before the event from the directors and/or on this website.

23. Who are the chaperones? Chaperones are band parents who have been contacted by the parent coordinator for the event or the bus chaperone chairperson. There are policies

concerning chaperone duties etc. Contact the chaperone chair or your band director for more information.

24. What is "band camp"? Consisting of three parts (pre, post, and the actual band camp) that are the intense rehearsals for marching band taking place for the approximately one month before school begins.

Attendance is mandatory for both instrumentalists and guard.

These are not optional "skill building camps". Band camp in the past has been 5 or 6 days at Wright State University. Band members live in campus dorms and practice long hours on the show, bonding as a performing ensemble.

Information about gear needed, forms, transportation, rules, times, etc. is covered at a parents meeting on rookie day (late May), handouts and on the website.

Marching band does require a fee paid in completion before attendance to band camp.

Opportunities exist to help earn this fee, and in addition many students have jobs to pay for marching band. Marching band fees cost approximately \$350 and includes band camp room, band camp meals, instructional staffing, drill, music arrangements and other marching band costs. Please read the marching band handbook for more information.

25. What does the band wear for performances?

Junior school band members purchase a band polo shirt and wear the required color pants/skirt, hosiery or socks and shoes.

Freshmen band members wear white shirts (gentlemen wear ties), black long skirts or dress pants (no jeans), black shoes and black socks or hose.

Marching band instrumentalists will be issued a uniform (guard must purchase a show costume), uniform bag (uniform in garment bag stays at school), hat in hat box (sousa players must purchase a required beret), duffle bag, 2 pairs of gloves. They are required to buy marching shoes and to wear black socks (not shorty socks).

In uniform they are to have their hair in their hat and off their collar, NO jewelry. Gentlemen are to be clean-shaven. See #7 above for inclement weather uniform.

In addition to the usual underwear, band members are to wear a white T-shirt (show shirt) and boxer shorts under their uniform to assist in dressing and in keeping uniforms clean. Shirts worn under the marching uniform must have sleeves.

Summer marching uniform consists of show shirt (tucked in), black shorts, white socks and white gym shoes, NO jewelry. Rookies may wear their rookie day Tshirt or a plain white Tshirt.

Field Commanders wear white marching shoes and socks and the issued field commander uniform, NO jewelry.

Symphonic Band and Concert Band members need to buy a tuxedo shirt. Their jacket, tie and pants are provided and they need to wear black socks and black shoes, no high heels or sandals (marching shoes are fine).

Symphonic Winds women will buy the uniform dress and pearls and wear hose and black dress shoes. Symphonic Winds men will be provided with a black tux, tie, cummerbund and need to supply the white tux shirt, black shoes and black socks.

Jazz bands have uniform requirements as well. Please contact the Jazz Director.

At East a uniform committee of parent volunteers (we can always use help!!) checks and coaches the students on their appearance in uniform, please help with this at home as well! Uniform maintenance is an ongoing job to extend the life of these costly garments provided by years of fundraising by the Upbeat Club.

Lost or damaged uniform components are the student's financial responsibility.

26. Do Freshmen march? Only on Freshman night. Freshmen attend two after-school rehearsals and report to the Freshman Night home football game with a special band family pizza party before the game-order forms will be available ahead of time. They wear black shorts, white shoes, white socks and a white T-shirt. The music is special for this half time show to welcome the freshmen into the East marching band family.

27. How do I find my student after a football game? The band marches back to the band room and hears announcements from Mr. Thomas before they are dismissed to change. Arrange a specific location outside of the band room (outside is less congested) to meet your student. They will have to change and have their uniform inspected in its bag before they can leave. Please be patient and respect the limited space and wait outside the band room or uniform room for your student.

Non-band students are not permitted in the band room area.

28. What are "Field Commanders", "Section Leaders", Squad Leaders"?

These are marching band student leadership positions for which students have applied and been selected.

Field Commanders direct the band on the field. They are chosen by audition and attend an additional camp before band camp. They assist the directors and are expected to show maturity and leadership skills.

Section Leaders help with communication within the band, as well as assist with music and marching abilities of their section. The size of the section determines the number of Section Leaders in a section. Your student's Section Leader is his communication link in the band. If your student has a question, ask the Section Leader. If your student needs help, ask the Section Leader. Each section has its own traditions and customs, upheld and carried forward through the maturity and leadership of the Section Leaders. Section Leaders are selected by the directors.

Squad Leaders also chosen by the directors assist the Section Leaders.

29. What are challenges and "chairs" in concert band? Students are placed in order within their instrument by ability determined by the director. "First Chair" or Principal, is the top player. Students not happy with their chair placement may challenge 1 place up once every nine weeks. The person you are challenging must take the challenge or lose the chair. At the challenge you will be asked to play a chromatic scale and another scale, a sight reading piece and a prepared piece. Contact the director for more information.

30. What about private lessons? When it comes to playing your instrument to the best of your ability, there is no substitute for private lessons with a competent teacher. The directors will be able to supply a list of teachers. In most cases, students studying privately achieve a higher degree of proficiency on their instrument. This enables them to derive more musical benefits from their instrument and to make a better contribution to the music program.